

Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

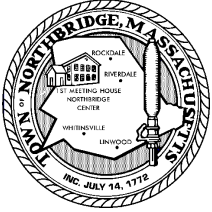
87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 10, 2017 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (7:00)
- II. Attendance
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment (7:05)
- VII. Recognition (7:10)
 - a. Lauren Girouard
 - b. Kenneth Donahue
- VIII. Student Representative's Report (7:25)
- IX. Consent Agenda (7:30)
 - a. School Committee Meeting Minutes from 7PM, December 13, 2016
 - b. Warrant 37-24s 12/8/2016 \$273,556.25
 - c. Warrant 37-26s 12/22/16 \$325,200.97
- X. Action (7:35)
 - a. Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Grant Award
- XI. Discussion (7:40)
 - a. Use of Fields
 - b. Budget Timeline
 - c. School Building Committee Update
- XII. Informational
 - a. Blackstone Valley Education Foundation Newsletter
 - b. Northbridge Public Schools and Northbridge Coalition Flyer

- XIII. School Committee Individual Comments (7:50)
- XIV. Executive Session: Discussion of Grievance from AFL-CIO, STATE COUNCIL 93,
LOCAL 1709, Unit C – Custodial – Not to Reconvene in Open Session
- XV. Adjournment



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Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Tuesday, December 13th, 2016 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Present
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Public Comment

Joe Pixley- Northbridge Youth Soccer Association – Shared concerns regarding the fields closing for the spring.

VII. Recognitions:

Catherine Stickney recognized the following students:

- Ilona Regan- for receiving the MASS Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence.
- Joseph Canoy- for receiving the Worcester County Superintendent's Association Scholar Award
- 31 Students received a Certificate for Perfect MCAS Scores for 2016

VIII. Superintendent's Report

December is a very busy, very exciting time for us! From our winter concerts - showcasing the talents of our students, to the students excelling at academics, to our students who are starting their winter sporting seasons - we are still focusing on our students and their instruction.

We are so proud of our 31 students with perfect MCAS scores this evening! That is an amazing accomplishment. As these students approach high school and complete MCAS in grade 10, they become eligible for John and Abigail Adams Scholarships - which provides four years of tuition at colleges and universities affiliated with the University of MA. We have 35 seniors this year who are recipients of Adams Scholarships. Their hard work and dedication has paid off, and we congratulate them on this accomplishment.

Selected students in grade 4 at Balmer school have started an Enrichment Class. Students will be challenged with alternate activities to support their critical thinking skills. This is the type of program that we will be looking to extend into the MS in the future.

Students in grade 5-8 have been invited to enter the Bridge Building Contest sponsored by the Boston Society of Architects. Our teams will meet on Thursday to begin their planning and development.

In your packets, you will find a letter from the MIAA Sportsmanship Committee. Northbridge has been recognized on the 2016 MIAA Sportsmanship Honor Roll. We will be receiving a patch to be added to our banner in the field house. We are proud that our students have been acknowledged with this distinction.

We also want to recognize our students for their community service. Balmer students are collecting non-perishable items and hosted the Fill A Cruiser event at Walmart on Saturday.

National Art Honor Society students will venture out to purchase toys for local children with the money they have raised this year. This type of dedication reinforces the education of the whole child as a global citizen, as we outlined in our mission and strategic plan.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the generosity of our staff members. Staff members in each school raise funds for charitable causes each month. This time of year, staff members regularly bring in food, clothing, and gifts to be shared within the community. Their generosity often goes unrecognized, and we appreciate how they go above and beyond the classroom to assist our students and families.

Please join us for our Winter Concerts - this Wed. at MS and the following Wed. at the HS, both at 7pm.

IX. Consent Agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on November 29, 2016
- b. Warrant 37-22s 11/23/16 \$250,969.60

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes

c. Substitute Teacher Rates of Pay

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjust the Substitute Teachers Rates of Pay starting January 1st to \$90.00 for certified and \$70 for noncertified. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

d. Authorize the School Building Committee (SBC) to advertise the Request for Services (RFS) for an Owner's Project Manager (OPM) and to proceed with the RFS

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to authorize SBC to advertise the RFS for an OPM and to proceed with the RFS. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

X. Discussion:

a. Use of Fields

Catherine Stickney stated that she has started Conversations with Dana Cotto, James Lesiak, and Michael Proto in regards to resting at least one of the fields. Catherine wants to make sure that it is a safe environment for students and is working with Mike Proto as a liaison to other sports that use the fields in the area.

b. Student Athletic Fees

Joseph Strazzulla stated that they will wait to take action on any changes to these fees until they are further into the budget process.

c. Student Parking Fees

A discussion was had in regards to changing the fee, eliminating the fee, etc.. There will not be any changes to this fee until we are further into the budget process.

XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Connor Nowlan- When is the website going live? Catherine stated the training is complete and we are almost ready to go live.

Randi Zanca- Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Joseph Strazzulla- Congratulations to all of the award winners and Perfect MCAS students it is fantastic to see. Happy New Year.

XII. Adjournment 8:14

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to move into Executive Session: Hearing of Grievance from AFL-CIO, STATE COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 1709, Unit C – Custodial – Not to Reconvene in Open Session. The motion was seconded Randi Zanca. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Absent
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY
(ACTION ITEM)**

Agenda Item # _____
For School Committee Meeting of
_____ 2017

SUBJECT: Grant/Educational Donation Awards for the Northbridge High School 2017-2018

Person(s) preparing Agenda Item: Michael Gauthier

Title: Principal

Listing of Attachments (supporting documentation):

BACKGROUND: The Blackstone Valley Education Foundation and Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce is awarding a \$4,000 Lampin Grant to Northbridge High School(NHS) and Broadcast teacher Debra Herbert for capital expenditures for the NHS Broadcast Program. NHS students, faculty and the community thank the BVEF and the BVCC for their generosity and support.

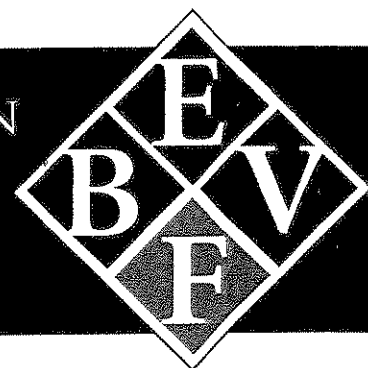
STATUS: Disbursement of \$4,000 check from Blackstone Valley Education Foundation

RECOMMENDATION: Acceptance and disbursement of funds.

Recommended by: Michael Gauthier

Recommended by the Superintendent: Catherine Stickney

BLACKSTONE VALLEY EDUCATION FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER



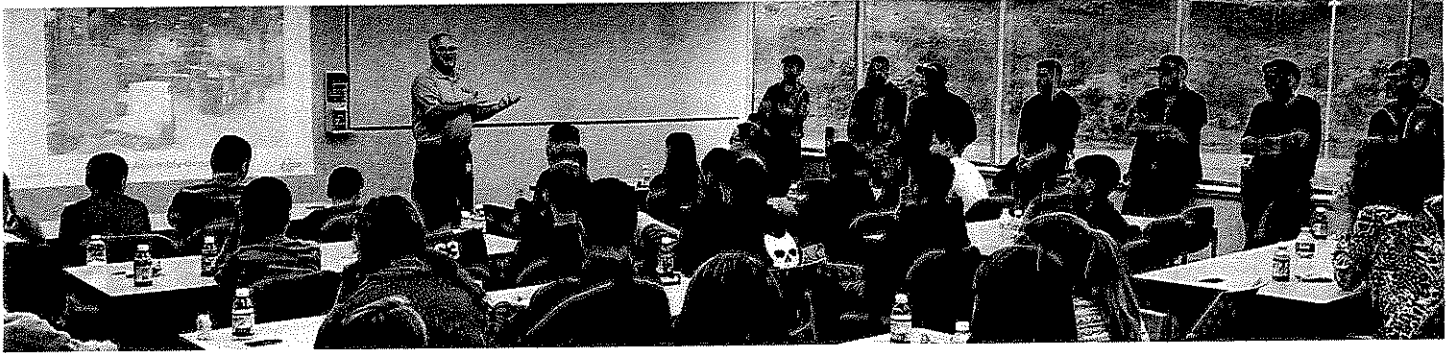
BLACKSTONE VALLEY YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY BEGINS SEVEN MONTH CURRICULUM



High school freshmen and sophomores from several schools began one of the valley's signature leadership programs in early November. BVYLA will educate the young leaders about what it takes to be a successful leader in their schools, communities, and eventually in their chosen careers. The group will meet twice monthly from now through early spring. Each after-school meeting takes place in a different location throughout the valley, exposing the students to much of the area's history and culture. Omni Control Technologies and Access TCA will also host the students in the historic Whitin Mill Complex for a joint presentation about the history of employment in the valley and the leadership that launched the Industrial Revolution. BVYLA is taught by Megan Potenti, a teacher with substantial experience teaching leadership at the Massachusetts State Student Council Summer Camp. Funding for BVYLA and several other programs is provided by a grant through UniBank.



INTERNATIONAL MANUFACTURERS HOST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS



It was a memorable learning experience for large groups of students who departed their classrooms, boarded buses, and headed out to interact, question, and listen to managers and employees who interact daily with business colleagues in close to 100 countries around the world! International corporations Dell Technologies, Waters Corp, AGS, and Saint-Gobain hosted tours, presentations, interactive sessions, and lunch for groups of students from multiple BVEF member middle schools during October. The goal of the comprehensive visits was to teach students and their teachers about the skills and education required to successfully compete in the international workforce of tomorrow. BVEF partnered with the Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce in order to offer this program to the school districts.

BUSINESSES CONNECT WITH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Wyman Gordon, Lampin Corp, Package Steel Systems, and Interstate Specialty Products hosted groups of high school seniors who plan to seek employment following graduation. Students met with senior managers, toured facilities, and attended sessions about pending and future job opportunities for entry-level employment. BVEF will be sponsoring a jobs fair for the member high schools in March. The host location will be Uxbridge High School. Additional information will be forwarded to schools after the holidays.

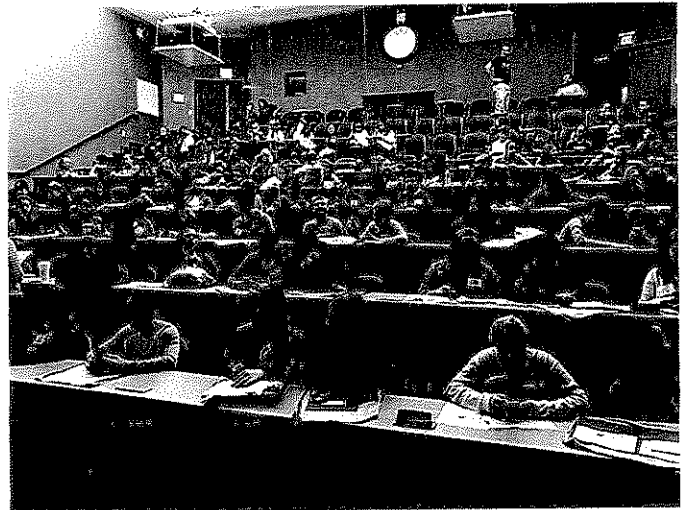
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN FERNANDES MEETS WITH BVEF BOARD

State Representative John Fernandes (D-Milford) attended the October board meeting of BVEF. As Co-Chair of the Massachusetts Legislative Manufacturing Caucus, Fernandes commended Blackstone Valley Education Foundation for its numerous initiatives to connect its eleven member school districts with manufacturers throughout the region. The collaborative efforts target the development of tomorrow's workforce by educating students, teachers, and guidance counselors about the numerous career opportunities within advanced manufacturing. Special attention has been given to the multiple careers related to science, technology, engineering and math (S.T.E.M.). The board honored Representative Fernandes for his leadership role in helping to launch many of these initiatives and for his ongoing commitment to local school districts.



TUFTS CUMMINGS SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE HOSTS BVEF S.T.E.M. CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS

The National Weather Service Meteorologist began by telling the students why all their cell phones blared out a 'Flash Flood Warning' the night before. The scientist from the U.S. Army Research & Development Center guided the students through an exercise that led to their own hand-made MRE and explained to them how it needed to survive up to three years with no refrigeration and also had to survive a helicopter drop. Tufts Veterinary interns showed the students how to listen to a dog's heartbeat with a stethoscope. The engineer from Raytheon asked a packed auditorium of students for volunteers who wanted to come down front and touch a ball giving off 50,000 volts of electricity. About 100 young hands quickly went up in the air to take him up on that offer! The highly-acclaimed conference took place on a Saturday in late October on the beautiful Tufts University campus in Grafton. Students were treated as if they were in college for the day, as they attended interactive workshops throughout the campus. An afternoon early college planning session attracted about 100 parents with information about preparing for college admissions and options to help pay for college. The session was conducted by staff from BVEF and MEFA. Funding for this conference is provided by Southwick Zoo/Earth Ltd., and Homefield Credit Union.

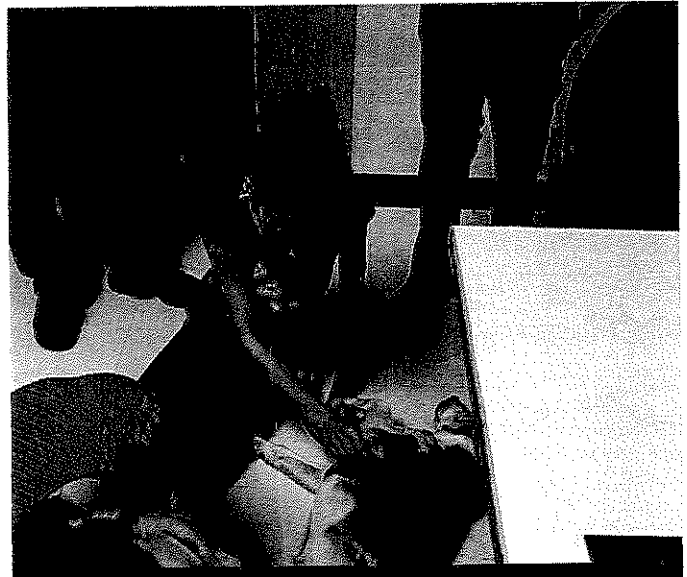


DECEMBER ANNUAL FUND DRIVE HELPS RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT BVEF PROGRAMS

The mission of Blackstone Valley Education Foundation is to connect member school districts with businesses and the community in order to help better prepare the workforce of tomorrow for the Blackstone Valley. Member school districts include Grafton, Millbury, Sutton, Northbridge, Mendon-Upton, Blackstone Valley Tech, Douglas, Hopedale, Milford, Uxbridge, and Blackstone-Millville. The BVEF board of directors is comprised of school superintendents, principals, and business and community leaders. All operational funds need to be raised each year. Support comes from business sponsorships, individual donations, school member dues, and grants from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education through the Central Mass Workforce Investment Board and Mass Development Corporation. Donations can be mailed to: Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, 670 Linwood Avenue, Suite #5, Whitinsville, MA 01588. Inquiries about sponsorships can be directed to Paul Lyskey, Executive Director at plynskey@BVEducationfoundation.org.



BVEF partners with businesses who demonstrate on-site work experiences for students.



Students participate in interactive "college classes" during the S.T.E.M. Conference held on the campus of Tufts University Veterinary School.

Celebrating Community Strengths

Northbridge Coalition

Supporting Community Needs



Join the *Northbridge Coalition* and the *Northbridge Public Schools* to learn more about caring for the **WHOLE** child.

***Your child's academic growth is important,
but what about his/her emotional and social growth?***

Parents value the importance of good health for their child and children. Parents also value the importance of a good education for their child and children. Academic achievement is important to your child's future, but social and emotional growth are also vitally important to your child's total well-being. Even the most loving parents can be overwhelmed and unprepared to deal with their child's emotional or mental distress.

A Youth Risk Behavior Survey conducted two years ago asked students in Massachusetts schools about their emotional and mental well-being. Nearly one-fourth of those students said they experienced feelings of hopelessness and sadness nearly every day for two weeks or more. National studies tell us that half of lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14.

How do you distinguish between a possible illness and "phase"? What are the signs of a mental illness? How do you talk to your child about emotional or mental distress? How can you be a supportive caregiver? And where do you turn for help?

The SHINE Initiative has become a leader in Central Massachusetts in recognizing mental illness in children and young adults as a mainstream health issue. Since 2012 the SHINE Initiative has collaborated with numerous public and private school systems, and colleges and universities, to promote mental wellness through education and information-sharing

We hope you'll join us on January 18th as SHINE Initiative staff share their professional and personal experiences and knowledge of mental illness, its signs and symptoms, how to ask for and find help, and how to be a supportive caregiver.

We're confident this will be one of the best investments of your time you may ever make on behalf of your child.

When: January 18, 2017

Where: Northbridge High School Theater

Time: 6:30PM—8:00PM - Come early to preview our information tables from a variety of local support agencies

Guest Speaker: Mr. Paul Richard, Executive Director, The SHINE Initiative

www.shineinitiative.org

Contact Kristen Ferrante at kferrante@nps.org or at 508-234-8156 with questions.