

**RE:** Northbridge School Committee  
**DATE:** February 9, 2010  
**TIME:** 7:00 P.M.  
**LOCATION:** Northbridge High School Media Center

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Michael McGrath, Vice Chairman Dr. Karen Kittredge, Fred Beauregard, Susan Brouwer, Mary Contino, Rich Deluca, Julie Gawlak, Mike LeBrasseur, Selena Livingston, Superintendent Gorky, Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik, and Melissa Walker, Business Manager

**Absent:**

**Call to Order:** Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order in open session at 7:03 P.M. with a roll call vote 9-0.

Karen Kittredge made a motion to amend the agenda and move the student report section of the agenda next. Mary Contino seconded, the motion passed with a roll call vote. 9-0

**Student Report:** Student Advisory Member – Jessica Donati

**Academics:**

- Report cards were issued last Wednesday

**Activities:**

- This week is spirit week.
- The class of 2011 is raffling off a limo for the prom.
- DECA is selling balloons to send to your valentine.
- The tennis teams will be hosting, Dodgeball After Dark, Thursday as a fundraiser for Haitian relief.
- The student council is sponsoring, Penny Wars, to help raise money for Haiti.
- Yearbook is selling tie-die pins for each class as a fundraiser.
- The student council will also be sponsoring the Winter Ball in the field house on Friday, February 12, 2010.

**Athletics:**

- The football team will host an awards banquet tonight.
- Teams are either preparing for SWCL competition or have already competed. All teams have done very well this season.

**Certificates of Recognition:**

Superintendent Gorky presented the certificates of recognition to the following students and teacher: Jennifer Goodrich, NHS Teacher Student Council Advisor, Laura Knapik, NHS Senior and Student Council Member, Julie Broderick, NHS Senior and Student Council Member, Bryanna Mellen, NHS Senior, Ally Michaud, NHS Grade 10, Erin Ducey, Grade 10.

*Thank you for your dedication to the students of grades 8-12 and the community by organizing and bringing Rachel's Challenge to Northbridge and for the organization of the new NHS Friends of Rachel Club. Thank you for a wonderful program.*

*Superintendent Gorky presented a certificate of recognition to Mrs. Jane Shanahan, a W.E. Balmer special education teacher, for being awarded the Federation Community Partnership Award for Children with Special Needs, which will be given out March 13, 2010 at their annual conference in NY.*

**Public Comment:**                    *none*

**Consent Calendar:**    *Mike McGrath made a motion to accept the consent calendar items. Sue Brouwer asked that the warrant items be moved for further discussion.*

**Accept:**

***Approve January 26, School Committee Minutes:***

*Mike LeBrasseur made a motion to accept the January 26, 2010 School Committee minutes as presented. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote 9-0.*

***Approve Warrants:***

*30-32s, 02/04/2010 in the amount of \$136,158.74*

*Mary Contino made a motion to accept the above warrant. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The warrant passed with a roll call vote of 8 (yes) - 1 (no-Susan Brouwer).*

*Susan Brouwer would like to discuss the approval process of warrants.. This will be talked about later in the meeting.*

***Energy Presentation~ Michael Peterson, National Grid***

*Michael Peterson, Lead Account Executive, Energy Solutions Services NE made a presentation on Energy Efficient Strategies, Investing in Energy Efficiency.*

*He presented a number of programs available to the NPS school district. An energy savings audit would be conducted at NHS and NMS. The presentation was very informative. In order for the school district to enter into this audit, a memorandum of understanding must be signed.*

*Mary Contino made a motion to approve the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, with National Grid and with Susan Gorky signing on behalf of the school district. Julie Gawlak seconded this motion. The motion passed with a roll call for of 9-0.*

**Discussions:**

***2010-1011 School Calendar***

*After clarification on evening conferences for all schools, the calendar will be voted on at the next meeting.*

**Dark Schools Energy Savings:**

*Paul Halacy, Facilities Director spoke about, Dark Schools Energy Savings.*

*This plan is to have all the building in the school district shut lights off at 11pm until 6am to save energy. Mr. Halacy has already spoken with the Fire Chief, Chief of Police and the Building Inspector. This program has already started with NES and the Administration Building. Dark Schools should save an estimate of \$10,000 per year.*

**Lasell Project:**

*Paul Halacy spoke on the Lasell Project. He believes the Lasell Field project is long overdue. Over 100 events are held on this field every year. On March 1, 2010 there will be a public meeting at the High School to discuss and answer questions.*

**NHS Field House ~ Community Opening:**

*A discussion around the NHS Field House opening to the public ensued. The program had been suspended until the School Committee could further discuss the questions and concerns. After discussion it was decided that a pilot program could start on February 22, 2010. A press release will follow. This program will be only available in the mornings that school is in session and only for Northbridge residents over the age of 21.*

*Susan Brouwer made a motion to support the field house pilot program sponsored by the School Committee as a pilot program through May 1, 2010. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 9-0 roll call vote.*

**Consent Calendar:**

*The consent calendar was an idea from the MASS/MASC joint conference to make School Committee meetings run smoothly. After trying this for a couple months it was decided after discussion that only certain items should be in this section of the agenda. The policy committee will review the policy on agenda's at the next policy meeting. For now any donation items, approval of minutes and grants will be under this section in the agenda.*

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to suspend the use of our current policy on agenda's. Mary Contino seconded the motion. This motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

*Karen Kittredge made another motion to use the consent calendar on a temporary basis with only the above stated sections in it. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

**Reports:****Superintendent ~ Susan M. Gorky**

*Superintendent Gorky stated that her third addition of the Superintendent newsletter is now available on our website, NPS.org. - She also commented on the Math Wizards program at the Middle School. - The High School field house will formally open to the Northbridge residents on Monday, February 22, 2010. - Due to the weather this coming evening a decision to close school will come before the end of the School Committee meeting.*

***Policy Committee:***

*Rich Deluca gave an update on the policy revisions from the Policy Subcommittee. A preliminary revision was made on Section B. The next policy meeting is the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month.*

***School Committee Self Evaluations:***

*Mike LeBrasseur spoke on the School Committee self evaluations. The survey will be online soon. The online survey will be open until February 26<sup>th</sup>. A section will be added for comments. Once all the School Committee fill out this evaluation, they will be tabulated. The next discussion on this will be in March.*

***Ongoing Business:***

***Action Items:***

***Student Transportation Contracts:***

*Melissa Walker, Business Manager answered questions on Northbridge Public Schools student transportation contracts. Karen Kittredge made a motion to award the contract bid for student transportation to Vendetti Motors, Inc. for a period of three years commencing July 1, 2010. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Second reading of the following policies:***

***Northbridge School Committee Policy –Section A:***

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Section A. Mary Contino seconded the motion. This motion passed after a discussion that only the following policies would be approved as a group: AA, AC, ACA, AD, ADDA-R, ADDA-E-1, ADDA-E-2. The others will need further discussion. This motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy AB:***

*Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy AB. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed as written without discussion with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy ACAB:***

*A discussion was made on 5 sections of this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy ACAB with the amended changes. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy ACE:***

*A discussion was made on this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy ACE. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn. Karen Kittredge made a motion for further discussion on this policy. Karen Kittredge made another motion to approve the policy as written with the grievance procedure to follow. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy ADC:***

*A discussion was made on this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy ADC as written. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy ADDA:***

*A discussion was made on this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy ADDA as written. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy ADF:***

*A discussion was made on this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy ADF as presented. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Northbridge School Committee Policy EGAA:***

*A discussion was made on this policy. Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept Policy EGAA as amended. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Executive Session:***

*A motion was made by Sue Brouwer to close open session and enter into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining strategy and contract negotiations with non-union personnel and not returning to open session at 10:10 pm. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 9-0.*

***Adjournment:***

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathy Bradley*

*Assistant Secretary to the School Committee*

*SL:kab*