



# Northbridge Public Schools

## Northbridge School Committee

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Erin Donahue, Chairperson, Edonahue@nps.org  
Kathryn Atchue, Allan Richards, Jill Leonard, Heather Alden

### Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 6:00PM Northbridge High School Media Center

#### Call to Order:

- I. Call to Order: The Meeting of the Northbridge School Committee was called to order by Erin Donahue at 6:01 PM.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Attendance

Erin Donahue	Present
Allan Richards	Present
Jill Leonard	Present
Heather Alden	Present
Kathryn Atchue	Absent

Also in attendance were Superintendent Amy McKinstry, Director of Business and Finance Melissa Walker and John Diorio, Middle School Principal.

- IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- V. Statement of Mission
- VI. Public Comment – No public comment.
- VII. Student Representative Report – This past Saturday, NHS hosted its annual Halloween event for the community. E board and student council members ran booths and games. All community families were welcome to attend. Upper classmen were welcome to dress up and cause a spooky scene in the hallway. Halloween is always a festive time to get students involved fundraising.

Congratulations to our September students of the month –

Freshman – Antonio D’Alfonso  
Sophomore – Kurtis Rondeau  
Junior – Zach Tevepough  
Senior – Emily Crowther

The Mass General Hospital received many appreciated donations on October 14<sup>th</sup>. In total the drive received 51 pints of blood that will be used for patients in need. Senator Fattman even stopped by with his children. He took a photo with Graham Williams, the senior who organized the event.

Clubs Update – On Saturday, October 22 Best Buddies organized a bake sale at Shaw’s, it was a big success. It helped to raise money that will be put towards holiday parties, out of school events and other fun craft and activity events.

Athletics Update – On Friday, October 21 senior Karlee Battista and juniors Olivia Frabotta and Tyrese Holder-Hinds attended the MIAA Educational Athletic Summit. Attended sessions about challenging bias in school sports, as well as leadership and mental health in school culture.

## VIII. Superintendent’s Report

### IX. Presentations:

#### A. Revised Middle School Grading Policy and Update

Third revision of the presentation after feedback from parents. Superintendent McKristy and Jill Healy meet with curriculum sub to talk about where there may be gaps in understanding for parents. We received many questions from the survey and via email. They are in the order of importance. The most frequently asked question was why the 90/10 split? The next was about the grading in progress reports – kids who received one or two grades verses those that received seven to ten grades. The 90/10 split wasn’t communicated as 90% assessments, not just summative but formative as well. These include quizzes, open responses and discussion groups. Formative assessment is for learning and summative assessment is of learning or what has actually been learned. Formative assessment measures how a student is learning during a unit/course of study. Summative assessment measures how much a student has learned after a unit/course of study. Common assessment means that all educators teach the same knowledge and abilities and collaborate to generate assessments linked directly to standards. These are created prior to teaching the concepts/skills/standards being assessed. The 10% or independent practice is based on what kids can do without any assistance such as homework. The middle school is trying not to give a lot of homework because they have longer periods for them to work on in class in case they have questions. Assessment retakes allow the student to only retake that the portion of the test on which they did poorly. Parents requested to see what a typical middle school period structure would be in the 62 minute block. The teachers do a 5 minute review, a 10 minute mini lesson, 40 minutes of stations or ability based groups and 5-7 minutes wrap up to assess where the students are after the lesson. Proficiency based practices means that the teachers are going to revise old summatives so they can focus on direct skills for the students. Then they will be able to reteach in a more effective way. Teachers will receive support and guidance from the Curriculum Director as well as the building and district administration. We are supporting the teachers that it is consistent and that they are fully understanding what the point of it is. Ultimately in a few years how will it be reflected as a percentage grade as well as a proficiency grade. We are working to make sure the alignment is clear, what the skills and knowledge are. Making sure the cognitive level of the task match the performance indicators. Making sure all students can access the learning and have the

same learning experience. The transfer of the knowledge is the most important thing, how can they apply the knowledge they have learned. Rubric based scoring to clearly define levels of performance. Giving students voice and choice is very important.

Erin Donahue wanted to know if it's been communicated to parent's ways to reteach their student the material prior to the retake of a test. Mr. Diorio said he didn't during the parents meeting but that the teachers communicate it to the parents. He will include that information in his next presentation and his next newsletter.

Heather Alden said the presentations help parent's make sense of the 90/10 and what various things that go into why it's that way. She said there was a lot of tension into the beginning because of what the parents perceived the policy to be.

Superintendent McKinstry said she can do quarterly status updates of where things are.

X. Consent Agenda

A. School Committee Meeting Minutes from 9/27/22

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve the School Committee Minutes from September 27, 2022. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Absent
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

B. Warrant 43-16s 10/13/2022 \$473,272.55

A motion was made by Heather Alden to approve Warrant 43-16s 10/13/2022 for \$473,272.55. The motion was seconded by Jill Leonard. The vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Erin Donahue	Yes
Kathryn Atchue	Absent
Allan Richards	Yes
Jill Leonard	Yes
Heather Alden	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

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

XI. School Committee Individual Comments

Jill Leonard said she was glad that there is a group of teenagers willing to give up their Saturday night to dress up for little kids. Allen Richards congratulated all the students who took part in the Halloween Fest, blood drive, Best Buddies and the bake sale. Reminded him of the days when all the kids were wonderful and did what needed to be done. Erin Donahue said everything is starting to feel normal and to go back to the way things were. Great to see a lot of positive things happening.

XII. Adjournment: The Meeting of the Northbridge School Committee was called to adjourn by Erin Donahue and seconded by Jill Leonard at 6:39 PM.