

RE: Northbridge School Committee
DATE: October 13, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Northbridge High School Media Center

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Michael McGrath, Vice Chairman Karen Kittredge, Fred Beauregard, Susan Brouwer, Mary Contino, Rich DeLuca, Julie Gawlak, Mike LeBrasseur, Selena Livingston, Superintendent Gorky (absent) and Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik.

Call to Order: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Approval of Minutes: A Motion was made by Mike McGrath to accept the September 8, 2009 School Committee minutes. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended with a voice vote of 7-0. . Fred Beauregard and Mary Contino were absent on September 8, 2009.

Mike McGrath made a motion to move the Agenda Item: Rachel's Challenge up to after public comment. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion.

Public Comment: None

Discussion: None

Presentation:

Rachel's Challenge HS Student Council

President of Student council, Laura Kapok and Allie Kosciak presented a slide show presentation on Rachel's Challenge. Rachel's Challenge is a story of Rachel Joy Scott. On April 30, 1999 Rachel was the first person to be killed during the Columbine Massacre. Rachel's challenge is a program crossing the country promoting inspiration, courage and kindness. To help pay for this \$7,500 cost, the student council has been having many fundraisers. Some of those fundraisers are: a pasta dinner, book sales from Peter Reynold's book, a dance-a-thon, and a NEF grant was applied for.

MCAS/AYP Presentation – Dr Spitulnik

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Spitulnik presented a slide show presentation on the

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System. The presentation gave visions of what we see in the district. We are trying to actively engage teachers, administrators, students, parents and school committee to improve quality of education in Northbridge. She also gave a brief background on MCAS. This was a very informative presentation. All the school committee members were given a chance to ask Dr. Spitulnik questions.

Reports

Students: Andrew Hass & Jessica Donati presented (Andrea Monterotta absent)

- *Last week students had a cookout.*
- *PSAT start for sophomore and Juniors this week*
- *There was a Genetics conference for a few students.*
- *Next week 120 students are going to " Bodies Revealed" exhibition on a field trip.*
- *A Club fair was held.*
- *Pasta dinner to benefit Rachel's Challenge*
- *Homecoming with be having a yearbook sale*
- *Field hockey and football doing well*

Superintendent: Presented by Dr. Spitulnik

*Recognition of two staff members for their work in the field of education:
Steve Tringali, a third grade teacher has been re-appointed to a Department of Education committee working on MCAS Assessment Development.*

Rene Lafayette, a social studies teacher at the high school, attended a conference this summer through the Dirksen Congressional Center in Washington D.C.

- *September 9, 2009 Superintendent Gorky attended a Balmer/NES PTA meeting*
- *September 12, 2009 Superintendent Gorky volunteered for the Operation Graduation golf tournament.*
- *September 17, 2009 Superintendent Gorky attended the grade 5 open house at NMS.*
- *September 23, 2009 Superintendent Gorky and the High School leadership team attended the Heritage Park Estate Board of Trustees meeting.*
- *September 24, 2009 Balmer had a Granparent/Special Person day.*
- *September 24, 2009 Superintendent Gorky attended NES Grade one open house.*
- *September 25, 2009, twenty five teachers attended Responsive Classroom training.*
- *September 30, 2009 Superintendent Gorky attended Balmer open house.*
- *Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik and her husband attended the High School pasta dinner that benefited Rachel's Challenge.*
- *October 13, 2009 we held our second Professional Development Day.*
- *October 15, 2009, The Friends of Music Education meeting will take place.*
- *November 3, 2009, from 11:30 – 12:30 we will host our first senior citizen luncheon. Additional dates are: November 17, December 1, December 15 and January 5. The cost is \$3.50.*

Mike McGrath made a motion to change the order of the meeting to move the appointment of the School Nurse. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. Approved with a voice vote 9-0.

Appoint: School Nurse, Rebecca Padula, BSRN

A motion was made by Mary Contino to appoint Rebecca Padula, BSRN, School Nurse. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

Reports cont.

Goals Subcommittee: Dr. Karen Kittredge reported that the Goals Subcommittee met with administration and the school committee. They went over district goals, worked on an action plan and time-line for the upcoming year and to develop them into long term goals by the December meeting. The next meeting will be on October 26, 2009 at 6 pm in the High School Health Conference room. The committee will be working on a timeline.

Fees & Fields: Fred Beauregard reported that the Fees & Fields Subcommittee met on September 28, 2009. They met with Park and Recreation to bring both groups together. The fields are up and running. Cars are still driving up to the field. Paul Halacy will be adding additional signs to help with this. There are additional funds from the field that have not been turned over to us. A list of equipment and projects are planned for these funds. A motion was made by the subcommittee to review all fees in the district. The next meeting will be on October 26, 2009 at 6 pm in the administration building. With the purchase of portable goal posts, Pop Warner and JV teams could possibly be moved up to this field to take pressure of Lasalle field.

Policy Subcommittee: Rich DeLuca reported that on September 16, 2009 the subcommittee will review policies with Pat Carreira. There are twelve sections to be reviewed. Possible dates on the next meetings are October 21, 26 and November 16, 2009.

Budget Subcommittee: Mike LeBrasseur reported that the Budget Subcommittee met twice. On September 22, 2009 the committee was looking at the FY10 figures. We will look forward to FY 12 budget projects at the November meeting. The committee met with the Board of selectmen on October 1, 2009, along with the town accountant. They talked about revolver accounts and Town warrant articles. They discussed sharing some of the town's deficit. Superintendent Gorky had a follow up meeting with the town manager. The next meeting will be on November 17, 2009, 6 pm in the Administration building. There may be a couple of Saturday meetings as well.

Superintendent

Evaluation Subcommittee: Julie Gawlak reported that the Superintendent Evaluation subcommittee met in September. They made a new format and changed the evaluation standards from 7 to 5. Some of the wording was also changed. A progress report as to how the Superintendent is doing will be in January with a final report in April. A discussion was made on the process of tallying the votes.

Ongoing Business:

Sustainable Energy:

Mary Continuo met with the green committee on Tuesday. The town hired a green consultant. The funds for this hiring came from a grant. The green consultant will meet with the committee next Tuesday. We are trying to get on a list for a free energy audit. We are 27th on the list. It was suggested that Mary Continuo attend this audit.

Sue Brower made a suggestion to keep School Building authority on the agenda.

New Business: *October 1 Report*

Mike McGrath compared class sizes, Dr. Spitulnik brought up MCAS, the drop out rate and support for at risk students.

Class Size Report

***K-8 report class size calculator
grade 1 average class size***

k – 23.1

1 – 21.4

2 – 22.9

3 – 21.3

4 – 22.2

5 – 22.4

6 – 24.1

7 – 25.9

8 – 24.1

The High school report went into more detail.

Action Items:

Superintendent Evaluation Tool

A motion was made by Mike McGrath to approve the Superintended Evaluation Tool. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

MSBA Letters of Intent Balmer

A motion was made by Mike McGrath to accept the below statement. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

Statement of Interest Vote

*Having convened in an open meeting on October 13, 2009, the **School Committee** of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated October 1, 2009 for **W. Edward Balmer School** located at 21 Crescent St., Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority*

category for which Northbridge may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

#5 Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,

#7 Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

MSBA letters of Intent NES

A motion was made by Sue Brouwer to accept the below statement. Rich Deluca seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

Statement of Interest

*Having convened in an open meeting on October 13, 2009, the **School Committee** of Northbridge, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated October 1, 2009 for **Northbridge Elementary** located at 30 Cross Street, Whitinsville, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category for which Northbridge may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:*

#5 replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related cost in a school facility,

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits Northbridge to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Town Manager's Budget Request

A motion was made by Mike Lebrasseur to pay for \$130,000 of health insurance benefits for the school district employees from the SFSF Stimulus funds in order to work collaboratively with the town and share the impact of the Chapter 70 reduction. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

2009- 2010 District Goals

A motion was made by Mary Contino to approve 2009-2010 District Goals. Mike McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a voice vote.

Accept:

1- NEF Grant for Link Crew \$600.00

A motion was made by Sue Brouwer to accept the NEF Grant for Link Crew to be deposited in the student activities account at the High School. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 9-0 roll call vote.

2 -Blissful Meadows Donation of \$3,000

A motion was made by Mary Contino to accept a donation from Blissful Meadows Golf Club to be deposited in the student activities account at the High School to support Rachel's Challenge. The motion carried with a 9-0 roll call vote.

3 -Grant 305 Title 1 \$231,759.00

A motion was made by Mike McGrath to accept a 305 Title 1 Grant in the total amount of \$231,759.00. Applied as follows:

4 -Grant 160 Enhanced Ed Through Tech \$2,884

5 -Grant 140 Title IIA Teacher Quality \$98,345

6 -Grant 770 ARRA Title 1 \$71,157

7 -Grant 760 ARRA IDEA \$390,380

8 -Grant 331 Title IV Drug Free Schools \$8,183

Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 9-0 roll call vote.

9 -St Patrick's Donation's \$1,4000

A motion was made by Mike McGrath to accept a donation of \$350.00 to each of the Northbridge Schools. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion carried with a 9-0 roll call vote.

Approve:

Warrants:

A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to approve warrant number 30-12s 9-17-2009 343,396.32. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a roll call vote.

A Motion was made by Karen Kittredge to approve warrant number 30-14s 10-1-2009 105,527.68. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried 9-0 with a roll call vote.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to adjourn the School Committee meeting and go into executive session.

Executive Session: *Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to contract negotiations in accordance with C39s23B of M.G.L. and not returning to open session.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Selena Livingston
Secretary to the School Committee*

SL:kab