



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Brian Paulhus, Steven Falconer, Allan Richards, Kathryn Atchue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 7:00PM

Northbridge High School Media Center

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

Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Kathryn Atchue	Present
Erin Donahue	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. School Committee Reorganization

A. Chairperson

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Steven Falconer as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

B. Vice-Chairperson

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Brian Paulhus as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was

seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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. Secretary

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Kathryn Atchue as Secretary. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

VII. Appointments and Subcommittee

A. Budget Subcommittee

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Steven Falconer and Brian Paulhus to Budget Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue and Steven Falconer.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Brian Paulhus to Budget Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Steven Falconer.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

B. Policy Subcommittee

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Allan Richards to Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Kathryn Atchue to Policy Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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. Negotiations Subcommittee

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Erin Donahue to Negotiations Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to appoint Kathryn Atchue to Negotiations Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

D. Building, Planning, and Construction Subcommittee

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to appoint Brian Paulhus to Building, Planning, and Construction Subcommittee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

E. Community Preservation Committee

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to appoint Erin Donahue to Community Preservation Committee. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

F. Fields Committee

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to appoint Allan Richards to Fields Committee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

G. Green Committee

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to appoint Melissa Walker to Green Committee. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes

Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

H. Safety Committee

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint George Simmons to Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

I. School Building Committee (Committee Representative)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to appoint Brian Paulhus to School Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Kathryn Atchue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

J. School Building Committee (Community Representative)

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to appoint Michael LeBrasseur to School Building Committee. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

VIII. Public Comment

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.

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's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry provided an update beginning with the Northbridge High School. The students at NHS recently had a very successful prom as well as a successful baccalaureate ceremony to celebrate the graduating seniors. Amy took the time to thank all those involved in planning and implementing the event. Tomorrow morning the seniors will participate in their annual senior walk through the elementary schools in their caps and gowns, following their graduation rehearsal. The events for the rest of the week included class and senior awards night tomorrow, the senior banquet on Thursday, and a livestreamed graduation ceremony on Friday followed by the annual operation graduation event. Amy also took the time to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Paulhus for their yearly landscaping and mulching assistance at the high school. Today, Amy and NHS interim principal, Bill Bishop, attended the Worcester County Superintendent's Awards ceremony with the NHS scholar Brennan Mahoney. From now until May 31st, the first grade students at Northbridge Elementary School will be honoring those who served, are serving, and who have passed by asking the community to hang a colored flag in their windows. On Friday the fourth grade students will have the opportunity to silly string principal and vice principal Karlene Ross and Lauren Dolan as part of a math challenge. Balmer School will also be hosting a book fair next week during the school day and remote students will be invited to attend after school. Lastly, the staff moving into the new building next year has been receiving tours.

X. Presentation

A. 2018-2021 District Strategic Plan – End of Plan Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry presented the District Strategic Plan including the following three objectives:

- Develop and sustain a safe, healthy, and inclusive environment that supports social-emotional learning and risk-taking and fosters the well-being of all members of the school community
- Enhance and support the continued development and implementation of a rigorous and engaging curriculum, evidenced by student-centered and inclusive classroom practices and challenging, performance-based assessments
- Foster a culture of collaboration, community, and accountability between and among students, staff, family, and community stakeholders

In addition to the three objectives she expanded on the action steps and the initiatives. The full presentation can be watched [here](#) at 19:10.

XI. Consent Agenda (7:30)

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2021

B. Warrant 41-46s \$336,122.47 May 13, 2021

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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. Action Items (7:35)

A. Kitchen Surplus

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to declare the kitchen items listed as surplus. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

B. Replace AC-Non-Discrimination Policy with updated Policy AC – *Non-Discrimination and Harassment*

A motion was made by Allan Richards to replace AC-Non-Discrimination Policy with updated Policy AC-Non-Discrimination and Harassment. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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. Eliminate Policy JBA – Student to Student Harassment (covered by new Policy AC and grievance procedures)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to eliminate policy JBA – Student to Student Harassment (covered by new Policy AC and grievance procedures). The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

D. Remove Policy JICFB – Bullying and Harassment Policy (covered by new Policy AC

and grievance procedures)

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to remove policy JICFB – Bullying and Harassment Policy (covered by new Policy AC and grievance procedures. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

E. Rename Policy ACAB-E/JICFB – E Bullying and Harassment Policy to Policy JICFB -
Anti-Bullying Policy

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to rename Policy ACAB-E/JICFB – E Bullying and Harassment Policy to Policy JICFB-Anti-Bullying Policy. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

F. Eliminate Policy ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex (redundant)

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to eliminate Policy ACA – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex(redundant). The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

XIII. Discussion

A. Before/After School Programs RFP Update

Director of Business and Finance, Melissa Walker, advised that the three year contract with Alphabest is coming to an end and they put out an RFP on May 10th for new proposals. The due date was today and 2 companies returned a proposal, one of them being Alphabest. By the next meeting they should have a final recommendation to provide.

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XIV. Information

A. YTD Budget Report

XV. School Committee Individual Comments

XVI. Adjournment (7:44)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Yes
Erin Donahue	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.

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.