



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org), Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,  
Alicia Cannon, Brian Paulhus, Joe Richards

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Public Hearing Thursday, March 22nd, 2018 6:30 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (6:30)
- II. Attendance

Alicia Cannon	Present
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Joe Richards	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney and Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker.

The motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to open the public hearing. The motion was seconded Alicia Cannon. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	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.

- III. Presentation: FY 19 Budget Overview

Catherine Stickney and Melissa Walker presented the FY 19 Budget Overview.

#### IV. Public Comment

- Michelle Smith and Deb Ariel spoke to the committee to advocate keeping Don Incutto's position at NES.
- Travis Hartung, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade student, spoke in regards to Coach Falconer's position.
- Talia Berkowitz, Northbridge parent and teacher, concerns in regards to cuts made to staff that work directly with students, as opposed to Instructional Coaches.
- Jill Redding, NTA President, shared a document on behalf of approximately 200 teachers. Jill shared numerous concerns from the staff. She asked that the Committee make fiscally responsible decisions when preparing the budget. Jill stated that the NTA understands that cuts need to be made; however, she urged the Committee in the strongest possible terms to implement a budget that will cause the least amount of damage to the educational wellbeing of the students of the Northbridge Public Schools.
- Brendan Morganelli, NHS graduate, spoke on behalf of Coach Falconer and Coach Demagian.
- Tim Haverty, NHS student, spoke on behalf of Coach Falconer
- Jennifer Rice, Northbridge parent, shared her concerns over the reorganization of the systems administrator position. Specifically the technology position.
- Christina Connolly, a parent and HS teacher in another district, shared her thoughts on the Instructional Coaches.
- Eleni Braley, Northbridge parent, shared with the committee that she works in early intervention and she is seeing the amount of children coming in that will need services. Mrs. Braley also stated that she was on the accountability site for the district and saw that we were a level 3 district and that the administration may be top heavy.
- Mark Malkasian, Northbridge parent, stated that the proposed budget puts about 50 years coaching experience at risk, and that a good coach can make just as big as a difference as a good teacher. He stated that school choice students come to Northbridge for lacrosse. Mr. Malkasian also shared an observation in regards to an increase on the tech slide- wanted a little more transparency on what was included.
- Tamsyn Coady, Northbridge teacher, stated we need to get creative in times of need. Look at class size at all levels.
- Kate Tracy, Northbridge parent, stated she was floored at the proposed budget two weeks ago. These appeared to be drastic cuts, especially at Middle and Elementary levels. Kate spoke in regards to Coach Falconer and his position. Kate also spoke in regards to the reduction of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and the teachers at Balmer vs. those who do not have interactions with students.
- Jenna Stanley, Northbridge parent and teacher, stated that she wants to challenge the committee to come in and speak with the teachers and those on the front lines working with these kids every day.
- Karen Halloran, Northbridge parent of a special needs child, upset with the planned reduction of Balmer teachers when there are many students needing their help.

- Jill Redding, NTA President, stated that one year ago she spoke to the Committee in regards to their fiscally responsible and irresponsible decisions. She stated the Committee hired a \$90,000 tech director which the NTA was adamantly opposed to and now the District is cutting teachers and a tech position that has been here for many years.

V. Adjournment (7:25 P.M.)

The motion was made by Joe Richards to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. The motion was seconded by Joseph Strazzulla. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon                      Yes

Mike LeBrasseur                      Yes

Brian Paulhus                      Yes

Joe Richards                      Yes

Joseph Strazzulla                      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.