

RE: *Northbridge School Committee*

DATE: *August 11, 2009*

TIME: *6:00 P.M.*

LOCATION: *Northbridge High School Media Center*

MINUTES

Present: *Chairman Michael McGrath, Vice Chairman Karen Kittredge, Mary Contino, Mike LeBrasseur, Selena Livingston, Fred Beauregard, Susan Brouwer, Julie Gawlak, Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik, and Superintendent Gorky. Rich Deluca arrived at 6:15 P.M. Karen Kittredge left at 7:15 P.M.*

Call to Order: *Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M.*

Approval of Minutes: *A Motion was made by Susan Brouwer to accept the June 9th, 2009 Executive Session Minutes. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended.*

A Motion was made by Mary Contino to accept the July 14, 2009 School Committee minutes. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended.

Public Comment: *None*

Presentation: *Samantha Shepard, Fulbright Scholar. The School Committee welcomed Samantha Shepard who is a teacher here from England until Christmas. She is here to learn the differences in instructional practices in her country and ours. She will be teaching English at the High School. Kristen DeJong, our Fulbright Scholar, will be traveling to Wales in exchange.*

Reports:

Superintendent: *Superintendent Gorky spoke on the new teacher orientation day on August 26, 2009. She would like to invite the School Committee to attend for lunch at 11:40 A.M. at the High School Media Center. She would also like to invite the School Committee to attend the opening staff meeting on Monday, August 31, 2009 at 7:30 A.M. for coffee. The keynote speaker at 8:15 A.M. in the High School Auditorium will be Peter Reynolds, author, artist and entrepreneur.*

Superintendent Gorky would like to publicly wish Christine Johnson the best of luck as the new Business Manager for Leicester High School. Christine has been employed as the High School Principal for the last 8 ½ years. Christine played a large part in securing the accreditation for the High School. She would like to thank Christine for everything that she has done for the District.

Assistant Superintendent: *Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik spoke on the new teacher induction program, new teachers monthly seminars, and the mentor-mentee program. The State mandates that schools must provide a first year mentor program for first time teachers. We have 31 new staff members and 17-19 first year teachers. This “one-year mentoring/induction program for beginning teachers would help them improve upon practice and develop an understanding of the Professional Standards for Teachers”.*

A full-day Professional Development training is scheduled for September 1, 2009. Summer professional development courses are also being held. The Responsive Classroom training program is a grant-funded program during the school year for up to 25 teachers. November 2, 2009 will be a training for administrators in Responsive Classroom.

Goals: *Karen Kittredge reported that the Goals subcommittee has not formally met yet. A workshop planned for August 22, 2009 is planned for the administration and School Committee at the Whitinsville Community Center. She asked the School Committee to review the proposed agenda for the day and get back to her with any questions. We need to focus on the goals and outcomes and where we go next.*

Fees & Fields: *Fred Beauregard reported that on July 22, 2009 the Fees and Fields subcommittee met with the Building and Planning Commissioner on the fields, which should be ready by the middle of September. The contractor is not done with the lower fields. The upper fields need another year for the grass to grow. Once the contractor finishes the work on the grass they will then turn it over to the school department. The upper field will have 15 parking spaces for handicapped only in the upper level. There will also be room for emergency vehicles. Guardrails and out-of-bounds markers have been added to the softball and baseball fields. Paul Halacy should be commended for his work well done.*

It will cost approximately \$14,000 to sod LaSalle field. It is used by all groups. Turf may be in the 5 year plan.

Policy: *Rich Deluca reported on the Policy subcommittee. A number of policies have been presented by Superintendent Gorky. Pat Correira will review all the policies.*

Budget: *Mike LeBrasseur reported on the Budget subcommittee. The subcommittee has had 2 meetings, specifically, to develop the budget manual as well as the timeline. A few questions were asked of Melissa Walker to clarify. The budget manual will be put on the school website.*

Superintendent Evaluation: *Julie Gawlak reported on the Superintendent Evaluation Tool. Mike McGrath made a motion to discuss under reports. Richard Deluca seconded the motion. This motion was approved with a voice vote. The subcommittee discussed whether to have 7 levels. The School Committee would like to further discuss the levels. The subcommittee will schedule another meeting to fine tune it.*

Negotiations: *Mike McGrath reported nothing at this time with the Negotiation subcommittee.*

Ongoing Business:

Sustainable Energy: *Mary Contino spoke on the windturbine project. “There is a green committee in town and this is good time to start a partnership”. Melissa Martin is appointed to the green committee by the town. Mike McGrath made a motion to appoint Mary Contino to the green committee as a School Committee representative. Julie Gawlak seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.*

**Meal Pricing Increase
2009-2010:**

Debra King spoke to the School Committee for the second time to discuss the meal pricing increase for the 2009-2010 school year. She spoke of different things that could be done and the cost of disposable trays vs. reusable trays. She also spoke of milk size and price. It was decided that the School Committee would like to see three sample menus with different choices of price and different compromises of food choices before a decision is made. There has not been a price increase in 5 years.

Policy 2nd Reading
Purchasing Authority:

Mary Contino made a motion to approve the Purchasing Authority policy. Rich Deluca seconded the motion. This policy was approved as amended with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Policy 2nd Reading
Internet Safety Policy:

Rich Deluca made a motion to approve the Internet Safety Policy. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. This policy was approved as amended with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

New Business:

Instructional Technology
Job Description:

Mike LeBrasseur made a motion to approve the Instructional Technology job description. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The job description was approved as presented with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Elementary Team Leader
Job Description:

Mary Contino made a motion to approve the Elementary Team Leader job description. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The job description was approved as presented with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

NAEYC Teacher Leader
Job Description:

Susan Brouwer made a motion to approve the NAEYC Teacher Leader job description. Rich Deluca seconded the motion. The job description was approved as presented with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Safety Representative:

Susan Brouwer made a motion to appoint Nancy Spitulnik as Safety Representative. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion carried with a voice vote.

Reschedule October 27, 2009

School Committee meeting: *A decision was made to keep the October 27th, 2009 meeting but move the time to 6:00 P.M. and move the location to the Middle School due to the Town meeting being held that same day at 7:00 P.M. also at the Middle School.*

Cancel August 25th, 2009

School Committee meeting: *A decision was made to cancel the August 25, 2009 School Committee Meeting.*

Action Items:

Susan Brouwer made a motion to accept H&R block grant for a site license. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Susan Brouwer made a motion to accept NES PTA Donation. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Warrants:

Susan Brouwer made a motion to accept warrant number 29-54s dated 6/30/09 for \$181,367.51. Mary Contino seconded the motion. The warrant passed with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Mary Contino made a motion to accept warrant number 30-12s dated 7/09/09 for \$89,430.57. Susan Brouwer seconded the motion. The warrant passed with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Mary Contino made a motion to accept warrant number 30-04s date 7/23/09 for \$62,299.55. Susan Brouwer seconded the motion. The warrant passed with a roll call vote. 8-0 Karen Kittredge absent.

Adjournment:

At 9:00 P.M. motion was made to adjourn the August 11, 2009 School Committee meeting and go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to contract negotiations in accordance with C39s23B or M.G.L. and not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Bradley
Secretary to the School Committee*