



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Steven Falconer, Chairperson, [stfalconer@nps.org](mailto:stfalconer@nps.org)  
Brian Paulhus, Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Erin Donahue

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, August 24, 2021 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order
- 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 purposes:

- a. Purpose (2) to conduct collective bargaining with AFSCME Unit C - Custodial, specifically to hear the custodial grievance; and
- b. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically to deliberate and determine a response to the AFSCME Unit C- Custodial grievance.

A motion was made by Kathryn Atchue to move into executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21(a) for the following purposes:

- a. Purpose (2) to conduct collective bargaining with AFSCME Unit C - Custodial, specifically to hear the custodial grievance; and
- b. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically to deliberate and determine a response to the AFSCME Unit C- Custodial grievance. 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. 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.*

Brandon King of 79 Sheryl Drive spoke regarding the lack of email responses from the committee informing the public of the poll results. Steven Falconer advised that they would be published. Brandon also mentioned that he was concerned regarding the commissioners mask advisory.

Beth Dumouchel of 34 Willow Street spoke and advised that she has two children in the district and is concerned about the committee providing email responses and acknowledgment. She discussed the mask vote that occurred and thought that Matt Mills and Martin West had the best reflection of the views she also holds and referred the public to watch it. She went over numbers regarding deaths and the age range for these deaths in relation to Covid-19 and believes masks are not of good use.

BJ Clark of 15 Woodland Street questioned the mask mandate beyond October 1<sup>st</sup> and wanted to know what would happen once that date is reached. He expressed concern for there being no light at the end of the tunnel, especially for children under age 12. The line needs to be drawn somewhere, as he believes it is failing the kids.

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Amy McKinstry started her report by going over the several summer programs that happened and are wrapping up this week and advised there will be a slideshow provided with data at the next meeting. She informed of the overwhelming response to tour the new school building and that extra days will be added. She advised that the middle school had just hosted their building tour and parent meeting for new parents to the school, and there were approximately 60 people who participated. They also held another meeting that evening to discuss the new class models and initiatives and about 150-175 families attended this. Amy mentioned the family fun run being hosted by student council at the middle school and moved into the information on the orientation for incoming freshman to the high school on August 25<sup>th</sup>. DESE and the commissioner did mandate a universal masking policy for grades K-12 until October 1<sup>st</sup>. After that date, they can lift the mandate for vaccinated individuals if 80% of students and staff are vaccinated. Unvaccinated students would still have to wear a mask. Nurse Lori Johnson and Amy are working on a mobile vaccination clinic to provide on site vaccinations. Amy advised that she understands everything that has been said from all sides from both staff, parents, and students. She doesn't want to deny students the right to a good education, and even though the mask mandate has been determined, the district will not be doing social distancing. The district will focus on engaging the students, having them work with peers, and give them the normalcy of everything else.

## IX. Consent Agenda

- A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from July 27, 2021
- B. School Committee Meeting Minutes from August 18, 2021
- C. Warrant 42-06s    8/05/2021    \$241,117.90
- D. Warrant 42-08s    8/19/2021    \$196,127.17

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve the consent agenda. 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

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.

0 members having voted in the negative  
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-0.

X. Action Items

A. Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings

A motion was made by Erin Donahue to approve policy EBCFA Face Coverings. 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.

XI. Discussion

XII. Information

XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

XIV. Adjournment (8:00)

A motion was made by Allan Richards to adjourn. 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.

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.