

**RE:** Northbridge School Committee  
**DATE:** August 10, 2010  
**TIME:** 7:00 PM  
**LOCATION:** Northbridge High School Theater

**MINUTES**

*The Meeting of the Northbridge School Committee was called to order by Mike McGrath at 7:00 PM.*

<i>Fred Beauregard</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Susan Brouwer</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Present</i>

*Also present: Sue Gorky, Melissa Walker, and Nancy Spitulnik*

**Moment of Silence:**

*Mike McGrath asked for a moment of silence for a tragedy that happened on Friday, August 6, 2010. Brian Blackburn a 16yr old from Northbridge High School died unexpectedly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.*

**Public Comment:** none

**Student Report:** none

**Consent Calendar:**

1. Approve:

*July 13, 2010 School Committee Minutes*

*July 27, 2010 School Committee Minutes*

2. Accept:

*Central MA High School Alliance grant to NHS \$2,585.00 (Professional Development)*

*St. Patrick's donation to NES \$350.00 (Snacks for nurse's office for students in need)*

*St. Patrick's donation to Balmer \$350.00 (School supplies and clothes for students in need)*

*Mike McGrath asked if anyone wanted anything removed from the consent calendar. Sue Brouwer asked that the July 27, 2010 minutes be moved for further discussion.*

*The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to accept the Consent Calendar as amended. The motion was seconded by Sue Brouwer. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:*

<i>Fred Beauregard</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Susan Brouwer</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*6 members having voted in the affirmative  
0 members having voted in the negative  
0 members having abstained  
The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 6-0*

**Presentation:**

***Enhanced Middle School Schedule – Mary Ellen Mega, Principal***

*Mary Ellen Mega, Principal of Northbridge Middle School gave an informative overview of the enhanced Middle School schedule that she will be implementing at Northbridge Middle School this year. She highlighted a few areas:*

- ELA, exploratory, math, science and social studies classes will be fifty-eight minutes long each day compared to 45 minutes.*
- There will be a pilot program for a limited number of seventh and eighth graders. The classes will be held five days per week during the extended learning block.*
- Teachers will meet for fifty minutes each week in a Professional Learning Community to develop common curriculum and assessments.*
- Exploratory courses in grade 5 & 6 will be Technology, Physical Education, Health, Art, Music, Cultural Education, and Media Skills (grade 5 only)*
- Exploratory courses in grade 7 & 8 will be Technology, Physical Education, Health, Art, Music, and pilot program for Spanish.*

*A large part of the music program will be increasing participation in band by providing lessons during the day. Mary Ellen will also be putting together a committee to see if additional achievements in the Middle School are needed. The committee asked many questions.*

**Discussion:**

***Town Charter***

*Mike McGrath stated that the Town Charter is in review. This is the time to make changes to the School Committee if we think one is needed. The Town Charter review committee is looking for School Committee input. All members individually spoke on the idea of making the School Committee from a nine member committee down to either a seven or five member committee. This will be an action item at a future School Committee meeting.*

### **District & School Committee Goals**

Mike McGrath asked that the Committee look over the draft of the District & School Committee Goals. More specific language was added with a few things deleted. Most importantly, the Bullying Prevention Program was added and supported by the Leadership Team. One change was to keep the section on Effectively Utilize Channel 13 under Goal IV.

### **Reports:**

#### **Employment Update – Melissa Walker, Business Manager**

Each summer we have to fill open positions, whether it be that people retired, resigned, or positions were reorganized. So although it may appear that the School Department is adding a bunch of new staff, we are not. Since FY2010, we have only added 1.6 FTE positions.

The positions reorganized during the budget process included the elimination of the following 6.1 FTE positions: special education teacher at the HS, instructional assistant at Balmer, Grade 6 Math teacher at Middle, Kindergarten Instructional Assistant at NES, a .6 Wilson Tutor at the MS, .5 of a Preschool teacher at NES, and a Guidance Counselor at the MS.

The 7.2 FTE positions created from the reorganization include: BCBA teacher at Balmer, instructional assistant for the BCBA teacher at Balmer, 2 Spanish teachers at the MS, a gym teacher at the MS, a music teacher at the MS, .3 adjustment counselor at the MS, .7 adjustment counselor at the HS, and .2 Latin teacher at the HS.

This resulted in a net increase of 1.1 FTE positions.

Also, since reviewing the reorganization that took place during the budget process and reviewing current enrollment, a few more reorganizations took place. A grade 3 retiree position was not filled; instead a grade 2 teacher was added to address large class size. An intensive special needs teacher at Balmer was eliminated to the current needs of the program, and instead a Kindergarten teacher was added to address the large enrollment. An assistant principal position vacated due to a resignation was not filled, but a new MS principal was hired. A .2 of a speech pathologist position was not filled and instead a .2 speech assistant was hired. All of these changes resulted in no change in FTE. The change that did increase the FTE was reinstating the .5 preschool teacher that was eliminated during the initial reorganization. This .5 preschool teacher was added back in due to and is funded by the increase in preschool enrollment.

So in total only an increase of 1.6 FTEs has been added to the FY2011 budget. However, there will be 24 new faces to the system because of filling open positions created by the reorganization, retirees, and resignations. There are also 13 internal transfers where current employees, although not new, will be new to their position.

### **Ongoing Business:**

#### **Bob Palmieri, Director of Food Services, ARAMARK**

Bob Palmieri thanked the Committee for this opportunity to serve the children and young adults in the Northbridge School District. He has met the principals and administration staff, and debriefed with the former food service director and has reached out to various key individuals on the food service team.

His efforts, so far, have been aimed at maintaining the highest possible morale among the team. The students will remain our primary focus –Items that will be added immediately include more and varied fresh, whole and cut fruits; steamed and raw, colorful cut vegetables; real potatoes; whole grain crusts in our pizza selections with toppings favoring veggies; and multi grain bread selections to our deli sandwiches. To increase breakfast participation he will introduce yogurt and granola parfaits as well as yogurt based blended smoothies with added fruits. Northbridge and Balmer Elementary Schools will receive a much needed refresher to their surroundings. The new meal offerings, color combinations, and equipment upgrades will present the young patrons with a fun and attractive atmosphere.

**Bullying update:**

Fred Beauregard asked for an update on Bullying. Nancy Spitulnik mentioned that they recently had a bullying prevention meeting and anonymous alerts will be put in place for students. All principals will be discussing the bullying prevention initiative with their opening meetings will all classes. There will be a more formal update at the next School Committee meeting.

**New Business:**

**Action Items:**

**Warrant: 30-54s, 7/15/10, \$242,172.70**

The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to accept Warrant: 30-54s, 7/15/10, \$242,172.70. The motion was seconded by Selena Livingston. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Fred Beauregard	Yes
Susan Brouwer	No
Richard DeLuca	Absent
Julie Gawlak	Yes
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Selena Livingston	Yes
Diane Mimmo	Absent
Karen Kittredge	Absent
Mike McGrath	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

1 members having voted in the negative

0 members having abstained

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-1.

**Warrant: 31-04s, 7/28/10, \$141, 945.89**

The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to accept Warrant: 31-04s, 7/28/10, \$141, 945.89. The motion was seconded by Selena Livingston. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Fred Beauregard	Yes
Susan Brouwer	No

<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*5 members having voted in the affirmative*  
*1 members having voted in the negative*  
*0 members having abstained*  
*The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 5-1.*

***Town Charter- Vote School Committee Member Composition***

*The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to recommend to the Charter Review to reduce the School Committee from nine members to five members.*  
*The motion was seconded by Mike McGrath. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:*

<i>Fred Beauregard</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Susan Brouwer</i>	<i>Abstained</i>
<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*3 members having voted in the affirmative*  
*2 members having voted in the negative*  
*1 members having abstained*  
*The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-2 1-abstaining*

***Committee Vote to change October 26, 2010 School Committee meeting date or delete the date due to conflict with the Annual Town Meeting.***  
*The October 26, 2010 School Committee meeting will be held at 6:00PM in the Middle School Library.*

***July 27, 2010 School Committee Minutes***

*After a brief discussion on the July 27, 2010 minutes,*  
*The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to approve the July 27, 2010 School Committee minutes as presented.*  
*The motion was seconded by Sue Brouwer.*  
*The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:*

<i>Fred Beauregard</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Susan Brouwer</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*6 members having voted in the affirmative*  
*0 members having voted in the negative*  
*0 members having abstained*  
*The motion passed with a roll call vote of 6-0.*

***Appoint:*** *None*

***Accept:***

***Information:*** *Middle School Presentation Information*  
*Goal Subcommittee Minutes – October 26, 2009*  
*Draft District & School Committee Goals*  
*AFSCME requests to enter negotiations with:*  
*Cafeteria, Custodial and Clerical employees.*  
*Fall Annual Town Meeting*

***Executive Session:*** *None*

***Adjournment:***

*The motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur adjourn.*  
*The motion was seconded by Selena Livingston.*  
*The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:*

<i>Fred Beauregard</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Susan Brouwer</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Richard DeLuca</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Julie Gawlak</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Mike LeBrasseur</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Selena Livingston</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Diane Mimmo</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Karen Kittredge</i>	<i>Absent</i>
<i>Mike McGrath</i>	<i>Yes</i>

*6 members having voted in the affirmative*  
*0 members having voted in the negative*  
*0 members having abstained*  
*The School Committee adjourned 8:12 PM with a roll call vote of 6-0.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Selena Livingston  
Secretary to the School Committee*

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to be discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, age or disability in its educations programs, services, activities, or employment practices.