



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 [www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Erin Donahue, Chairperson, [Edonahue@nps.org](mailto:Edonahue@nps.org), Jill Leonard, Vice-Chair, [jleonard@nps.org](mailto:jleonard@nps.org)  
Shannon Canoy, [scanoy@nps.org](mailto:scanoy@nps.org), Heather Alden, [halden@nps.org](mailto:halden@nps.org), Jonathan Canoy, [jcanoy@nps.org](mailto:jcanoy@nps.org)

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday, July 18, 2023 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00PM)
  - II. Pledge of Allegiance
  - III. Attendance
- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Erin Donahue   | Present |
| Jill Leonard   | Present |
| Heather Alden  | Present |
| Shannon Canoy  | Present |
| Jonathan Canoy | Present |

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry and Director of Finance Melissa Walker.

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- Meeting was not recorded as Mr. Vallee was unable to attend.

- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Superintendent's Report (7:02)

A lot of new staff has been hired, both for summer and for the upcoming school year. This includes 3 new administrators: Scott Connery as High School Principal, Kate Ryan Vokes as new Director of Pupil Services, and Russel Cron as Middle School Assistant Principal. All of the choices have proven records of administration. Even with the new hirings, Instructional assistants are still being hired to fill the needs we have. Extended School Year and Summer school have both started for all of the schools. The Grant for the Math Acceleration Academy was approved and the High school and Middle school will be starting soon. The Elementary school is having trouble with getting staff for their

Acceleration Academy. The Pre-K Summer Camp is currently going on, with around 24 new students each week.

NES is doing a “1 School 1 Book” initiative over the summer by having everyone read the book *The Tale of Despereaux*. This will allow cross grade level conversations about the book. Teachers are signing up to read in person or record their reading of a chapter so students can listen along as well.

Mr. Stien is offering weightlifting and exercise classes over the summer, and consistently has 8-10 students attending.

Leadership retreats to align both new and old Admins can align to the systems that had been set in place for the district last year and continue to work on the programs and systems before trying to add more. These will be happening over the next 30 days.

New Principal Scott Connery passed his Dissertation Defense recently, and he has one more semester of classes, and one more defense before he receives his Doctorate. His Doctorate is centered around reducing the absences and tardiness of low income students.

Committee asked if the live readings were being recorded, in case some students are not able to attend the live readings. Superintendent commented that she would need to check.

## VII. Presentations: (7:10)

### A. Ireland Field Trip

This trip is open to Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. They will be using EF Tours, as they use them every year for trips and they are a proven travel partner. These trips have been transformative for all of the students who go on them, and Mr. Sponseller wants to keep the momentum going with these trips. This trip will last 9 days and 8 nights and will happen over April Vacation to prevent as much overlap with school as possible. The students will start in Dublin to learn about the Culture, Literature, Music, Dance, and Food, then they will travel to Galloway, a recreated Rural village, Cork, then Kinkily. The price for the trip is \$3400, although EFT might give a discount for signing up early. Cost covers travel, lodging, food, support, and local guides and activities. There are scholarships the students can apply for, and EFT makes it easy for them to set up a donation page to raise more money.

Committee asked if this was first come first serve and if he saw the same faces on each trip. Mr. Sponseller confirmed it was first come first serve, but Seniors were given priority, and while many of the same students are on the trips, there is always a small group of new faces. There is a cap of 40 students on the trip, with a minimum needed of 30. Committee

reminded Mr. Sponseller that while he can hold an informational meeting, no fundraising can happen until this trip is approved.

VIII. Consent Agenda (7:20)

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes: June 26, 2023

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

Erin Donahue	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Shannon Canoy	Yes
Jonathan Canoy	Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0

- B. Warrant 43-53s 6/29/2023 \$220,907.83
- C. Warrant 43-54s 6/30/2023 \$ 56,707.98
- D. Warrant 43-55s 6/30/2023 \$270,416.34

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the warrants. It was seconded by Jill Leonard.

Erin Donahue	Yres
Jill Leonard	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes
Shannon Canoy	Yes
Jonathan Canoy	Yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0

IX. Discussion (7:22)

A. 457 Cooperative And Master Plan Board Resolution

We do not offer a 401K, but a 403B retirement plant instead, run by the town. The town is now using a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company to run the retirement programs, which most other towns do as well. The outside company offers a 457 retirement plan. This is in addition to the 403B. This is a pre-tax account that will not penalize you for withdrawing money before 59.5 years old. It also has slightly lower fees than the 403B. Not sure when the rollout will be. Committee only has to vote on if this will be offered to the school employees in addition to

the 403B. It will not be offered until September, so the committee can wait until the next meeting to vote.

X. Public Comment (7:29)

None

XI. Action (7:29)

XII. Information (7:30)

A. FY22 End of Year Report Audit Report

The report covers school expenses and revenue, as well as town expenses and revenue that relate to the functioning of the school. All districts submit their spending and get audited to confirm the spending is in compliance with state regulations and to project future state funding. The audit report will tell if there is anything that needs to be corrected. While all of our spending and income was listed correctly, the accounting filing system is marked as wrong according to DESE by the necessity of how it has to be filed for Federal and Grant funds. The district is meeting the spending and threshold requirements.

The only issue was with the PPE grant, the school did not spend all of the money, and most of the money was returned to the state without ever having been received by the school and it had been recorded that way, according to the State's directions. The State then changed their policies and all of the money needed to be counted, not only the money received and spent.

Some reports of debt had been filed as long-term but have been moved to short term debt.

The money amount was correct, the only issues were clerical. Meeting Spending and threshold requirements set by the state.

XV Adjournment (7:39)

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

Erin Donahue	Yes
--------------	-----

Jill Leonard	Yes
--------------	-----

Heather Alden	Yes
---------------	-----

Shannon Canoy	Yes
---------------	-----

Jonathan Canoy	Yes
----------------	-----

The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0