



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Erin Donahue, Chairperson, Edonahue@nps.org, Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, jleonard@nps.org
Allan Richards, aerichards@nps.org, Heather Alden, halden@nps.org, Rebecca Johnson, rjohnson@nps.org

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00PM)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance (7:00PM)
- III. Attendance (7:00PM)

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

Also in attendance was Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Finance, Melissa Walker

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording (7:00PM)
- V. Statement of Mission (7:01PM)
- VI. Student Representative Report (7:02)

Student Representative Sarah was unable to attend, so Chairperson Donahue read the Report. 5/1/23 was National College Decision Day. Faculty and students wore the colors of their institutions. 4/27 5 seniors were taken to Senior Scoop at Imperial Chevrolet.

Blackstone Valley Education Foundation sponsored event to connect Employers with upcoming High School Graduates. Organizations there offered certifications and education programs. Mr. Ostopowich took students on a Boston Harbor cruise to examine and learn about the Deer Harbor Sewage Treatment plant. 5/4 Northbridge High Science Club sponsored a trip to the New England Aquarium. 4/17 29 students went to the American SW to explore the National Parks on a 6 day trip. Extra Events: Congratulations to Mr. Warzecha for winning the Singer Family Excellence in Secondary Education Award.

- VII. Superintendent's Report (7:05)

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NES Update: Preparing for field days. 3rd-4th grade Field Day, June 12th; Kindergarten-1st Grade Field Day, June 13th; 2nd grade Field Day, June 14th. 5/19th, Duct Tape Mr. Hoffman to the Wall event at 12:30 to raise money for their Booster Fund. 5/20 Planning a Community Service project “Let’s Clean up and Green up”, to clean up Northbridge. Mr. Joel wrote a new song for this and will perform it at 9:00AM and everyone will sing it. Gather back at NES at 10:30. Everyone is welcome. Thanked Mr. Gogan and Ms. Riordan for the Spring Concert last Thursday.

NMS Update: Mr. Diorio has been holding assemblies all week featuring Fran Collins, a Professional MMA fighter talking about his struggles growing up, drugs, bullying, and respecting others. Families welcome to come to assemblies. 5/12 8th grade Dinner Dance. 5/19 at 6pm and 5/20 at 2PM, Camp Kaos being performed in Middle School Auditorium. 5/25 Middle School Band and Chorus having their concert at 7:00PM.

Mr. Hoffman will be leaving at the End of Year. Returning home to Ohio to be with Family. Working to determine how to fill Mr. Hoffman’s role and what the position may look like for the next set of Principals. Hope to Post Position soon. Chris Herren giving talk on 5/10 about drug use for the High School and the Community at 6PM. Asked FCP’s Vault Program run by licensed Clinicians to come and provide information to families in the lobby before and after the talk.

Traffic situation: Health and Safety inspector from Mass Dept. Labor came and spoke to Chief Lebrrie, Facilities Director Simmons, and Jamie from DPW. Watched the traffic and sent in a 21 page report for possible improvements to the traffic situation. These are going to be vetted. Will provide a further report once they have read through everything.

VIII. Presentations: (7:15)

A. 2023 Singer Family Prize – Jeff Warzecha

Postponed till the next meeting as Mr. Warzecha needed time to prepare for a substitute to go receive the award officially.

B. NPS SEPAC – Brandon King

Brandon King, President of Northbridge Special Education Parent Advisory Board. Spent extra time reaching out to families to get information on what was going on and their opinions. The community has grown by 35% and has done housecleaning to remove accounts of students/families that are no longer attending or in district. Sent out a survey to

get their opinions/perceptions of how the School System is doing for their Special Education Students.

For Bullying

NHS 100% of respondents satisfied with how school handled bullying.

NMS 100% of respondents dissatisfied with how school handled bullying.

NES 90% of respondents dissatisfied with how school handled bullying.

When asked why they were dissatisfied: Parents felt that their child (victim) was moved and that was punishing the victim, rather than the bully. Some Parents felt that when bully was moved, the bullying got worse. Some felt that the steps and resolution took longer than they would have liked. There is a sense that some bullying is being swept under the rug. General Consensus that things will not happen from filing the bullying report. They feel that the best way is via phone or email, and don't feel it is necessary to fill out the bullying report form. Has tried to tell parents that the form is the ideal form as it gives most consistent and best amount of information.

How do you feel the school is NOT serving your child:

NHS (percentage measures largest complaint)

16% Communication has not been timely

50% fidelity to the signed IEP

34% Para Professional turnover is hurting their child.

NMS

60% Communication has not been timely

30% fidelity to signed IEP

10% I did not receive a rubric for why my child does/does not qualify for services

NES

40% Communication has not been timely

20% Fidelity to signed IEP

17% I did not receive a rubric for why my child does/does not qualify for services

23% turn over of Para Professionals.

Started with the bad, and now moving to the good stuff. Thanked Greg Rosenthal for getting the SPED program to where it is now. Current Board: Brandon King, sitting Chair; Jeny

Rivera, Vice president; Talia Berkowitz, Treasurer; Gia Barce, Secretary; Beth Hall, Director of Social Media (new Position). Listed off praises for many of the teachers who interact with the Special Education students.

School Committee asked if all the parents participated in the Superintendent's survey.

Unknown how many participated in both. Some do know of the focus groups the Superintendent has set up, and he will be making sure more know about it.

Superintendent McKinstry asked for the data portion of the survey to show to and work with the Leadership Team. Explained what the SEPAC is there for when supporting parents with Special Needs and navigating the School System and contacts with Leadership.

SEPAC does not have funding as they have to turn it over to the school, so holding events has a lot of red tape as they cannot fund them and have to ask through the school. Unable to get insurance because they do not have the money and are not a business. Very hard to do a Special Needs only event when they do not have funding/insurance, and have settled with PTA to get Special Needs inclusive events. School Committee suggested a volunteer school/student run program for special needs only, so the school covers insurance and there is no cost. Explained that they wanted this to include people from out of the school district, and that cannot be done in the school.

Superintendent suggested that the DECA kids/NHS students plan and run the event.

IX. Consent Agenda (7:50)

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes: March 28, 2023

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Allan Richards	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Rebecca Johnson	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

B. School Committee Meeting Minutes: April 11, 2023

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

C. School Committee Meeting Minutes: April 25, 2023

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

5 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

D. Warrant 43-44s 04/27/2023 \$287,403.59

E. Warrant 43-45s 05/04/2023 \$257,667.52

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Warrants. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

5 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

X. Discussion (7:54)

A. 8th Grade Canobie Lake Park Trip June 12th

Explained the details of the trip. Payment for the trip was from fundraisers throughout the year and covers the tickets and bus cost. Will have a nurse on hand that does have an emergency license as it is over the NH border.

A motion was made by Allan Richards to move the Trip from Discussion to Action. The motion was seconded by Heather Alden.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

5 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

XI. Public Comment (7:57)

Brandon King, 75 Shell Drive. Lights in front of NES. \$116K on two motorcycles that will only be used occasionally in town, we can use it for the lights for more use.

XII. Action (7:57)

A. Transportation Contract Renewal

A motion was made by Allan Richards to approve the Contract. The motion was seconded by Heather Alden.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

B. 8th Grade Canobie Lake Park Trip June 12th

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Field Trip. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

XIII. Information (8:00)

A. School Choice – Grades closed for 2023-2024 SY

Gave last years numbers compared to current year. According to the recommended class size, gave the number of openings for school choice for next year:

Grade 1: 2

Grade 2, 3, 4: Closed

Grade 5: 4

Grade 6: 23

Grade 7: 10

Grade 8-9: Closed

After the Baypath numbers. Above recommended max size for the classes. 1 more grade closed than last year, but more spaces open compared to last year.

XIV. Executive Session (8:02)

A. Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the following purpose: Purpose (3) to Discuss Strategy with Respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Personnel: AFSCME Local 1709 Unit A - Cafeteria, not returning to open session

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Allan Richards.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

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Allan Richards Yes

Heather Alden Yes

Rebecca Johnson Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

5 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 5-0

XV. Adjournment (8:03)