



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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[www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, [mlebrasseur@nps.org](mailto:mlebrasseur@nps.org), Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,  
Alicia Cannon, Brian Paulhus, Joe Richards

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, November 28th, 2017 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

#### I. Call to Order (7:00)

#### II. Attendance

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Joe Richards	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney and Student Representative Emilee Angell.

#### III. Pledge of Allegiance

#### IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

#### V. Statement of Mission

#### VI. Public Comment

Denise Foster presented a check to the committee in the amount of \$1,271.00 to reinstate the High School swim team.

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept the check to reinstate the HS swim team in the amount of \$1,271.00. The motion was seconded by Joe Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

## VII. Recognition

- Catherine Stickney and Michael LeBrasseur recognized Randi Zanca for her service on the School Committee
- Catherine Stickney and Bill Bishop recognized the John and Abigail Adams Scholars for the Class of 2018
- Catherine Stickney recognized Luke Williams (Worcester County Superintendents' Certificate of Academic Excellence), Madison Ireland (MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence), and Maria Cray (Northbridge Superintendent's Award for Excellence).
- Steven Von Barga (Director of Buildings and Grounds) introduced himself to the committee

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

We have been very busy lately. We have finished our first third of the school year with parent teacher conferences next week.

We are excited to invite the grade 8 students up to the High School on December 8th for a tour, lunch, and informational sessions to learn about the career academy offerings for next year.

Each school is involved with community service projects to benefit the local community and others in need around the world. We are very proud of how these projects are continuing to grow.

We are also working on the School Building Project and building the school budget for next year. We are meeting with the administrators to design budgets that focus on serving the needs of our students.

I would like to share some information from the MASS/MASC conference at the beginning of November. In your packet as informational items, I included information that I found to be of interest. Firstly, you will find a document from the MASS that includes a list of all of the current bills in the legislature that address education. As you can see from the 50+ items that may be presented on the floor this season, there is the continued potential for more regulations and more mandates that may be coming in the future. However, interestingly enough, one of our keynote speakers was Dr. Bill Daggett. He shared with us that given the passage of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) where control is to be relinquished from the federal government, and back to state and local control, he predicts this means that within the next five years, we will not receive funding for federal programs, such as Title 1. Less restrictions may equate to less money. Dr. Daggett also spoke about the need for MA to look beyond being number 1 in the country. He emphasized the fact that we need to make education relevant and meaningful. Students need to learn to work collaboratively with the tools they have to demonstrate skills. He likened a scene in a workplace to an MCAS scenario. Imagine a work group assigned to a project being asked to stop, turn off their phones, not talk, and work until they were done. Successful workforce skills are not assessed traditionally anymore.

Essentially, that is the last piece of information in your packet. I have included information about MCIEA. I was fortunate enough to be part of this work group at its inception in 2010. It is a group of districts that work together developing performance-based assessments with reliable, calibrated grading mechanisms. I am recommending that

we look into joining this group, and I will be including teachers in the planning process as part of my global skills professional group.

IX. Consent agenda

- a. School Committee Minutes from October 24, 2017
- b. School Committee Minutes from November 14, 2017
- c. Warrant 38-20s 11/09/17 \$208,825.57

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to accept items a and c from the consent agenda. Item b will be an action item. The motion was seconded by Joe Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

X. Action items

- a. Cable Board of Directors Vacancy

The School Committee interviewed Rod Lee for the position.

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to appoint Rod Lee as the representative to the Cable Board of Directors. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

b. Town Fields Ad Hoc Committee

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to appoint Brian Paulhus, John Dooldorian, Steve Von Borgen, and Elijah Green to the Town Fields Ad Hoc Committee. A motion was seconded by Joe Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

c. Warrant Signer

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to appoint Joe Richards as a warrant signer. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

d. Field Trip Change for Music Department to Boston

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the Field Trip Change for Music Department to Boston. A motion was seconded by Joe Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

e. Field Trip Approval- Guidance Department to New England Institute of Technology

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the field trip to New England Institute of Technology.

A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Yes
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

f. Approval of Surplus- District Technology Items

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the surplus of District technology Items. A motion was seconded by Joe Richards. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Yes
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

g. Approval of Surplus- Old Maintenance Van

A motion was made by Joe Richards to approve the Surplus of the Old Maintenance Van. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Yes
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

h. Approval of School Committee Goals

A motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to approve the School Committee Goals. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

i. School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2017

A motion was made by Joe Richards to approve the School Committee Meeting Minutes from November 14, 2017 with an amendment to section XII 1.- The time of the community forum is 6:00pm. A motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Joe Richards	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XI. Presentation:

Catherine Stickney and the school administrators presented the NPS Strategic Plan Update. They discussed the District-wide Accomplishments 2015-2017, District-wide Areas of Focus for 2017-2018, the Major Accomplishments 2015 – 2017, Building Focus 2017-2018, and Extension Plans through 2020.

XII. Discussion:

a. School Building Committee Update

Joseph Strazzulla stated that the January 3<sup>rd</sup> is the submission date to the MSBA for approval/recommendations. The next meeting is December 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss options and to get the message out. The next Community forum will take place on December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm- NES.

b. Potential Grade Reconfiguration

Michael LeBrasseur stated that this is a reminder that in addition to a straight replacement of the current Balmer grades 2-4 building we are considering a PK-5 consolidated building. This would bring NES and Balmer together plus bring grade 5 down from the Middle School. If the building committee chooses to go with the PK-5 model the School Committee will have to formally vote to approve reconfiguration of the grades. The SBC meeting will meet on December 19<sup>th</sup> to make the final vote. The SC will meet if necessary on December 21<sup>st</sup> to consider the vote to reconfigure the grades.

### XIII. School Committee Individual Comments

Emilee Angell stated that it was good to hear what was going on in all of the schools from the principals.

Brian Paulhus- Is December 14th the date for Charting the Course?

December 9<sup>th</sup> the NMS Booster Club will be hosting their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual breakfast with Santa. Tickets are available on the NMS Booster club FB page.

Joe Richards- Attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade recognition ceremony. It was a great to see the recognition taking place at Balmer.

Joseph Strazzulla- Friday is the Winter Social at Balmer. Joe attended the MS Family Fun Night. It was a great event, with dedicated staff. December 20<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday concert.

Michael LeBrasseur- It was great to have the students here tonight to recognize them. There are great things happening in the schools.

### XIV. Adjournment (8:50 P.M.)

The motion was made by Joseph Strazzulla to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. The motion was seconded Joe Richards. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Alicia Cannon	Absent
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Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
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Brian Paulhus	Yes
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Joe Richards	Yes
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Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
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4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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