

NORTH READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: May 1, 2017
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Distance Learning Lab

School Committee Members Present

Clifford Bowers
Julie Koepke
Janene Imbriano
Gerald Venezia
Mel Webster (not present)

Staff Members Present

Jon Bernard – Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connelly – Director of Finance and Operations
Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

Visitors: Mr. Michael Tyrell (Student Representative, Class of 2019), various residents of North Reading, Mr. Scott Buckley (NR resident), Mr. Dan Tomasello (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chairman Bowers called the Open Session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Venezia pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into to go into Executive Session to review strategies for collective bargaining, to review a possible legal matter and a pending grievance from collective bargaining units (paraprofessionals and the NREA), and to reconvene in Open Session. Motion passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:28 p.m., the Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Ms. Koepke to return to Open Session. Motion passed 4-0 on a roll call vote.

Open Session

Chairman Bowers called the Open Session back to order at 6:34 p.m.

II. A. Public Input:

No public input at this time.

III. B. Student Input:

Mr. Michael Tyrell gave the student report and presented a sample of his class work.

**III. D.1. Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Vote
Superintendent's Professional Practice Goal
Superintendent's District Improvement Goal #1**

Superintendent Bernard and the Director of Finance and Operations facilitated an update on the status of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. The Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for the North Reading Public Schools was held on April 10, 2017. The School Committee voted on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for presentation at the June 5, 2017 Town Meeting.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to have the School Committee approve and adopt the final FY18 School Operating Budget of \$29,633,545.00 that represents an increase of 3.8% or \$1,087,403.00 over the FY17 appropriation of \$28,546,142.00. The budget being approved is \$29,633,545.00. Motion passed 4-0.

III. C.1. MSBA/SSBC Update

- a. Manafort was on site to address non-drainage punch list items. (Erosion near softball and multi-purpose fields, fixing loose bench at softball field, removing stickers, handicap curb cuts and repaving, moving piles of loam and crushed stone, removing stakes and slip sacks)
- b. Silktown Roofing has been on site re-aligning the canopies at the main entrance of the campus
- c. Repairs to the drainage system began in earnest on April 18th; beginning May 2nd they will be doubling their manpower
- d. New Discus pad was installed and landscaped
- e. Painting of gas line at loading dock has been completed
- f. MON was on site the week of April 24th to begin addressing landscaping needs through May (see below):
 - Mowing, trimming and removing weeds
 - Slice seeding and hydro-seeding as needed per areas assessed
 - Reviewed plantings at lower site and identified needs for replacement
 - Revisited the trees in question; report is that most trees are looking good and coming back and budding in a healthy way
 - In reference to replacing plants...timing will be based on nursery availability

III. C.2. Walter S. Flint School Fund and Alice G. Wilson L.D. Batchelder School Fund

Superintendent Bernard and Mr. Connelly provided an update on the status of the Trust Funds that were reviewed by the Trustees of Trusts at the March 6, 2017 meeting of the School Committee.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to allocate from the Walter S. Flint School Fund the amount of \$29,285.03 to the construction of the new athletic fields at North Reading Middle/High School and the purchase of ancillary equipment. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to allocate from the Walter S. Flint School Fund the amount of \$6,000.00 to be combined with a contribution of \$6,000.00 from the Facility Rentals account to the Theater Program at North Reading Middle/High School for microphones and related technology purchases. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to allocate \$901.21 from the Alice G. Wilson L. D. Batchelder Recreation Fund to be spent at the Batchelder School in a way to be determined by the administration and the Batchelder Principal to purchase physical education equipment. Motion passed 4-0.

III. C.3. Superintendent's Evaluation

Ms. Imbriano facilitated a discussion of the Superintendent's Evaluation.

III. D.2. School Choice Public Hearing and Vote

Under the Education Reform Act of 1993 there is a need to hold an annual public hearing on School Choice. Becoming a Choice District mean 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, he or she is a student until graduation or the student opts to withdraw. The district receives an additional \$5,000.00 from the sending district's Chapter 70 funds for each student accepted. The vote by the School Committee is reported to the DESE by June 1, 2017.

Public Hearing for School Choice opened at 7:39 pm and closed at 7:40 pm.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to not participate in School Choice because the program as it is presently constructed ensures that the needs of some of the children of the Commonwealth cannot be met. Motion passed 4-0.

III. D.3. Fiscal Year 2016 End of Year Financial Report

Mr. Michael Connelly, Director of Finance and Operations, provided a review of the Fiscal Year 2016 End of year Financial Report provided by Giusti, Hingston and Company, Certified Public Accounts.

III. D.4. Northshore Education Consortium: Establishment of a Capital Fund Superintendent's Professional Practice Goal

The Northshore Education Consortium, of which the North Reading Public Schools is a member district and for which the Superintendent serves as a member of the Board of Directors, is seeking to establish a Capital Fund consistent with guidelines established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Superintendent Bernard presented the Northshore Education Consortium's proposal and the School Committee voted to approve the establishment of a Capital Fund.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the creation of a Northshore Education Consortium Capital Fund consistent with the guidelines established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and to also approve the NEC Capital Plan. Motion approved 4-0.

III. E.1. Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the March 23, 2017 Open Session/Budget Workshop minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to approve the March 27, 2017 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 4-0.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

Mr. Connelly provided a status report on the FY17 budget.

III. E.3. Staffing: There were no staffing updates.

III. E.4. Bids and Donations:

Superintendent Bernard requested the acceptance of the following donations:

- Edward W. Moynihan; \$100.00 donation to support the NRHS Track Team.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a \$100.00 donation from Edward W. Moynihan to support the NRHS track team. Motion passed 4-0.

- Compass Group (Chartwells); \$1,000.00 donation to provide a scholarship to a graduating NRHS senior of the class of 2017.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a donation of \$1,000.00 from the Compass Group (Chartwells) to provide a scholarship to a graduating NRHS senior of the class of 2017. Motion passed 4-0.

- North Reading Youth Athletic Association; \$1,500.00 to offset the cost of the new outfield fence at the high school.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a donation of \$1,500.00 from the North Reading Youth Athletic Association to offset the cost of the new outfield fence at the High School. Motion passed 4-0.

- North Reading High School Class of 2011; \$3,000.00 donation for the purpose of purchasing signage for the middle/high school campus.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a donation of \$3,000.00 from the North Reading High School Class of 2011 for the purpose of purchasing signage for the North Reading Middle/High School campus. Motion pass 4-0.

- North Reading Diamond Club; \$6,000.00 donation to offset the cost of the new outfield fence at the high school.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Koepke and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to accept with gratitude a donation of \$6,000.00 from the North Reading Diamond Club to offset the cost of the new outfield fence at the high school. Motion passed 4-0.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:

Mr. Venezia gave an update from the April 24, 2017 Finance Planning Team meeting.

Mr. Venezia gave an update from the Athletic Subcommittee meeting held on April 25, 2017.

Subcommittee Schedule:

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|----|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|
| a) | Athletic Facilities Committee | May 5, 2017 | 3:00 PM |
| b) | Finance Planning Team | May 8, 2017 | 8:15 AM |
| c) | Athletic Subcommittee | May 23, 2017 | 12:30 PM |

III. F.2. Administrative Report:

- **Congratulations, E. Ethel Little School Community! Superintendent's Professional Practice Goal**

Congratulations and appreciation are extended to the E. Ethel Little School Community for this past weekend's "Community Build" of the new playground at the Little School. A formal dedication ceremony is set for 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 2017.

- **Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestra Performance: Sunday, May 7, 2017 Superintendent's Professional Practice Goal**

The Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestra will again perform two free concerts in the Performing Arts Center at North Reading Middle/High School on Sunday May 7, 2017 (2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.).

- **Congratulations to Coach Craig Stone**

Congratulations are extended to North Reading/Lynnfield Wrestling Coach Mr. Craig Stone on his induction to the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame. A ceremony was held at Gillette Stadium on Saturday, April 29, 2017.

- **J. T. Hood School Grant; 2017 American Academy of Dermatology's Shade Structure Program**

J. T. Hood School Principal Mr. Glen McKay has announced that the Hood School is the recipient of a grant issued by the American Academy of Dermatology. This grant includes the installation of a Shade Structure to provide shade to those making use of outdoor recreational facilities at the Hood School.

- **Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America Fundraiser**

A fundraiser is being held at Fuddruckers in Reading to support the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America on May 17, 2017.

III. F.3. Correspondence: No correspondence at this time.

IV. Future Business:

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|---------------------------|---------|--|
| May 15, 2017 | 6:30 PM | Regular Meeting Middle/High School Distance Learning Lab |
| May 30, 2017 (TUESDAY) | 6:30 PM | Regular Meeting E. Ethel Little School Presentation E. Ethel Little School Cafeteria |
| June 5, 2017 | 6:30 PM | Town Meeting; Performing Arts Center Pre-Meeting; Superintendent's Conference Room |

Mr. Venezia presented a “retirement” gift to Mr. Clifford Bowers as he retires from nine years serving on the North Reading School Committee. Each of the School Committee members thanked Mr. Bowers for his time and commitment to the North Reading School District.

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Venezia and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to adjourn at 8:28 pm. Motion passed 4-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Representative – School Work
2. FY18 Budget Update
3. FY18 School Budget PowerPoint Presentation
4. Memo Regarding the Recommendations of the Walter S. Flint School Fund & Alice G. Wilson L. D. Batchelder School Recreation Fund
5. End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent
6. Town of North Reading, MA. Agreed Upon Procedures Report on the End of Year Financial Report – June 30, 2016
7. Recommendation from the Northshore Education Consortium for a Capital Fund
8. Minutes: March 23, 2017 – Open Session/Budget Workshop
9. Minutes: March 27, 2017 – Open Session
10. FY17 Budget Report
11. Gift Acceptance Memo – Edward W. Moynihan
12. Gift Acceptance Memo – Compass Group (Chartwells)
13. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading Youth Athletic Association
14. Gift Acceptance Memo – NRHS Class of 2011
15. Gift Acceptance Memo – North Reading Diamond Club
16. Flyer – An Afternoon of Spring Concerts – Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestra
17. American Academy of Dermatology Grant Winner Letter
18. Flyer – Fuddruckers Benefits – Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America