



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, January 12, 2021 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. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- IV. Statement of Mission
- V. 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

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.

VII. Superintendent Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided an update starting with the high school. High school students will be offered an online SAT workshop next Wednesday called Three Simple Strategies for SAT Math. Student can sign up online for two different workshop times. Winter sports practices began on January 4th, and while no spectators are allowed at games, they will be livestreamed. New athletic banners were also hung up in the gymnasium. School pictures started today and the Community Service Club met on January 7th to discuss potential Spring events. The high school also registered for a new DESE internship program where high school students in good standing can complete a paid internship in the elementary schools. At the middle school, they just hired their National Junior Honors Society advisor and are applying for the middle school charter. Student Council elections are being held next week and the school is now offering online tutoring in math and ELA for all students on Wednesdays 12-2 pm. Middle school monthly parent meetings are going great and have been well attended, and they continue to bring students back in 4 days per week for extra support. The Balmer School students are participating in a new math program of which they are doing very well with and meeting goals. The food pantry continues to receive generous

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donations and Amy expressed appreciation. Almost all staff positions have been filled at Balmer, however there are still a few waiting to be filled. In regards to the district, the new student learning time requirements will be in effect as of January 18th, and the district was doing well when considering the previous requirements. There is a new stimulus expected that will be a greater amount than the previous. Amy would like to utilize this funding on staffing, programming, and involvement in the pool Covid-19 testing.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from December 22, 2020
- B. Warrant 41-26s \$293,865.73 12/23/20
- C. Balmer Food Pantry Donation

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the consent agenda. 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. Presentation

- A. Balmer School Update – Karlene Ross

Balmer School Principa, Karlene Ross shared an update on Balmer School. She reported that the teachers have been adapting great to the changes with the pandemic and it has been incredible to watch them engage the students. In addition to that, before the holiday break, an email went out to teachers asking them to provide a list of students that would benefit from being in the building or in the building more, and they are continuously looking to bring more students back. Karlene advised that most of their positions are filled however she would still like to fill a long-term paraprofessional substitute position, a 3rd grade facilitator position, and a cafeteria position on Mondays and Tuesdays. Karlene has had the opportunity to walk through the new school and reported that it is amazing.

X. Action Items

- A. Vote to authorize payment of \$16,640.72 to settle litigation (Falconer vs. Northbridge Public Schools and Catherine Stickney, Civil Action No. 19-40047-TSH)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to transfer \$16,640.72 from the high school special education teacher salary line item to the technology support salary line item and authorize payment of \$16,640.72 to settle litigation, Falconer vs Northbridge Public Schools and Catherine Stickney, Civil Action No. 19-40047-TSH. 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	Absent
Brian Paulhus	Yes
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. School Doctor Appointment

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Dr. Elizabeth Siraco as School Physician. 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 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.

C. Award Contract – MS Boiler Project

A motion was made by Steve Falconer to award the contract for the middle school boiler replacement project to N.B. Kenney Company, Inc. of 68 Barnum Road, Devens, MA. 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 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. Discussion

A. Five Year Capital Plan: FY2022-FY2026

Melissa Walker advised that the Five Year Capital Plan is put together and submitted to the town every year to outline capital projects in the district. Many items in the plan were items that were approved by the School Committee last year and any items that came off were items that funding was approved for. Two items that were previously on the plan but since removed were the middle school library and the middle school main office carpets, as there was an insurance claim that covered those projects. Two new projects that were identified and added were cafeteria table replacements in the middle and high school and the softball backstops. In FY22 funding will be requested to remove modular classrooms at the elementary school and install security cameras at the middle and high school. Melissa informed that FY22 doesn't have many items because they will be looking to replace the information system, IPass, which they will need additional funding for. George Simmons addressed questions regarding the asbestos abatement.

B. Reorganization of positions to add additional 1:1 Instructional Assistants

Melissa Walker advised the committee that they would like to reorganize positions within the current budget in order to add 2 additional 1:1 Instructional Assistants. This is due to students who have recently enrolled in the

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district who need this as it is within their IEP. Melissa has identified 2 budgeted positions that have not needed to be filled up until this point and would like to reorganize those positions and move the funds associated with them to the NES Instructional Assistant line item.

C. Policy IJNDD – Social Media – Recommended Revisions

Amy McKinstry advised that the policy subcommittee met to look at the current social media policy. The policy in the binder didn't have a date on it, however, when comparing it to the MASC recent policy updates, it needed an update. Being in a remote environment has made technology and social media a more prevalent aspect in peoples' lives, and the current policies mostly reflect suggestions and best practices more than policies. They changed the definition of social media and defined it based on current definitions and included more direct statements on using social media and tech inappropriately. Amy also addressed concern regarding the broadness of the social media definition.

D. FY21 Indirect Cost Agreement

The Indirect Cost Agreement was explained by Melissa Walker as an annual agreement we have with the town where they take costs that are paid through the town and assign them to the school because they are directly related to services that the school is involved in. Melissa went over how the FY21 and FY20 agreements compare and differ, and advised that at the end of the year when this is reported, all actual numbers are reported.

XII. Information

A. SWCEC - 1st Quarter Report; FY20 Financial Audit; FY20 Annual Report

XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

XIV. Adjournment (7:50)

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Absent
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
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.

Note: The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Also, the timeframe for each topic is a general guideline and may not be strictly adhered to.