

**RE:** Northbridge School Committee  
**DATE:** November 24, 2009  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** Northbridge High School Media Center

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Michael McGrath, Fred Beauregard, Mary Contino, Julie Gawlak, Mike LeBrasseur, Selena Livingston, Superintendent Gorky and Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik, Vice Chairman Karen Kittredge arrived 7:35 P.M.

**Absent:** Susan Brouwer, Rich DeLuca

**Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

**Approval of Minutes:** A Motion was made by Mike McGrath to accept the November 10, 2009 School Committee minutes. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended with a voice vote of 6-0.

**Public Comment:** None

**Discussion:** **School Committee Broadcast:** Issue has been addressed with Superintendent Gorky and the Technology Department Broadcast Team.

Mary Contino made a motion to take a five minute recess for technical difficulties. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

**Presentation:**

#### ***Instructional Technology Presentation***

Peter Ritter presented a PowerPoint presentation to give an overview and examples of the instructional technology in the district and to discuss what actions are being taken to support purchased instructional technology equipment. A Moodle PowerPoint was also presented by Lisa Gogolinskli, a middle school teacher.

## **Reports**

### ***Student Advisory Member – Jessica Donati***

*Jessica Donati update was as follows:*

- *Academic: Report cards issued – new term has begun.*
- *Parent teacher conferences were held last Wednesday and Thursday*
- *Attendance is at 95% at the High School.*
- *School council continues its work on the school improvement plan.*
- *December 2, 2009 AP US History will attend its second Humanities Scholar Collaborative*
- *December 3, 2009, 9 Rachel's Challenge with a community showing at 7 PM.*

*Athletics:*

- *Winter sports coming up and practices with start after Thanksgiving.*
- *Thanksgiving Day football game will be at 10:00 AM.*

### ***Superintendent Gorky***

*Superintendent Gorky highlighted the following areas:*

- *On November 12, 2009 there was an MCAS presentation at the High School for Middle School and High School parents. She also highlighted the parent involvement produces students who attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, graduate and to on to postsecondary education.*
- *On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Lt. Labrie conducted Lockdown Training.*
- *November 18 – 21, 2009 Annual joint conference with some School Committee members, the Business Manger and Superintendent Gorky.*

*Some of the items discussed were:*

*School Finance, Green Schools, Best Practices in Energy Cost Savings, Winning your Override Elections, The Economy and Chapter 70, Winning Characteristics of School Boards, Special Education and Ethical Dilemmas, Strategies for Special Education Cost Savings, Collective Bargaining in Difficult Times, School Building Authority Update, Basics of School Policy, Health Insurance/Cost Management, School Secretaries Council Program, Virtual High School, Using Technology for Student Success, Educational Foundations & Other Revenue Sources.*

*Rachel's Challenge will be presented free on December 3, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. Please try to attend this program.*

*Superintendent Gorky wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.*

*Mary Contino made a statement for all families to fill out your census. A correct census will benefit the town.*

### ***Fees & Field Subcommittee:***

*Fred Beauregard reported that the subcommittees next meeting will be December 15, 2009 in the Administration Building at 6:00 P.M.*

***Budget Subcommittee:***

*Mike LeBrasseur presented a PowerPoint presentation of the FY 11 Budget Process. The Zero-Based Budget Principles are to:*

- Build from the ground up*
- Every expense justified*
- Prioritize around District goals*
- Level-funded*
- Primarily to provide services comparable to today*

*He also highlighted the participants, the budget categories and owners, the impacts, the funding sources, the budget breakdown and the timeline.*

*The next meeting for the budget subcommittee is Monday, December 14, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. All are welcome to any subcommittee meetings. All meetings are posted 48 hours in advance and on our website.*

***Ongoing business:***

***New Business:***

***Action Items:***

***Custodial Fee – Use of School***

*A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to increase the use of school custodial fees by 20%. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

***Preschool Tuition***

*A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to increase the 2 day preschool tuition from \$1,305.00 to \$1,395.00. Fred Beauregard seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0*

*A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to increase the 4 day preschool tuition from \$2,106.00 to \$ 2,196.00. Fred Beauregard seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

***Student Activity Fee***

*A motion was made by Mary Contino to increase the student activity fee to a \$50.00 cap \$25.00 per activity. Fred Beauregard seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

***Appoint:***

*Superintended Gorky as the School Committee Designee to the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board.*

*Mary Contino made a motion to appoint Superintended Gorky as the School Committee Designee to the Southern Worcester County Educational Collaborative Board. Michael leBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

**Accept:**

***BVT Monitor Donation***

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept the donation of a Monitor donation from Blackstone Valley Regional Technical High School. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0*

***MS PlayStation***

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept the donation of a slim PlayStation 2 to the Middle School Pathways program. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

***NES Speakers from PTA***

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept the donation from the PTA, of a monetary donation of \$111.00 to purchase 4 sets of speakers fro the multi-media carts. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

**Approve:**

***Warrants:***

*A motion was made by Mary Contino to approve warrant number 30-20's 11-12-2009 \$200,964.34. Michael LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.*

**Information:**

*none*

**Adjournment:**

*A motion was made by Mary Contino to adjourn the School Committee meeting and go into executive session at 8:55 p.m. 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.*

*The motion was seconded by Mike LeBrasseur. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Selena Livingston  
Secretary to the School Committee*

*SL:kab*

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