



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, June 13, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

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

#### Attendance:

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Erin Donahue   | Present |
| Jill Leonard   | Present |
| Shannon Canoy  | Absent  |
| Heather Alden  | Present |
| Jonathan Canoy | Present |

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 (7:01PM)

Student Representative Sarah Cowen was studying for Finals and absent. Read by Erin Donahue. Congratulating to Caramia Pozzi and Brenna Duda, who won the Look Both Ways PSA Safety contest. Assembly was held for Sophomores and Juniors to celebrate and talk about the dangers of distracted driving. June 6<sup>th</sup> there was an online anti-bullying presentation. April Students of the month published: Freshman: Connor Kaferlein, Sophomore: Holly Tessier, Junior: Kiara Castro, Senior: Nate Williams. 6/1 visit ARMI to see decellularized organs and learn about their applications. First week of the month, Sophomores walked the Freedom trail, seeing the revolutionary war landmarks. 5 student leaders went to the MIAA Girls Leadership Workshop to listen to a

presentation by motivational Speaker Deb Paul. Received training for building self-esteem and recognizing one's self worth. Northbridge/Nipmuck boy's Lacrosse team for being the CNADA D2 Champions. Congratulations to the Boys Baseball MIAA final 4. Thanked committee for letting her serve for the last year and a half.

## VII. Superintendent's Report (7:10)

6/13 was last day for Pre-K. NES Doing another round of SPED screenings for incoming Pre-K 6/14. Grade 4 Field day happened on 6/12. K-2 Field day rescheduled for 6/15 due to rain. Lots of field trips for NES over this last month. Pre-K had "In-School Animal Adventure", Grade 1 went to the Worcester Ecoterrium, Grade 3 went to Boston to see the Boston Tea party Ships, Grade 4 went to Patriots Hall-of-Fame, Grade 5 went to Old Sturbridge Village. The 4 week summer camp for Pre-K is filled with a waiting list. Each week has a different theme: Ocean Adventures, Fun and Games, Artist at work, Science Fun. Working to integrate with Special Education summer camp to better address their social needs. NES will hold a Summer Math Acceleration Academy if the Grant is approved, for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. NMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Canobie Lake park. NMS had the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Step Up event and parent meeting on 6/12. On 6/14, NMS is holding another meeting to explain to the parents changes at the school for the next year. There will be times posted over the summer for students and families to come and learn the layout of the middle school. 6/15 is 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awards with Promotion on 6/16. NMS Summer School Notifications have gone out already. Seniors had a busy time. Over \$90K dollars in scholarships from non-university sources. The June 6<sup>th</sup> Bullying presentation was done via Zoom based on feedback from parent surveys, and only 1 parent attended. The Leadership team will be releasing focus group information next week. District leadership team workshops will be happening in July and August. Providing training on conducting and documenting Bullying/non-bullying incidents, aligned discipline practices, personnel procedures, purpose/use of school councils, tiered systems of support, addressing chronic absenteeism, professional learning communities, and social/emotional learning. No new initiatives will be taken next year, as they need to focus on the ones they have started and continue to make sure they are done with fidelity. Reminder from the nurses offices to claim any medications that were given to the nurse's offices before the end of the year and that

new doctor's orders are needed each year for medications that are required to be kept in the Nurse's office. June 19<sup>th</sup> is a holiday, so final day is Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### VIII. Presentations: (7:15)

##### A. 2022-2023 Teacher of the Year

This award was initially presented at the Unsung Heroes award on May 24<sup>th</sup>. This year's Teacher of the Year is Jean Joncas, a middle school Math Teacher. After hearing she won the award, she immediately sent handwritten notes and gift cards to her fellow teachers for their support, again showing how much of a team player she is. Chairperson Donahue spoke about how her daughters felt safe and welcome to make mistakes and learn in Jean's class, and they still talk fondly about her.

##### B. Texting and Driving PSA Award

The students were all a part of one of the advanced Media Courses. They had a total of 6 scripts, with the stipulation that they could be shot in the parking lot without any driving, and the Zombie Apocalypse one was chosen because of how different it was from the rest. The students got to work with a professional advertising agency to shoot their ad over April Vacation. They got to learn how these ads go from just scripts to being shot and produced. The Secretary of Transportation and the CEO of Mapfre were at the unveiling of the winners in front of the school.

##### C. Middle School - Update for 2023-2024

Changing the class length for the next year, so that the classes are 46 minutes long and all 7 are attended per day, 4 content classes, 1 WIN class, and 2 Related Arts classes. Related Arts classes will be 1 quarter long each. The Houses will be separated by grade this year to help with discipline issues. Will have 2 teams per grade. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be on first floor, 7<sup>th</sup> grade on floor with main office, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in back near Pleasant St.

They are also going to change the WIN times from being all at once for the whole school to a different time per grade. There will be three different WIN group segments per grade and 2 Push in Periods with classroom support.

ELA Interventionist. Caitlyn Hickey. Will work with the three WIN Groups and support in the classroom. SRSD (Self Regulated Strategy Development) ELA Literacy teacher, Kerry Brown, will be working with students during Related Arts: the 6<sup>th</sup> graders during Q1 and Q2, 8<sup>th</sup> graders during Q3, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders during Q4.

Grading policy is being altered slightly. 40% will be based on Summative Tests and Projects, 35% will be quizzes (explained as progress assessments for determining how well the student is understanding the material), and 25% is classwork and independent/group work.

There will be summer tours happening for everyone, but specifically geared towards the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Building Tours: July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, from 9AM to Noon. August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to Noon. Schedule Pick up on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to Noon. This information will also be shared out with the families.

Jill Leonard asked about possible increase in homework with the shortening of the classes, especially since it might be a culture shock for the incoming students who do not get homework at the elementary school, and some of the students there might also not like the increased homework. Mr. Diorio explained that all of the homework would be meaningful that went home and that because the classes meet every day, there is less need for homework. Driving factor for return to a more traditional style of schedule was from feedback from the staff and the fact that all three grades mixing was causing discipline issues.

Curriculum Director Healy explained they will be using iReady to track the student's level and progress so they are placed accordingly to be able to support the students better where they are at.

Chairperson Donahue brought up question of how timely will grades be entered into the system, as there is not current consistency with submitting grades. Princ. Diorio explained that they are working on improving the timeliness of submissions in the middle school.

#### D. District Strategic Plan - Year Two Report (7:49PM)

Gave guideline for how the charts are organized and shaded. Explained that everything was put in, even if they did not get to it, as that sometimes happens when planning. Some of the goals overlap with the Superintendent's personal professional goals.

Strategic Objective 1: Create an environment in which all leaders include multiple perspectives to collaborate on common goals and develop consistent and equitable practices and expectations that support the alignment of our schools and the success of the entire NPS community.

Initiative 1: Providing consistent and ongoing professional development to all school and district leaders on effective leadership skills: Met goals and marked completed.

Initiative 2: Develop a strong sense of interconnectedness across building and district leadership teams to ensure shared accountability for ALL students: Most of the goals were met and marked as Mostly Completed.

Strategic Objective 2: Create an environment in which all leaders include multiple perspectives to collaborate on common goals and develop consistent and equitable practices and expectations that support the alignment of our schools and the success of the entire NPS community.

Initiative 1: Provide parents/families with opportunities to take active roles in the schools and district and be a part of the decision-making process: This goal needs to be re-evaluated as it still needs a lot of work.

Initiative 2: Support inclusive and culturally proficient practices, in and out of the classroom: This was marked as mostly completed, but needs further work.

Strategic Objective 3: Provide engaging, inclusive and culturally proficient learning environments that nurture individual student growth and close access, academic and opportunity gaps through effective instructional practices, smooth transitions between grades (including grade 8-9) , aligned curriculum, and robust student support.

Initiative 1: Implement flexible practices that support all learners and their changing needs throughout the year: Marked as Partially Completed.

Initiative 2: Recognize, respect and celebrate each student's strengths, diversity, and culture as assets for teaching and learning: This goal needs to be re-evaluated and needs more work.

Initiative 3: Recognize, respect and celebrate each student's strengths, diversity, and culture as assets for teaching and learning: Needs more work and to reevaluate how it will be done.

Committee commented on how Inclusivity will never be marked green because the world and society is always changing, so having the mindset that it is always something we have to work on is a good thing.

## IX. Consent Agenda (8:05PM)

### A. School Committee Meeting Minutes: May 23, 2023

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Erin Donahue  | Yes    |
| Jill Leonard  | Yes    |
| Shannon Canoy | Absent |

Heather Alden Yes

Jonathan Canoy Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 4-0

B. Warrant 43-48s 05/25/2023 \$222,293.44

C. Warrant 43-49s 06/01/2023 \$267,132.59

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Warrants. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

Erin Donahue Yes

Jill Leonard Yes

Shannon Canoy Absent

Heather Alden Yes

Jonathan Canoy Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 4-0

#### X. Discussion (7:50)

##### A. Galapagos Trip (EF) - Robin Laurens/Scott Sponseller

Seeking approval and support for the students to go on a trip to the Galapagos Islands during February Vacation in 2025. It is to provide new ways for students to learn, through travelling and life experiences. Partnered with EF Tours International, which we have worked with before for trips around the US and Europe. They are an accredited and trusted partner for student travel. The cost for travel insurance has been worked into the overall cost, which means they will get a full refund if they have to cancel. Students can get college credit by completing additional work in addition to the actual tour. They chose February as it is the dry season in the Islands, with only an average of 1 inch of rain for the whole month.

Mrs. Laurens is bringing this forwards as this gives them the best chance for the cheapest trip and travelling expenses, and to allow the parents as much time as possible to pay into a payment plan. The ideal travel time is 2/15-2/23 with full window of 2/13-2/25. Has planned for 1 extra day in Quito on both ends of the trip incase of bad weather. They need to have at

least 12 students go on the trip. If under 20 are going, they will be paired with another New England school group. At most, they can have 35 students sign up, as they will need to have 5 chaperones, and each of the charter planes and boats can hold 40 people at most and they do not want to have to make the students pay for a second set of charter boats and planes. All of the days of the tour will be filled with activities and guided lessons. The prices listed cover full travel, housing, and food. Additionally, the parents can pay in a payment plan, the students can apply for scholarships and do fundraisers to get the funds needed. Students signing up before June 19<sup>th</sup> will get a \$200 discount. At the interest meeting, there had been 120 people who had listed as interested, and 87 of them were at the meeting. The Tour Group does provide allergy safe meals. The insurance will refund the total amount of money the family has already paid. Money paid cannot be transferred to another student if halfway through payment a family has to backout.

B. SC Review of Superintendent's Performance (Requests for Add'l. Evid.)

Professional Practice Goals: About half said Met or Exceeded, while half noted significant progress had been made.

Standard 1: 60% Proficient, 40% Exemplary

Standard 2: 60% Proficient, 40% Exemplary

Standard 3: 40% Proficient, 60% Exemplary

Standard 4: 60% Proficient, 40% Exemplary

C. Summer Meeting Dates

Committee decided to meet only once per month, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Will do an online Meeting for 6/26 for warrants and Action on the Field Trip.

XI. Public Comment (8:49)

Brandon King, 75 Shell Drive. The field trip is not equitable nor inclusive, as those without the money to spare just cannot go, as the ~\$200 per month can be more than some families can afford. Additionally, for students with special needs or mobility issues, they cannot go on this trip. Feels this should go to kids with good grades first, rather than first come first serve. Would like to see far better enforcement of the Communication Policy. He had attempted to get information about an incident that had happened with his son, and he received no information beyond a single vague reply from one person. There was no follow up with concrete information or why there was not further information.

XII. Action (8:54)

A. IJOA (also JJH)- FIELD TRIPS AND STUDENT TRAVEL

Slight Changes were made to #10. Changed to include all legal drugs as well being prohibited. Updated to include tobacco and vape at all times as prohibited.

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the Changes. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Canoy.

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes    |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes    |
| Shannon Canoy  | Absent |
| Heather Alden  | Yes    |
| Jonathan Canoy | Yes    |

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 4-0

XIII. Information

XIV. Executive Session Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose, Not to Return to Open Session:

- A. Purpose (2) to conduct collective bargaining with the NTA, specifically to hear the NTA Level III grievance; and
- B. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically to deliberate and determine a response to the NTA Level III grievance.

XV Adjournment (8:57)

A motion was made by Heather Alden to Adjourn . The motion was seconded by .

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Erin Donahue   | Yes    |
| Jill Leonard   | Yes    |
| Shannon Canoy  | Absent |
| Heather Alden  | Yes    |
| Jonathan Canoy | Yes    |

4 members having voted in the affirmative

4 members having voted in the negative

The motion was with a roll call vote of 4-0