

Northbridge Public Schools Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, September 22, 2020 7:00PM

Remote public attendance only via the Google Meet Link in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, Section 20

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Statement regarding Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law
- III. Attendance

Michael LeBrasseur Present
Steven Falconer Present
Brian Paulhus Present
Allan Richards Present
Kathryn Atchue Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker.

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment

Comments for this meeting may be emailed in advance of the 7:00 p.m. start time to school_committee@nps.org. All comments will be recorded in the record, and all attempts will be made to mention them live during the meeting. Any emails received during the meeting before the public comment period ends will also be attempted to be mentioned.

The committee received emails from Melissa Sansone, Sara Guerra, Melissa Austin. All 3 were specifically expressing concerns about the in person experience for special education experience. Concerns are around instruction that was happening in schools specifically around services.

The Superintendent has also seen all 3 emails and will address some of the concerns.

Mr. and Mrs. Sansone addressed the committee explaining that they expressed a lot of the concerns in the email specifically that they had different thoughts on how in person learning would look for their son who is on an IEP. They explained that when their son goes to school for in person learning that he sits in front of a computer and his special ed teacher is in the room, however his general ed teacher is in another room and he does not interact with that teacher aside from watching on the computer while in person in school.

VII. Superintendent's Report

Amy McKinstry provided an update to the committee now that we are into our second week of school.

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

Preschool is currently up and running full time in school, we only have 4 that are participating remotely the rest are in class with their teachers. There are some challenges because of the health and safety and cleaning standards dictated by the department of health, we are working on this. Amy will be on a call to receive more guidance, as DESE did not put out specific Pre K cleaning or health and safety guidance and they are a little bit different. The teachers have been following the DPH guidelines which are extremely challenging, requiring them to be constantly cleaning every surface all the time, social distancing the children, and masking the children, even while walking in the hallway, the 6' distance is a long way for a preschooler. They are having some struggles and we are working with them on that to help streamline. In addition to our preschoolers we have our special populations in person as well. We also have 20-30 students per building including our EL students, some of our foster and homeless students, and some of our moderate needs SPED students.

The full superintendent report is available to be read at <u>NPS.org -> District Information -> Superintendent's</u>

<u>Pages ->Superintendent Reports for School Committee</u>. Or you can view the delivery of the report to the School Committee by viewing the recorded meeting via <u>NPS.org -> School Committee -> School Committee</u>

<u>Meeting Videos -> School Committee Google Meet Recordings.</u>

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from September 8, 2020

B. Warrant 41-10s 9/3/20 \$56,505.25

C. Balmer Food Pantry Donation

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to accept items from the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur Yes
Steven Falconer Yes
Brian Paulhus Yes
Allan Richards Yes
Kathryn Atchue Yes

- 5 members having voted in the affirmative
- 0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0.

IX. Introduction

A. George Simmons, Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Amy McKinstry proudly introduced George Simmons, NPS's newly appointed Director of Facilities and Maintenance to the School Committee. Michael LeBrasseur welcomed George to the district. George shared details of his lengthy background of knowledge and experience as Director of Facilities and Maintenance for a previous school district in Rhode Island. He is happy to be part of Northbridge and looking forward to working with the community. Michael asked if George had any short or long term goals that he is already focused on. George shared the details of the many projects that he and his staff have already jumped in and started to tackle. Steve Falconer welcomed George and shared that he was happy to hear that George is focused on a lot of maintenance at the middle school to reinstate the pride of the middle school facilities. Steve spoke about the pride in Northbridge and the pride of the facilities at the High School. Each of the school committee members welcomed George to the team.

X. School Committee Individual Comments

School committee shared individual comments.

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XI. Adjournment (8:06 PM)

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur Yes
Steven Falconer Yes
Brian Paulhus Yes
Allan Richards Yes
Kathryn Atchue Yes

- 5 members having voted in the affirmative
- 0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0