

North Reading Public Schools
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session/School Choice Public Hearing

Date: May 2, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Hybrid: Distance Learning Lab, North Reading High School and

Virtual: meet.google.com/cxq-kauo-muy (+1 475-441-4825 / PIN: 932 356 195#)

School Committee Members Present

Dyana Boutwell

Scott Buckley

Janene Imbriano

Rich McGowan

Chris Pappavaselio

Staff Members Present

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools

Sean Killeen – Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Michael Connelly – Assistant Superintendent of Finance
and Operations

Cindy Elmore –Recording Secretary

I. Call to Order Open Session

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 6:34 pm.

II. A. Public Input:

Drew Depatie addressed the School Committee about his concerns regarding the curriculum being taught in the North Reading Public Schools. He distributed a list of questions to each School Committee member and requested an investigation as well as an anonymous process for students, teachers, and others to submit concerns. Steve Sigmund spoke about all the misunderstandings for the past few months about what Public Education is. Noah Spicer, a former student of NRPS spoke of building trust in the community. Rebecca Griffin thanked the School Committee and Dr. Daly for all their work and transparency. Ali Pappavaselio thanked Ms. Imbriano and Mr. Pappavaselio for their years of service and the sacrifices made while serving on the North Reading School Committee. Luke Antolini spoke of a book that his fourth grader is reading and shared his concern that the book might not be appropriate. Janine Largent disagreed with the notion that this is not the forum to approach concerns regarding the curriculum. Dr. Daly responded that concerns about the curriculum should first be brought up with the Teacher, then addressed with the Principal, and finally parents can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committee.

II. B. Student Report:

Gianna Naulivou, Class of 2022, presented her student report and her class work.

II. D.1. L.D. Batchelder School Presentation:

Mr. Michael Maloney (Principal Batchelder School), students and staff from the L.D. Batchelder School presented a showcase of the projects from the 4th Grade Digital Learning in the areas of Science, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. Nicole DiDonato and

Kristina Petrie presented, along with students, on the Social Emotional Learning activities at the school.

Dr. Daly and Mr. Buckley took a break from the agenda and thanked several people. Mr. Buckley thanked Peter Kane for serving as the NREA President and his time and effort working for North Reading Teachers. During the pandemic Mr. Kane worked collaboratively with the School Committee and Administration to get students back into the classroom.

Dr. Daly and Mr. Buckley also thanked Janene Imbriano for her nine years as a School Committee member and Mr. Pappavaselio for his three years on the Committee. Both were on many subcommittees and spent many hours working for the North Reading School District's success. Mr. Pappavaselio thanked the parents who have come out and spoken about what their children are doing and learning in school. He stressed how important it is for the parents to be involved in the education of their children and communicating with their teachers.

II. D.2. School Choice Public Hearing and Vote:

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Pappavaselio and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to open the School Choice Public Hearing at 8:05 pm. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Under the Education Reform Act of 1993 there is a requirement to hold an annual public hearing on School Choice. Becoming a Choice District means that North Reading will accept students from other cities and towns for enrollment in its schools. Once a student is accepted as a choice student, that student is enrolled in North Reading Public Schools. The District receives additional revenue from the sending district's Chapter 70 funds for each student accepted.

Historically, the motion approved by the School Committee has stated, "...to not participate in School Choice because the program as it is presently constructed ensures that the needs of some children of the Commonwealth cannot be met."

The Administration recommends not becoming a School Choice District at this time.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Boutwell to not participate in School Choice because of the district's limited capacity to accept new students and maintain our class size goals. Motion passed 4-1. Mr. Pappavaselio was opposed.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Pappavaselio and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to close the School Choice Public Hearing at 8:11 p.m. Motion passed 4-1. Mr. Pappavaselio was opposed.

II. D.3. SEEM Fiscal Year 23 Budget:

Dr. Daly presented the Fiscal Year 23 budget highlights for the SEEM Collaborative, which has been adopted by the SEEM Collaborative Board of Directors. Dr. Daly provided this information to the School Committee consistent with the obligations set forth given the Superintendent's appointment as the North Reading Public Schools' district representative.

II. D.4. Northshore Education Consortium Fiscal Year 23 Budget:

Dr. Daly presented the Fiscal Year 23 budget highlights for the Northshore Education Consortium, which has been adopted by the Northshore Education Consortium Board of Directors. Dr. Daly provided this information to the School Committee consistent with the

obligations set forth given the Superintendent's appointment as the North Reading Public Schools' district representative.

II. D5. Fiscal Year 2023 School Budget Vote:

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operation present an update on the status of the fiscal year 2023 budget. There have been no updates to the fiscal year 2023 revenue plan.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to approve and hereby adopt the Fiscal FY23 School Operating Budget of \$35,709,330; this represents an increase of 4.2% or \$1,432,665 over FY'22. Motion passed 5-0.

II. E.1 Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to approve the March 28, 2022 Open Session Minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to approve the March 28, 2022 Executive Session Minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to approve the April 11, 2022 Open Session Minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

II. E.2. Budget Update: No budget update.

II. E.3 Staffing: No staffing update.

II E.4. Bids and Donations:

- Various Parent Donations: \$170.00 donation to benefit Track and Field.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to accept with gratitude various donations in the amount of \$170.00 from North Reading parents to benefit the Track and Field program at the High School. Motion passed 5-0.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Update:

Mr. McGowan gave an update of the April 29, 2022, Financial Planning Team meeting.

Dr. Daly gave an update of the April 13, 2022, Athletic Subcommittee meeting.

Future Subcommittee Schedule:

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|--------------------------|--------------|----------|
| • Athletic Subcommittee | May 18, 2022 | 12:00 PM |
| • Fine Arts Subcommittee | May 25, 2022 | 3:15 PM |

II. F.2 Administrative Report:

- Dr. Daly announce the hiring of the new High School Vice Principal – Ms. BarriAnn Alonzo. Mr. Loprete conducted the search and Dr. Daly had the opportunity to speak with Ms. Alonzo and is very excited to what she will bring to North Reading High School.

Dr. Daly also thanked Mr. Hehn for serving as temporary Vice Principal at North Reading High School.

II. F.3. Correspondence: No correspondence.

III. Future Business:

Monday	May 9, 2022	6:30 PM	School Committee Reorganization
Monday	May 16, 2022	6:30 PM	Hood School Presentation / SEPAC Presentation

IV. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Pappavaselio and seconded Ms. Imbriano to adjourn at 8:47 pm. Motion passed 4-1. Mr. Buckley was opposed.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Batchelder School Presentation Agenda
2. School Choice Guidance
3. FY23 Budget
4. SEEM Collaborative FY23 Budget
5. Northshore Education Consortium FY23 Budget
6. Minutes – Open Session – March 28, 2022
7. Minutes – Executive Session – March 28, 2022
8. Minutes – Open Session – April 11, 2022
9. Food Services Employee Contract FY23-25 Highlights
10. FY22 March Budget Report
11. Gift Acceptance Memo – Various Parents for Track and Field