



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org),  
Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 24, 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	Absent
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: (7:05)
  - A. Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: NTA Hybrid MOA

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
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Absent
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0

- V. Return to Open Session (7:06)
- 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](mailto: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. Student Representative Report

Student Representative Ruby Holtz reminded the committee that the cohort A students would officially be starting hybrid learning on November 30<sup>th</sup> and many students are happy that they will be back in the buildings. She also informed that Justice Melia of the Worcester Probate and Family Court was able to speak to a class about the challenges that she faces within the job. Ruby advised that the senior girls won the powderpuff game and that student Kayley Tivnan officially signed and committed to Bryant University. NHS will be hosting parent teacher conferences on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11-2pm and 6-8pm. Lastly, Ruby advised that Acapella and Brass Band have been working on Christmas music for next month at the high school.

## X. Recognition

### A. John and Abigail Adams Scholars

31 Northbridge High School students were recognized by Superintendent Amy McKinstry for their MCAS achievements which helped them earn the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship.

## XI. Presentation: Glen King, Community Preservation Committee

Glen King was unable to attend this meeting. His presentation will be added to the next meeting agenda.

## XII. Consent Agenda

### A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 10, 2020

B. Warrant 41-18s                      10/29/20                      \$364,132.63

### C. Balmer Food Pantry Donation

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.

## XIII. Action Items

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.

### A. Friends of Lasell Sponsorship

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to approve the Friends of Lasell Sponsorship Program as outlined. 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	Absent
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.

### B. NTA Hybrid MOU

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the NTA Hybrid MOU. The motion was seconded by Steve Falconer. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

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

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.

## XIV. Discussion

### A. District Strategic Plan – Year Three

Superintendent Amy McKinstry advised the committee that they are in the third year of the 3 year district strategic plan and will be focusing on making sure they have wrapped up and completed everything that they set forth to complete within the plan. Come spring, the leadership team will begin to develop the next plan. Amy went over the main 3 objectives included in this year of the plan. These objectives included a safe and healthy learning environment, academics, and a culture of collaboration and community. Amy then went into further depth about the actions that will be taken in order to support and complete these objectives. Amy advised that she expects most of these objectives and goals to be completed by the end of this plan, however there are some that will remain ongoing.

### B. Hybrid Transition Update

Superintendent Amy McKinstry addressed the transition to hybrid and advised that the school system is on track to open for November 30<sup>th</sup>. At this time, all buildings have received the proper technology and she discussed the current staffing status at each of the schools. Amy believes the schools are in a good position with the staffing in each building. Amy advised that there are many parents volunteering to assist in the schools and that Northbridge Middle School has a large, helpful group of parents willing to volunteer their time. Amy informed the committee that she had sent out a travel survey to all families in order to gain a better understanding of their Thanksgiving travel plans. This was done in an effort to follow-up with families and make sure that their students will be transitioning into the hybrid learning in the safest manner possible. Steve Falconer asked Amy about the status of winter sports as well as the trends of grades from this past term. Amy advised that there was a meeting to discuss winter sports tonight and she does not have the end data for grades yet, however these two topics will be updates at the next meeting. Amy then addressed the issue of absenteeism in students.

XV. Information

A. SWCEC Annual Report

XVI. School Committee Individual Comments

XVII. Adjournment (7:45)

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to adjourn. 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	Absent
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.