



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Steven Falconer, Chairperson, sfalconer@nps.org
Brian Paulhus, Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Erin Donahue

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 7:00PM

Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- 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. 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: AFSCME Council 93, Local 1709 Unit A- Cafeteria
 - B. Purpose (3) Contract negotiations with Non-Union Personnel
- VII. Public Comment (7:10)

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.

Kate Tracy of 139 Morgan Road spoke regarding middle school sports and the fundraising that has previously been done to keep these programs running. Due to the pandemic, fundraising couldn't happen, and students already missed out and could not play last year. She asked the committee to consider adding middle school sports back in to the budget.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry updated the committee on the status of summer programming including the traditional programs and the extended programs. The Covid-19 compensatory camp will be starting for special education students where they will get to participate in many great activities. The Blackstone Valley Ed-Hub Cooperative Enrichment Program starts next week. The first two weeks are grades 8 to 10 and the second two weeks are grades 6 to 7. Amy provided further information on the summer acceleration academies as well. Amy shared a

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letter from the ASA \$450,000 grant to extend non-traditional courses. The tiered focus monitoring review was completed and the district did well with only one area of focus to work on. At this time there have been no DESE updates or guidance in relation to masks or protocols. HEPA filters will continue to be used in classrooms. Amy discussed inquiries regarding Lasell Field use and the track. The district will continue to provide breakfast and lunch free to any family on Tuesdays between 9 and 11:00 am at Northbridge High School.

IX. Introduction – New Athletic Director

The new Athletic Director, Christopher McGrath was introduced to the School Committee.

X. Presentation

A. New Three-Year District Strategic Plan

As there was no internet available, the presentation will be posted online. Amy McKinstry advised that the recent 3 year plan has been completed, and a new district strategic plan has been developed. Amy thanked all of the individuals who participated in the development and presented the new mission statement and vision statement. Amy discussed the 3 strategic objectives and discussed the process used to develop the plan. She then expanded on the idea of hosting office hours for staff.

B. Elementary SEL Camp Update

Nick Hoffman and Karlene Ross presented an update, advising that the camp during the last week of June was successful and hosted 100 students grades K through 5. They acknowledged the 5 teachers who helped run it and mentioned that kids were engaged, parents were pleased, and it was the first time many of these students saw their friends without masks. Nick provided insight on the competencies addressed as well as the activities that occurred.

XI. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from June 22, 2021

B. Warrant 41-52s	6/24/2021	\$444,946.26
C. Warrant 41-53s	6/30/2021	\$95,874.32
D. Warrant 41-54s	6/30/2021	\$220,558.34
E. Warrant 41-55s	6/30/2021	\$368,137.13
F. Warrant 42-04s	7/22/2021	\$98,416.71

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the consent agenda. 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.

XII. Action Items

A. Middle School Sports

\$40,000 to be added to current FY22 budget as expense for middle school sports. Remaining funds in donation account will be utilized to offset this as well as the middle school athletics fee collection. Remaining balance could be covered by revolver funds due to FY21 coming under budget. Continuation could be addressed during the next budget season.

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A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the funding of middle school sports. 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. 2021-2022 Student and Family Handbook

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to approve the 2021-2022 student and family handbook. 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. Approval of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022 Contract with AFSCME – Unit A – Cafeteria

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to approve the July 1, 2019 – July 30, 2022 Contract with AFSCME – Unit A – Cafeteria. 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.

XIII. Discussion

XIV. Information

A. FY20 End of Year Report Audit Report

B. FY22 Summer Acceleration Academies Grant Information

XV. School Committee Individual Comments

XVI. Adjournment (8:00)

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Erin Donahue.

Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes

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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.