

North Reading Public Schools
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: May 22, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Hybrid: Little School Cafeteria / Virtual Meeting (+1 475-441-4825 / PIN: 932 356 195#)
meet.google.com/cxq-kauo-muy

School Committee Members Present

Dyana Boutwell

Scott Buckley

Jeff Friedman

Rich McGowan

Noelle Rudloff

Staff Members Present

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly - Assistant Superintendent of Finance
and Operations (Virtual)

Cindy Elmore - Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 6:02 pm.

Executive Session:

At 6:03 p.m. The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to enter into Executive Session to discuss union personnel contracts and to resume in Open Session following the Executive Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Mr. Buckley called the Open Session back to order at 6:38 p.m.

II. A. Public Input:

Mr. Jeff Yull spoke about immigrants in the US being housed at the gyms in high schools and is concerned that it may happen in North Reading. He asked the Committee if there have been any discussions on this. Mr. Buckley responded that all School Committee meetings are open public meetings and there has been no discussion on this topic.

Ms. Francine Coughlin, parent of a Little School student spoke against Mr. Yull's choice of venue to bring up a political discussion in front of students and parents. She went on to say she is a child of immigrants as are many other families and that all immigrants are welcome here.

II. B. Student Report:

Maya Nickerson, Class of 2023 provided the student report and presented her class work. As a graduating senior, Maya was given a Student Representative to the School Committee Award by Mr. McGowan for her work with the Committee this year.

II. D.1. Recognition of Garden Club Poetry Contest Winners:

Charlene Malek and Anne Lundell, members of the North Reading Garden Club, introduced and presented a Certificate to three students in North Reading that participated in the National Garden Club Youth Poetry contest. Tatum Breen, a student of the Batchelder School was the National winner of the Poetry Contest this year for Grade 3. Tatum's sister, Harper Breen placed second at the National Level for Grade 5. Madelyn Brown from the Little School placed second nationally for Grade 4. Their poems will be published in the National Garden Club booklet, "Anthology of Poems."

II. D.2. Little School Presentation:

Principal Christine Molle and students and staff from the E. Ethel Little School presented a showcase of student learning and student talents. Representatives of the 3rd Grade classes (under teachers Mrs. Kleinpeter, Mr. Lynch, Mrs. Pessotti and Digital Learning teacher Mrs. Kelley) shared their math and geometry projects. Representatives of the Little School Drama Club performed a musical presentation of their upcoming show, "Clowns."

II. D.3. School Committee Award of Appreciation:

A nomination for a School Committee Award of Appreciation was received from Catherine O'Connell, Principal of the Middle School. All Committee members were in favor of the award.

II. E.1 Minutes: No minutes at this time.

II. E.3 Staffing: No staffing update.

II. E.4 Bids and Donations: No bids or donations.

II. E.5 Grants: None at this time.

II. E.6. Overnight Trip Requests:

Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Coach, Bill Cassell requested approval for the 3rd grade Project Forest team to travel to Washington, D.C. from June 7-10, 2023 to present their projects and receive awards.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Rudloff and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the Batchelder School's ExploraVision 3rd grade trip to Washington, D.C. Motion passed 5-0.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports: No subcommittee updates at this time.

Future Subcommittee Schedule

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
| • Financial Planning Team | June 2, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. |
| • Athletic Subcommittee | May 23, 2023 | 12:00 p.m. |
| • Fine Arts Subcommittee | May 31, 2023 | 3:15 p.m. |

II. F.2 Administrative Report:

- Dr. Daly and Mr. McGowan joined some of the NRHS Masquers performers (the case of *Pippin*) to watch a live nomination presentation of the Stephen Sondheim Awards recognizing excellence in high school musical theater. The award ceremony will take place in New Haven, Connecticut the first week of June. The Masquers were nominated for awards in nine of the ten categories.
- Dr. Daly addressed the “active shooter” incident at St. Johns Prep in Danvers today. Due to this situation, there was an increased police presence at the schools today. Fortunately the incident was a hoax, but the District acted out of an abundance of caution.

II. F.3. Correspondence:

Mr. Buckley was contacted by another district’s school committee representative regarding districts with fees for Full Day Kindergarten. The request is to have different districts contact the State on additional funding for full day kindergarten. Mr. Buckley has agreed with the idea and is willing to volunteer his time to participate.

II. E.2. Budget Update:

2023-2024 Substitute Rate Recommendation: The District has not increased their substitute rates since the 2020-21 (FY21) school year. Mr. Connelly presented recommendations to increase substitute rates for the 2023-24 school year to remain competitive in the area.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the new rates for the substitutes for 2023-24. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Michael Connelly, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations presented the budget update for fiscal year 2023 reflecting activity through the middle of May.

III. Future Business:

Monday	June 12, 2023	5:00 PM	SEPAC Presentation
Monday	June 12, 2023	7:00 PM	Town Meeting

IV. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to adjourn at 7:45 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. National Garden Club Youth Poetry Contest 2022-2023
2. Little School Presentation
3. School Committee Award of Appreciation
4. FY23 May Budget Report
5. 2023-2024 Substitute Pay Rates and Comparisons
6. Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Trip to Washington, D.C.