



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:00PM

Remote public attendance only via the Zoom 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. Executive Session Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose returning to Open Session:
 - A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: NTA Hybrid MOA
- V. Return to Open Session

The School Committee made the decision the move Executive Session to the end of the meeting and not return to open session.
- VI. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- VII. Statement of Mission
- VIII. 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.

IX. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry gave her report and advised that at this time, the district is scheduled to return to school in a hybrid model on Thursday 11/12/20 and bus schedules have gone out. If anyone has any bus conflicts they are able to reach out to Bonnie O'Donnell. The building principles have hosted parents meetings to answer any questions regarding the transition and will plan to host follow-up meetings as well. Amy

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informed that she would be starting her Sunday informational videos again and has set up a hybrid and remote learning survey located [here](#) for people to ask questions that she can answer in her videos. Amy introduced the virtual buddy tutor program and explained that it is up and running and that they can still assign tutors to more students going forward. The school system is still waiting on 330 devices to be delivered and the Chromebooks are expected to come in around Thanksgiving. Amy reminded that SEPAC has a business meeting 11/18/20 at 7:00 pm and that all meals are free through the end of the school year. Lori Johnson, a nurse at Northbridge high school advised that there has been a surge in COVID-19 cases and addressed the numbers of staff and students to date who have been quarantined or tested positive and because these numbers were based off of the small amount of people in the buildings, she expects the numbers to increase when everyone returns. Lori addressed questions from the committee regarding lost time from students and staffs as well as how many are quarantined or impacted right now. The committee and Amy decided to have further discussion on this topic and the return to school plan later in the agenda.

You can access the full superintendent report [here](#).

X. Consent Agenda

- A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from October 28, 2020
- B. Warrant 41-16s 10/15/20 \$290,032.14
- C. Balmer Food Pantry Donations
- D. NES Book Donation

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer. 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.

XI. Action Items

A. FY22 Budget Parameters and Timeline

Michael LeBrasseur went over the budget parameters and timeline information that had been discussed during the previous meeting. This included that the timeline may vary due to the uncertainty of everything right now and the budget parameters. The parameters discussed by the budget subcommittee were level service, incorporating the consolidation of NES and Balmer into the new elementary school, allowing administration to reorganize positions and programs based on changing priorities, and reviewing the budget situation further based on revenue.

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the budget timeline and parameters. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. 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.

XII. Discussion

A. Friends of Lasell Update

Tim Labrie of Friends of Lasell discussed their marketing proposal to help pay off the money utilized for the new field. The town of Northbridge had originally passed a 2.7 million dollar project and it ended up being quoted for 3.7 million. Tim explained the financial process they went through to decrease that gap from the original budgeted amount and what the field ended up costing. Tim also advised of a path that was created to close the gap including creating a monument by selling bricks, having sponsored signs placed along the fenced area behind the bleachers, and sponsored banners hanging from the light posts. He advised the committee as to why and how this marketing plan would be successful and showed the committee a rendering of what these signs and banners would potentially look like. This would be a fundraiser and marketing opportunity solely managed by Friends of Lasell, and they have already identified sponsors who have pledged. There were comments from the School Committee addressing the uniformity of the signs and banners, as well as how this opportunity could potentially generate revenue for other projects that come up in the field area that require attention. Michael LeBrasseur informed of the advertising policy and advised that the committee take action at the next meeting to authorize Friends of Lasell to move forward with this opportunity.

B. Superintendent Report Hybrid Model Discussion

Superintendent Amy McKinstry continued the hybrid model discussion that was brought up during her superintendent report. She advised that the surge is concerning and the fact that we are in a remote model currently instead of in person will make a difference. She advised that there are staffing concerns due to the number of staff quarantined, resignations, and the number of staff on leave. It is hard to fill these positions at this time due to the nature of the pandemic. NES and Balmer will not have their devices until after Thanksgiving, leaving these students at a disadvantage. Due to these concerns and Amy's dedication to making sure the buildings are properly staffed and safe, she recommended that the return to hybrid learning be postponed until November 30, 2020 and she will reassess. There was discussion by Kathryn Atchue regarding access to public buildings and Steven Falconer regarding Amy being the best one to make this decision and to bring it to the School Committee if there is any further pressure from DESE. Michael LeBrasseur had concerns regarding the timeliness of the health information being delivered to the schools and Lori Johnson informed of the timing and process as to how the information gets from the COVID-19 testing sights to the school. Brian Paulhus brought up a concern regarding the continuation of sports in comparison to allowing students within the school. Amy advised she does not plan to change anything for the students in the building right now, but doesn't feel that adding students at this time would be a good idea.

XIII. Information

A. Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools

B. Policy KHB – Advertising in the Schools

XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

XV. Adjournment (8:20)

A motion was made by Michael LeBrasseur to move into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following purpose of not to return to Open Session:

A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: NTA Hybrid MOA. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
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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