



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org,
Brian Paulhus, Bethany Cammarano, Steven Falconer, Robert Dziekiewicz

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2019 7:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Michael LeBrasseur	Present
Bethany Cammarano	Present
Steven Falconer	Present
Brian Paulhus	Present
Robert Dziekiewicz	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry, Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker, and Student Representative Ruby Holtz.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Public Comment

A. Wrestling Donation

NHS students from the wrestling team presented a check in the amount of \$7,898 to the committee

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to accept the Wrestling Donation. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

VII. Superintendent Report

Amy McKinstry shared individual school and district wide updates with the committee.

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

NES: Congratulations to Talia Berkowitz, pre-school teacher, who was awarded the Unibank/WSRS Teacher of the Month for September.

Officer Dejordy did a safety talk with the kindergarten students.

The first graders will be participating in an in-house field trip about Plimoth Plantation and the First Thanksgiving on November 21st. Students will learn about the feast by meeting a Pilgrim and playing with objects from Pilgrim daily life

Balmer: Students and staff have been working hard on project based learning. The first showcase presented by the 4th grade will be held November 14th and will feature their Medical Expo – Cane Project. Grade 2 “A Home for Everyone” showcase will be held on December 5th and the Grade 3 Showcase “Discover Native America” Project will be held on December 17th. All showcases will be held from 6-7:30pm

During the week of November 18th Balmer will be hosting their first Balmer Unplugged Challenge. The challenge is to disconnect from electronics during the week and replace it with different family activities, such as taking a walk together, making crafts together, or enjoying a book together as a family. At the end of the week they will host a Balmer Unplugged Event where families can bring in board games to play with their children.

NMS: The Middle School hosted their annual Veteran’s Breakfast Saturday, November 9th. It was a huge success. They were at capacity from approx. 8:30-9:45am. There were 12 Staff members and approx. 6 parents who volunteered throughout the morning, as well as 30 8th graders who volunteered.

Middle School will host their Family Fun Night on November 14th at 6pm in the Middle School gymnasium.

There are currently 37 staff members signed up to volunteer to facilitate the evening’s events.

Mrs. Wermuth and Mrs. Gogolinski are happy to report that there are currently 33 students signed up for the Middle School STEM trip to NYC.

NHS: Winter Sports Information Night will take place November 19th at 6pm. All NHS and Middle School athletes intending to play winter sports must attend.

DECA students and Mrs. Palmer-Howes are leaving on November 14th for their trip to Washington D.C.

Northbridge DECA chapter under the leadership of Callie Ellis and Chip Wermuth is working with Cause Fund Inc., to bring Cause Day to Northbridge High School. Throughout the coming month, there will be announcements informing students of the 20 separate causes. The Cause Fund Inc. grants a charitable opportunity for students to donate to any charity and cause.

On November 7th-9th, the NASA ICED students attended a three-day conference that kicked off Thursday morning at Nipmuc High School. They participated in a variety of ice breakers and engineering challenges to get to know the other students from New Jersey and other participating schools. On Friday they got to speak with an expert in Lunar Research and a former administrator for NASA deep space exploration, and then traveled to Clark University to see the Godard Museum and the site of the first rocket launch. On Saturday they had a terrific keynote address by Richard Rogers, vice president of Primo Medical Group. He was an engineer and developer on the team that created the first artificial heart.

The High School is hosting its annual Culture Fair November 21st from 7:30am – 12:00pm in the HS Field House.

The juniors and seniors will be fighting for the title at NHS’s Powder Puff Football Game at Lasell Field from 6:30-8:30pm on November 21st.

National Honor Society Induction will be taking place November 26th at 7pm in the HS Auditorium.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from October 22, 2019

B. Warrant 40-18s 10/31/19 \$324,653.48

A motion was made by Brian Paulhus to accept items from the consent agenda as presented. The motion was

seconded by Bethany Cammarano. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

IX. Recognition

A. NHS Broadcast Academy - MASSDOT Grand Prize Winners

Superintendent, Amy McKinstry and High School Principal, Tim McCormick presented certificates to High School Broadcast Teacher, Deb Herbert and some of her Broadcast Academy Students for their winning PSA video “Don’t choose a song over life” that will be used in the MassDOT: Scan the Street for Wheels and Feet Safety Campaign. School Committee Chair person, Michael LeBrasseur congratulated all on their great achievement. Students thanked Mrs. Herbert for support.

B. “Music Drives Us” Grant Award - Mrs. Briand and Mrs. Bedigian

Superintendent, Amy McKinstry presented certificates and expressed gratitude to Mrs. Briand and Mrs. Bedigian for their hardwork in writing, submitting, and receiving a \$10,000 grant for the NHS Music Department. Mrs. Briand shared the history behind the Music Drives Us Grant and the work they put in.

X. Presentation

A. SPED PAC

SEPAC officers presented the Committee with a handout, which was a 2019-2020 Calendar of meetings. Mrs Guerra announced the Executive Board for 2019-2020 and touched upon some of the topics that will be presented and discussed at some of the scheduled meetings.

XI. Action Items

A. LOCAL 1709 Unit B - Secretary Contract - July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

A motion was made by Steven Falconer to accept the LOCAL 1709 Unit B - Secretary Contract - July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Paulhus. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XII. Discussion:

A. NHS - Educational Tours - Greece and Italy Field Trip - April 2021

Scott Sponseller, Spanish Teacher at the High School and Middle School. Mr. Sponseller shared details about the Greece and Italy trip that is proposed for the spring of 2021. School Committee members shared comments.

B. Lasell Field Update

School Committee member, Brian Paulhus provided an update.

C. School Building Project Update

School Committee Chairperson, Michael LeBrasseur provided a quick update to the School Building Project and current progress.

XIII. Information

A. Safe and Supportive Schools Continuation Grant - \$20,000

Superintendent, Amy McKinstry provided information about the grant and how the grant will be used.

XIV. School Committee Individual Comments

The School Committee members shared their comments.

XV. Adjournment (7:48)

The motion was made by Brian Paulhus to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bethany Cammarano. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael LeBrasseur	Yes
Bethany Cammarano	Yes
Steven Falconer	Yes
Brian Paulhus	Yes
Robert Dziekiewicz	Yes

5 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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