



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, jleonard@nps.org, Shannon Canoy, scanoy@nps.org,
Heather Alden, halden@nps.org, Jonathan Canoy, jcanoy@nps.org

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Attendance

Jill Leonard	Absent
Heather Alden	Present
Shannon Canoy	Present
Jonathan Canoy	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. Student Representative Report

Last Tuesday were mid-term progress report, and can be viewed on Infinite Campus. The Football team lost 17-39 against North Middlesex. Freshmen had a lot of fun at their annual Fall Fest. Had a lot of activities and a cookout. Mr. Zollo and Mr. Polucha ended it with Karaoke, which can be seen on facebook page. SAT tests will be held 10/11/2023 and PSAT on 10/24/2023. There are only 50 spots total. Annual SADD Seatbelt Photo contest has started for a Dunkin Donuts Gift Card. Make sure to tag the photo on Instagram to be counted. Some people in the community have already started. Annual Halloween Fest is next Saturday, and they are accepting any and all donations of decorations and candy to help set up the booths for the Halloween Fest.

- VII. Superintendent's Report

MCAS presentation was supposed to be tonight, but after reviewing the data, the Leadership team decided to wait as they have work to do on MCAS preparedness and want to present an action plan to the Committee along with the results. Have a Leadership meeting tomorrow to make a district wide plan, especially for the ELA departments. Will present at First November meeting, because there is no second October meeting due to the Town Meeting on 10/24/2023.

NMS First Student of the Month 10/11/2023 at 8:30AM. Parents can attend in person or virtually. Starting up afterschool Socials: 10/19 6th grade in the Gym. 10/20 7th grade afterschool Social. Will have Music, Dancing, and games. 10/27 8th grade Halloween dance. This is to raise money for the 8th grade class, and they are still looking for volunteers and donations of candy and decorations. Looking for community School Council members. First meeting is 10/11/2023. Having trouble getting the one more parent or community member to join. Contact Laura Capistran at NMS to join.

Community Closet is open 10/18 2:15-4:15. Looking for donations, mostly of shoes and boots student sized, and winter jackets. Picture Day is Tuesday 10/24.

Community of Churches is still looking for names of students or families who can use donation baskets of clothing and food for the holidays and the winter.

Looking for more day-to-day subs at all buildings for any of the schools. NES has the highest need for the subs.

Shannon Canoy enquired about how many subs are needed, and Superintendent ensured that we need a lot. Heather Alden is glad that the Leadership Team agreed to wait to present the findings, as families are just receiving results too, so they will need time to digest that information, and coming with a plan will be more effective. Donations can call ahead, email Tina Wildfeuer, or show up and donate.

VIII. Presentations

A. NPS - ACCESS Results (Patricia James)

ACCESS for ELL Students 2023 results. 54 students took part of the test in Jan/Feb. Got the benchmarks from the state for next year. 24 of the students (44%) are Proficiency level 1 or Level 2. 8 Students (15%) exited services. Of the 39 who took the test in 2022 AND 2023, 27 (69%) showed overall growth. 12 of the students (31%) grew one full proficiency level or more. 4 of the students who didn't show overall score growth or their scores remained flat were Opt-Out (Don't receive services). One student had an overall score decrease, but

scored high enough across all categories to be exited (certain overall and literacy score needed to exit).

Trends: Oral Language Skills surpass Literacy skills for 79% of students Kindergarten and up. Growth within and between proficiency slows in upper grades.

Action Steps: Analyze scores to determine what interventions need to be done in specific domains. Look at students close to exiting and figure out what is holding them back.

Evaluate students current challenges and successes (its been half a year since testing)

NES Report: Most students 68% Met or exceeded progress targets set by DESE.

Newcomers at school are able to access grade level curriculum in about 2 years. DESE official accountability report shows that NES was awarded 6/8 (76%) achievement points for the EL and Former EL student group.

NMS and NHS reports from state have not been updated yet, and only NES has been released.

NMS Report: Teachers impressed with effort and Confidence EL students are showing.

They feel comfortable and safe at NMS. One student made significant gains in 2 years.

Speaking score jumped from 1.8 to 5.4 in one year. Growth percentile is 80%. The students are part of the community and join extra curricular.

NHS Report: Newcomers show the most growth. Some students plateau at higher levels as they face higher level academic vocabulary. Current students are welcoming and inclusive to the new EL students.

Heather Alden wants to know how the 76% compares to the rest of the districts in the state. This is relative to other schools of the same grades. Meaning we are in the 76th percentile compared to other similar schools. We have 68 EL students total receiving services. 46 Elementary, 13 Middle, 9 High School. Kindergarten had 25 students who needed testing for possible EL services this year, and 14 qualified.

Jonathan Canoy asked if 6 out of 8 is something we are happy with if the goal is 8/8? The teachers are happy with what they have achieved. Amy asked what our growth was from the previous year. We are 70% in 2022. Shows progress and going in the correct direction.

B. NES Update

Lollipop Moments, based on a TED Talk by Drew Dudley – a micro-moment that makes you feel happier and hopeful. This is not pretending that everything is fine, but that small moments of meaningful happiness helps improve morale. Staff are helping each other to

find these moments and are sharing them with each other. Shifting their mindset on the very hard days, and is helping to prevent burn out by helping to find the “why” of doing this job. Staffing updates: Needs a Long Term Sub for the Severe Needs Classroom for maternity leave. Need the person by December. Still need to instructional assistants and a crossing guard. For IA, it’s a fluid position because a lot of the people who are leaving are doing so for the money, because we cannot offer them more money, and some other districts are able to pay more. They have about 3 permanent building subs, but they often run about 20 subs a day, as they are a large group of employees.

PBIS and SEL: Strengthen PBIS and reintroduce SEL to daily activity. Monthly assemblies will be held and will be character trait themed and be aligned with PBIS themes. Respect was September, Responsibility was Oct. Great parent Support and participation in the assemblies and being recognized as Student of the month connected to the trait theme. Boosterthon started this week. Partnered with Dude Perfect to do classroom energizers and fundraisers. Wellness week sometime in 3rd or 4th quarters. Activities to help learn about mental and physical wellbeing and health.

Regulated Classrooms. Created for cultivating a feeling of being safe in the classrooms. Based on Poly-Vagal theory. Connector, Activator, and Settler Activities, as well as Affirmations.

Curriculum: Continuing with ECRI (Enhanced Core Reading Instruction) in grades K-2. SRSD (Self-Regulated Strategy Development) is in Year 2 of the Grant Program. Last years Focus was on informational writing (framework and graphic organizer), this year is Narrative Writing. Last year was pulling ideas from other text, this year is from their head. Partnered with Providence College for SRSD. The company Providence College was working with to oversee SRSD no longer has a partnership. They have a new partner. Last year was web based, but this year is more focused around training internally, so that we have coaches in our schools to teach the other teachers. There is one coach in each grade K-5 currently. They meet bi-weekly to align rubric calibration.

ST Math – Last year of Grant. Program supports conceptual understanding. There are 3 math coaches in NES. NES is doing some “Cutting Edge” things: Tracking student progress to introduce next topic, Utilizing ST Math data to plan SMART goals, utilizing ST Math as an intervention tool. Mrs. Dolan invited to present at the next Statewide Conference because the state is impressed with what we are doing with ST Math.

WIN Blocks have started up. Continuing in Grades K-5. Had Data days within the past 2 weeks. Digging in deep to all benchmark data. Grades 3-5 are getting Math Support in addition to the Literacy that all grades are getting. Enrichment groups are being done once students are solid in both Literacy and Math. K-2 are sticking to Literacy only.

Class Dojo it is a new communication tool the NES was using. Subscribed to it for free, and it has instant translations. Can be downloaded via an app onto a phone or device, and the messages will translate to the home language instantly. For the parents who had been on the fringe because of the language barrier, have been interacting a lot more now.

NES PTA funded some additional playground equipment. Donors Choose has given 18 new Ukulele sets for the music room.

Heather Alden mentioned noticing the shift of moral at NES has increased with what the admin is doing. Shannon Canoy asked who the Coaches were, if they were teachers or if that was their only job. They are stipend paid teachers. Only in the first year, but have talked to Worcester (10 years), Hopkinton (several years) told them that it can take about 5 years to truly see the results take effect. This was the program that was put on pause last year, but the teachers wanted so much that they made it work and go through.

IX. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes: September 26, 2023

A motion was made by Shannon Canoy to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Jill Leonard	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Shannon Canoy	Yes
Jonathan Canoy	Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 3-0

B. Warrant 24-12 9/28/2023 \$180,416.81

C. Warrant 24-13 10/5/2023 \$282,589.14

A motion was made by Shannon Canoy to approve the warrants. It was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Jill Leonard	Absent
Heather Alden	Yes
Shannon Canoy	Yes

Jonathan Canoy Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 3-0

X. Discussion

XI. Public Comment

XII. Action

XIII. Information

 A. Staffing Update

Needs 2 IA at NMS, Still looking for Social Worker, Lost an NMS Math Teacher but someone was hired today to replace the Math Teacher.

XV Adjournment

A motion was made by Shannon Canoy to adjourn. It was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Jill Leonard Absent

Heather Alden Yes

Shannon Canoy Yes

Jonathan Canoy Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 3-0