

RE: Northbridge School Committee
DATE: September 8, 2009
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
LOCATION: Northbridge High School Media Center

MINUTES

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

Call to Order: Chairman McGrath called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. A Motion was made by Mike LeBrasseur to move the agenda items so the High School field's presentation could be moved up in the presentations. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes: A Motion was made by Susan Brouwer to accept the August 11, 2009 School Committee minutes. Mike McGrath seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended with a voice vote of 7-0.

A Motion was made by Susan Brower to accept the August 11, 2009 Executive minutes. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as presented with a voice vote of 7-0.

A Motion was made by Sue Brouwer to accept the July 14, 2009 Executive minutes. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The minutes were accepted as amended with a voice vote of 7-0.

Public Comment: None

Action Item: Don Lange and the BPCCC voted that the High School fields would be turned over to the school district as of this meeting. The upper fields must not be used until the spring of 2010. This field still needs one more growing season for the new seeding to take hold. A request was made to put signage around the upper field to ensure that people know they can't be using it. There are 15 handicap spots available. There is also

a turnaround at the top of the hill. A motion was made by Sue Brouwer to accept the athletic fields as presented by Mr. Lange. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion passed with a voice vote of 7-0.

Discussion:

School Committee “ Roberts’ Rules of Order”, to be used for all School Committee meetings.

School Committee facilities tour: *The School Committee discussed the possibility of taking tours through all the schools with Paul Halacy at the beginning of each school year. This year’s tours will be at the convenience of the School Committee. Available times will be discussed.*

Quarterly Community Newsletter: *A discussion of a new Quarterly Community Newsletter was presented by Julie Gawlak. The newsletter would go out opposite the Superintendent newsletter for the purpose of communicating with the entire community. This idea will be looked at further along with seeking advice of an attorney on possible advertising.*

Presentation:

Link Crew/Freshman Orientation:

Jeff Lizotte, Vice Principal of the High School, spoke on a new Link Crew Program. This program is a nationally recognized transitional program that welcomes freshmen and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Students, Nick Zenquis, Lisa Stefaniak, Joshua Beauregard, and Jenna Kelly spoke on the program and how it is helping the students this year. The overall goal is to increase attendance and academic performance as well as to increase team building among the students.

Maintenance Department

Recognition:

Superintendent Gorky thanked Paul Halacy, Director of Building and Grounds, and his crew for a wonderful job in making all the school grounds and buildings look wonderful. An overall maintenance report was submitted. The School Committee also thanked the building and grounds team for a great job. Each member was acknowledged along with their years of service.

Reports:

Student Representatives, Andrew Haas & Andrea Monterotta were not available for comment.

Superintendent:

Superintendent Gorky publicly extended best wishes to former High School Principal, Christine Johnson. Ms. Johnson has taken a position as Director of Finance and Operations in Leicester Public Schools. Christine was employed for 8 ½ years and played a large part in securing accreditation for the High School.

Ms. Gorky spoke on opening day for staff and the keynote speaker, Peter Reynolds. She also spoke on how smoothly the first day of school went for the students. Ms. Gorky thanked all the members of the Northbridge Public School educational team for all their dedication and service. A special thank you was made to the fabulous Leadership Team.

The school opening times for the Northbridge Public Schools will be ten minutes before the start of the school day to ensure the safety of our students. The buildings do not have staff available to watch over and ensure the safety of the children prior to the school day.

Ms. Gorky announced that there will be no lunch price increases at this time. The new “grab and go” breakfast is gaining popularity.

The Northbridge School Music Department would like to build a partnership with our families by inviting them to help develop and participate in “Northbridge Friends of Music”. The funds raised by this organization will be used to help students. We also hope to bring back the NHS Marching Band. An informational meeting will be held on October 15, 2009 at 7 PM in the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium.

Ms. Gorky spoke on the Northbridge school district moving toward a process that promotes continual learning. Moving toward a Professional Learning Community (PLC) will result in a meaningful collaboration that defines good teaching and classroom practice and that creates new knowledge and beliefs about teaching and learning. It will take approximately three years and ongoing training to maximize the use of PLC's in our schools.

Assistant Superintendent:

Assistant Superintendent Spitulnik reported on the New Teacher Orientation Program that was held on August 26, 2009 in the High School Media Center. Twenty Seven new staff were in attendance. Seven Mentors also joined as well as two school committee members. There was great feedback from the participants. The goal of the orientation was for the new teachers to meet key people in our district, start building

relationships and learn basic information about the school system.

Professional development day took place on September 1, 2009. There were nine different sessions. Ms. Spitulnik thanked all the principals who worked this summer to put many of these sessions together. She also spoke on upcoming professional development days.

Goals Subcommittee: *Karen Kittredge showed a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the goals workshop that was recently held with the School Committee members and the Leadership Team on August 22, 2009. Dr. Bent, the retired Superintendent from Shrewsbury, was the facilitator. The Goals subcommittee needs to meet again to further discuss the outcomes of this workshop.*

Fees & Fields

Subcommittee: *Nothing to present at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2009 at 6 PM.*

Policy Subcommittee: *Rich DeLuca reported that there is a Policy Subcommittee meeting next week with Pat Carriera.*

Budget Subcommittee: *Mike LeBrasseur reported that on August 24, 2009 he, Melissa Walker and Superintendent Gorky attended a quarterly review with the finance committee. At this meeting they reviewed the revolver balances. They also reviewed the food service budget with Debra King. A final review was made on the Budget Preparation manual. The next meeting for the Budget Subcommittee will be on September 22, 2009. Please forward any ideas to Mike before the next meeting.*

Superintendent

Evaluation Subcommittee: *Julie Gawlak reported that the next meeting for the Superintendent Evaluation is September 16, 2009 at 6 PM.*

Negotiations Subcommittee: *Mike McGrath reported no updates at this time.*

Ongoing Business:

Sustainable Energy: *A discussion was made as to if the School Committee was doing enough to help with energy savings. The School Committee has a member on the Town Green Committee. Paul Halacy is waiting to hear from some organizations to do energy auditing.*

New Business: *none*

Action Items:

Appoint:

A motion was made by Susan Brouwer to appoint Selena Livingston as School Committee Secretary. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0 with a voice vote. Selena Livingston abstained from the vote.

**Parent Council Election
Process for the Middle and
High School:**

A motion was made to accept the parent election process at the Middle and High School for Parent School Council by Susan Brouwer. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion was approved as long as the election process is addressed. A Connect Ed. phone call will be made to the parents explaining the process along with a flier going home with the students. The motion carried 7-0 with a voice vote.

Accept:

**Music Department
Donation:**

A motion was made by Susan Brouwer to accept the Music Department Instrument Donation by Julie Gawlak. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

Kindergarten Grant:

A motion was made by Susan Brouwer to accept the Kindergarten grant total of \$104,800.00. This grant will help pay for the salaries of kindergarten classroom instructional assistants. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

**240 Special Education
Grant:**

A motion was made by Susan Brouwer to accept a 240 Special Education Grant. The grant total is \$660,496.00. This grant is used to pay for special education salaries, supplies and contracted services. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

Approve:

A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to approve warrant number 30-06s dated 8/6/09 in the amount of \$140,869.05. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to approve warrant number 30-80s dated 8/20/09 in the amount of \$246,433.30.

Susan Brouwer seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

A motion was made by Karen Kittredge to approve warrant number 30-10s dated 9/3/09 in the amount of \$216,353.94. Mike LeBrasseur seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a roll call vote.

Information:

The September 22, 2009 School Committee meeting has been cancelled.

The Budget Subcommittee meeting for that day has been moved to the Administration Building conference room.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Sue Brouwer to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 9:02 PM. Karen Kittredge seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0 with a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Selena Livingston
Secretary to the School Committee*

SL:kab