

North Reading Public Schools
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: March 27, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Hybrid: Distance Learning Lab / 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
Cindy Elmore - Recording Secretary (not present)

I. Call to Order Open Session

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 6:15 pm.

Executive Session:

At 6:16 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to enter into Executive Session to discuss union and non-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 6:36 p.m.

II. A. Public Input:

Mr. Jeff Yull, 427 Park Street began by requesting a moment of silence for the Covenant Christian School shooting victims in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Yull also expressed concerns about security in the North Reading schools both during school and after school hours. He made a request that the Select Board and School Committee meetings not be held on the same night, so that more people can attend. Mr. Yull also announced that the North Reading Republican Town Committee is offering a college scholarship of \$750 for all North Reading senior students. On April 25, 2023 the NR Republican Town Committee will be holding a candidate's night prior to the town election.

II. B. Student Report:

Maya Nickerson, Class of 2023 provided the student report and presented her class work.

II. D.1. North Reading Middle School Presentation:

Dr. Catherine O'Connell, Principal of the North Reading Middle School gave the third presentation of the year from our five schools. The presentation included a performance by the Middle School A Cappella Group, NR'Monics led by Carla Lister, and highlights of the new Computer Science Club led by Digital Learning Teacher, James Burke. Madeline D'Angelo, eighth grade student and Project 351 Ambassador described this nonprofit organization that stands for kindness, compassion, humility and gratitude and spoke about her Cradles to Crayons clothing drive. Grade eight student Norah Deninger, along with teacher Kathleen Kirwin and Adjustment Counselor Michael Hurst presented on the development of Community Circles at the Middle School which focuses on building community and relationships.

II. D.2. North Reading Middle School Extracurricular Proposal: Chess Club

Principal Catherine O'Connell and Mr. Michael Hursh, Middle School Adjustment Counselor requested approval for a Middle School Chess Club as a pilot for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept the Middle School Chess Club. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.3. Northeast Vocational School Presentation:

Ms. Judy Dymont, North Reading's Representative to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School, and Mr. Dave DiBarri, Superintendent, gave their annual update of programs and initiatives taking place at Northeast Metro Tech and gave an update on their building project.

II. D.4. School Committee Self Evaluation:

Mr. Friedman presented the next steps for the School Committee's self-evaluation.

II. D.5. First Reading, Policy IMG:

The School Committee voted on the first reading of policy IMG which relates to Animals in School. This is a new policy and the language is based upon MASC language along with policies from other districts.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the first reading of policy IMG as amended. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.6. North Reading Custodian Contract:

Members of the Custodian Negotiating team, Scott Buckley, Patrick Daly and Michael Connelly presented the terms of the proposed three year custodian contract from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. A Memorandum of Agreement has been reached by the two parties and the custodians voted to ratify the agreement on March 16, 2023.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the terms highlighted above (in document section of minutes) of the new Custodians

Contract for a three-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Administration. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.10. North Reading Administrative Assistants' Contract:

Members of the Administrative Assistants' Association's negotiating team, Jeff Friedman, Patrick Daly and Michael Connelly presented the terms of the proposed three year contract from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. A Memorandum of Agreement has been reached by the two parties and the Administrative Assistants voted to ratify the agreement on March 23, 2023.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. Boutwell to approve the terms highlighted above (in document section of minutes) of the Administrative Assistants' Association Contract for a three-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026, as recommended by the Administration. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.8. FY24 Bus User Fee:

A discussion was led by Mr. Michael Connelly, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, to increase bus transportation fees. Mr. Connelly explained the increase in bus transportation rates that has occurred over the last several years and is projected to continue into the future, plus more and more costs have had to be allocated to the district operating budget to account for the increased costs. The bus user fee has not increased since September of 2016 (FY17).

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to increase the bus transportation fee in FY24 to \$425.00 per pass with a family cap of \$700.00. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.9. FY24 Extracurricular, Athletic, and Performing Arts User Fees:

After a brief discussion of extracurricular, athletic and performing arts user fee accounts and the revenue generated compared to their direct costs, it was agreed to table this item for a future meeting.

II. E.1 Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the March 2, 2023 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the March 13, 2023 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:

- The late Sandra A Liazzo – Donation of \$50,000 for the High School Sports programs in memory of Joseph W. Liazzo.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$50,000 from the late Sandra A. Liazzo to be used for High School sports programs in memory of Joseph W. Liazzo, son of the donor. Motion passed 5-0.

- NRHS Hornet Hall of Fame – Donation of \$3,192.33 to be used for weight room equipment.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$3,192.33 from the North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame to purchase weight room equipment to benefit the students of the High School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Batchelder School Parent Organization – Donation of \$1,540 to help fund the Grade 2 Greater Boston Stage Company field trip.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$1,540.00 from the Batchelder School Parent Organization to help fund the Grade 2 Greater Boston Stage Company field trip. Motion passed 5-0.

- Batchelder School Parent Organization – Donation of \$930.00 to help fund the Grade 2 Mass Audubon field trip.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$930.00 from the Batchelder School Parent Organization to help fund the Grade 2 Mass Audubon field trip. Motion passed 5-0.

- Meera and Rob Reynolds – Donation of \$500.00 to help fund the Hood School Winnie the Pooh school play.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$500.00 from Meera and Rob Reynolds to help fund the Hood Winnie the Pooh school play. Motion passed 5-0.

III. E.5. Grants:

- NRSD Grant of \$5,225.00 for “Supporting Arts & Cultural Vitality Teams”.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve a Supporting Arts & Cultural Vitality Teams Grant of \$5,225.00 to support the expenses as recommended by the Administration for fiscal year 2023. Motion passed 5-0.

- NRSD Grant of \$15,000.00 for the Hate Crime Prevention.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to approve the Hate Crime Prevention Grant of \$15,000.00 to support the expenses as recommended by the Administration for fiscal year 2023. Motion passed 5-0.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Friedman gave an update of the March 23, 2023 Evaluation Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Friedman gave an update of the March 23, 2023 Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Future Subcommittee Schedule

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| • Community Improvements Planning Committee | March 28, 2023 (TBD) |
| • Financial Planning Team | March 31, 2023 8:00 a.m. |
| • Athletic Subcommittee | May 23, 2023 12:00 p.m. |
| • Fine Arts Subcommittee | May 24, 2023 3:15 p.m. |

II. F.2 Administrative Report:

- **Family University**
Dr. Daly gave an overview of Family University that was held Saturday, March 25, 2023. He is thinking about possibly doing it differently in the future with having virtual meetings throughout the year. Dr. Englander was an excellent keynote speaker who was well received by everyone, and there was good participation in the breakout groups.
- **Reality Fair**
The 2023 Reality Fair will be on April 12th. Thanks to Lillian Hartman from Youth Services for organizing this with Amy Luckiewicz, Melinda Miranda and Peter Majane who are volunteers.
- Updates on DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging)

II. F.3. Correspondence: None at this time.

III. Future Business:

Monday	April 3, 2023	8:45 AM	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Workshop
Monday	April 10, 2023	6:30 PM	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Public Hearing
Monday	April 24, 2023	6:30 PM	Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Vote
Wednesday	April 26, 2023	3:00 PM	Budget Workshop (if needed)
Monday	May 8, 2023	6:30 PM	L.D. Batchelder School Presentation School Committee Reorganization
Monday	May 22, 2023	6:30 PM	E. Ethel Little School Presentation
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 Mr. Freidman to adjourn at 10:21 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Middle School Presentation
2. NRMS Extracurricular Proposal: Chess Club
3. Policy IMG
4. North Reading Custodian Contract
5. North Reading Administrative Assistants Contract
6. FY24 Before School Program User Fees
7. FY24 Bus User Fees
8. FY24 Extra-Curricular, Athletic, and Performing Arts User Fees
9. Minutes – Open Session – March 2, 2023
10. Minutes – Open Session – March 13, 2023
11. Gift Acceptance Memo – Sandra A Liazzo
12. Gift Acceptance Memo – NRHS Hornet Hall of Fame
13. Gift Acceptance Memo – Batchelder School Parents Organization
14. Gift Acceptance Memo – Batchelder School Parents Organization
15. Gift Acceptance Memo – Meera and Rob Reynolds
16. Grant – Supporting Arts & Cultural Vitality Teams
17. Grant – Hate Crime Prevention