

RE: Northbridge School Committee
DATE: March 9, 2010
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Northbridge High School Auditorium

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Mike McGrath, Vice Chairman Dr. Karen Kittredge (arrived 8:30), Susan Brouwer, Mary Contino, Rich DeLuca, Mike LeBrasseur, Selena Livingston, Superintendent Susan Gorky, Assistant Superintendent Nancy Spitulnik and Business Manager Melissa Walker

Absent: Fred Beauregard, Julie Gawlak

Call to Order:

Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order in open session at 7:05 P.M. with a roll call vote of 6-0.

Certificates of Recognition:

None

Public Comment:

Kristen DeJong, High School teacher and President of the Northbridge Teachers' Association made a comment that the School Committee has made the right decision on improving Lasell Field and that it would do service to the Lasell name.

Student Report:

Student Advisory Member – Jessica Donati

Jessica reported that the student council will be sending 16 students to the annual MASC conference in Hyannis. The class of 2011 will be hosting a movie night on March 18th. The High School DECA organization will be attending the DECA International Competition in Louisville, KY in April with 5 students and 1 teacher. Academic progress reports will be coming out soon. In athletics, spring sports will be having their first games the first week in April.

Consent Calendar:

Mike McGrath asked the School Committee to accept the consent calendar items, including the approval of the February 23, 2010 School Committee minutes and the Community Partners for Health

Grant of \$3,000. Sue Brouwer asked that the minutes be moved for further discussion. Mary Contino made a motion to accept the Community Partners for Health Grant in the amount of \$3,000. Sue Brouwer seconded the motion. This motion passed with a roll call vote of 6-0.

Presentations:

Northbridge High School 2010-2011 Program of Studies:

The Northbridge High School 2010-2011 Program of Studies was presented with a PowerPoint presentation by Kerran Goff, High School Guidance Director and Mike Gauthier, Principal. Some of her major points were course levels, college prep level 2 courses, new courses offered, changes to courses, and an increase in AP courses. Other updates in the program of studies included a listing of academic course requirements for college, a schedule change procedure, summer school policy, home school policy, the PAVE program, Virtual High School, Moodle online courses and graduation requirements.

Northbridge Virtual High School:

The Northbridge Virtual High School program was presented by Alicia Boudreau, the Library Media Specialist and site coordinator for VHS at the High School and Mike Gauthier, Principal, with a basic overview. VHS has been at the High School since 1999 and is located in Maynard, Ma. VHS has programs available for high school students as well as teachers for professional development. All 3 of the guidance counselors will be trained in being site coordinators this spring. Some of the major points were that Virtual High School is geared towards students who are taking honors level courses and above. There are over 200 courses in the program of studies. At this time we have 19 students participating at the High School. They are looking at a summer program for credit recovery. Superintendent Gorky is also looking into getting Virtual courses into the middle school. Guidance will be working to better publicize the program to recruit more students.

Northbridge Education Foundation:

Kathy Ducey and Larry Brown spoke on behalf of the Northbridge Education Foundation with updates. NEF grant applications are due May 1, 2010 and recipients will be notified by June 15, 2010. These funds will be available on September 1, 2010 to be used in that school year. The most recent grants we received were: W.E. Balmer School \$750: \$250 for a Boston Field trip, \$250 for a writer's workshop, and \$250 for a robotics program; Northbridge Middle School \$1,921: \$721 for band instruments and \$1200 for the Make Waves program; Northbridge Elementary \$1,075 for a puppet show; Northbridge High School \$250 for Rachel's challenge.

NEF also provides teacher and staff recognition twice a year where parents can purchase a recognition certificate to be delivered to the teacher. There may be spelling and trivia bees in the fall. They are also working on a Buy a Brick campaign. The wine tasting benefit was very successful. There are plans to have one in the spring instead of the fall.

Discussions:

Warrant Article – Lasell Field:

The Committee received a letter from Friends of Lasell Field stating that their fundraising strategies have changed. The Friends of Lasell Field would like to hold off on the name modifications to the field for now and take this off the warrant article. Mike LeBrasseur commented on how The Friends of Lasell Committee should possibly be present at a future School Committee meeting to communicate with us what they will be offering in exchange for corporate sponsorship. Mary Contino made a motion to rescind the vote taken during the January 26th School Committee meeting on enhancing the Lasell Field name and remove it from the warrant. Mike McGrath seconded the motion. This motion passed with a roll call vote of 4-0 with Susan Brouwer and Selena Livingston abstaining.

SC Self Evaluation Results:

Mike LeBrasseur delivered a Northbridge School Committee Self Evaluation Survey Result PowerPoint. The results were discussed with the members. A decision was made to hold a workshop to further discuss the results. The date to be determined.

Reports:

Superintendent Report:

February 24th Grade 8 Lip Sync Extravaganza was spectacular. Over \$4,000 was raised toward grade 8 graduation activities. Thank you Mr. Bennett & Ms. Remuck, grade 8 teachers & students. This was a sold out event.

On Thursday, Superintendent Gorky visited the Olympic Games at Balmer, thank you Mrs. Briand. The activities exemplified High Expectations and Active Engagement for All Learners.

Congratulations to NHS Girls Varsity Basketball team! The girls finished the finest season in memory at 19-3 and are SWCL-East Champions.

Congratulations to NHS Boys Varsity Basketball team who completed their season at 14-8.

Congratulations to wrestler Zach Seitzinger who placed 5th in the State in the 112lb class and went on to All-States last weekend.

Census questionnaires are being mailed to households. March 1-5 was Census in Schools Week. Students participated in a variety of activities in our schools. Be Counted In 2010 ~ A complete count helps our schools!

Tuesday, March ,2 NES & Balmer celebrated Dr. Suess's birthday with Community Reading Day. Many thanks to Mrs. Carolyn Mitchell for organizing the event and to all our community readers.

On March 18, a team of NPS instructional leaders and administrators will go to Fitchburg State College to hear Jay McTighe, a distinguished speaker on Integrating Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design in schools.

The Northbridge Chapter of DECA was chosen to receive the DECA Spirit Award for 2010, congratulations to our students and teachers who supervised the Boston competition.

Steve Falconer, a Northbridge Public School Technology Systems Administrator and Varsity Lacrosse Coach, has been selected to co-coach the North team in the 2010 Champion High School Showcase US Lacrosse event.

This year's High School showcase will take place on Tuesday, July 20th through Thursday July 22nd at the ESPN Wide World of Sports in Orlando, Florida. The top 96 Senior Boys Lacrosse players from across the country will be selected to participate and be part of the National All-Star event to be featured on ESPNU.

Ongoing Business:

None

New Business:

None

Action Items:

Approval of February 23, 2010 School Committee Minutes:

Mary Contino made a motion to accept the February 23, 2010 School Committee Minutes as presented. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Northbridge High School Program of Studies:

Mary Contino made a motion to accept the Northbridge High School Program of Studies as presented. Rich DeLuca seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

FY 11 Operating Budget \$24,137,927:

Mike LeBrasseur made a motion to accept the Northbridge Public School FY 11 Operating Budget of \$24,137,927. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

2nd Reading ~ Grievance Procedure AC-R-1:

Karen Kittredge made a motion to accept the policy, Grievance Procedure AC-R-1 as presented. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

2nd Reading ~ Student Absences and Excuses JH:

After a lengthy discuss it was decided that further discussion is needed on this policy and will not be approved at this time. It will return to the Policy Subcommittee for review. The High School Principal and Guidance Counselor will be asked to meet with policy subcommittee to help clarify the attendance policy and procedures at the high school.

2nd Reading ~ Motor Vehicle Idling on School Grounds EEAJ:

Sue Brouwer made a motion to accept the policy, Motor Vehicle Idling on School Ground EEAJ as presented. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Appoint:

Dr. Karen Kittredge & Julie Gawlak, School Committee Wellness Program Representatives:

Sue Brouwer made a motion to appoint Dr. Karen Kittredge and Julie Gawlak as the School Committee Wellness Program Representatives. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Accept:

Approve Warrants: 30-36S, 3-4-2010, \$91,502.52:

Mary Contino made a motion to accept warrants numbered 30-36S, 3-4-2010, for \$91,502.52. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7-0.

Information:

Business Manager Melissa Walker briefly went over the Northbridge School Grant Summary for the 09-10 school year that was included in the packet. Superintendent Gorky would like to remind everyone to fill out the census. This would greatly help with the grant money for the schools.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

Susan Brouwer made a motion to adjourn. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion passed with a roll vote of 7-0.

The March 9, 2010 School Committee closed at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Selena Livingston
Secretary to the School Committee*

SL:kab