

North Reading Public Schools
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: March 18, 2020
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Virtual Meeting (1-402-287-4625/PIN: 188 088 723#)

School Committee Members Present

Scott Buckley
Janene Imbriano
Dyana Boutwell
Rich McGowan
Chris Pappavaselio

Staff Members Present

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools
Michael Connelly – Assistant Superintendent of Finance
and Operations

Visitors: There were no visitors at this meeting.

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 8:30 AM.

II. A. Public Input:

There was no public input.

II. B. Student Report:

There was no student report.

II. D.1. Update: COVID-19 and North Reading Public Schools:

Dr. Patrick Daly gave an update on the district's response to COVID-19. He started by thanking the School Committee and the entire Administrative team for their tireless work these past several days. Up to date information is available on the district's website, as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Per order of Governor Baker, all schools are closed for three weeks, until April 7, 2020, and these are considered non-school days. Teachers are checking in with students and putting out recommendations and resources, but there are no graded assignments.

Assistant Superintendent Michael Connelly gave an update on the work of the custodial staff in cleaning the buildings; the food service staff is working with the North Reading Food Pantry. Starting Monday, March 23rd a Grab and Go pick-up and delivery service for students eligible for free and reduced price school meals (breakfast and lunch) will be implemented. Anyone in need can reach out to Anna McGovern, Food Service Director for assistance.

The School Committee members thanked Dr. Daly and the Administrative team. Continual updates on the school closing schedule are available on the district website. Discussion ensued on elementary parent-teacher conferences, which were interrupted by the school closings. This will be addressed at the next School Committee meeting on March 23, 2020.

II. D.2. Payment of Wages:

The Committee discussed payment of wages for North Reading Public Schools employees during this period of closure. Mr. Connelly indicated that standard wages will continue to be paid to full-time employees, including long-term substitutes covering leaves of absence through April 7, 2020. There will be further discussion on contractual issues and bus drivers after April 7th.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to support the administration's plan to continue to pay employees their regular wages through April 7, 2020. The motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

II. E.1. Minutes: There were no minutes.

II. E.2. Budget Update:

Mr. Connelly provided an update on RFP's received from outside companies on energy saving initiatives (e.g., LED lighting). A selection committee will be formed to include Superintendent Patrick Daly, Assistant Superintendent Michael Connelly, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds Wayne Hardacker, Scott Buckley and Dyana Boutwell of the Budget Subcommittee, Finance Committee member Don Kelliher, and a community member with knowledge of LED and solar lighting. This will be discussed further at the March 23, 2020 School Committee meeting.

II. E.3. Staffing: There was no staffing report.

II. E.4. Bids and Donations: There were no bids or donations.

II. F.1. Subcommittee Updates:

The updates were passed over to the March 23, 2020 meeting. Subcommittee meetings have been cancelled until further notice.

II. F.2. Administrative Report: There was no Administrative Report.

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

III. Future Business:

March 23, 2020	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting Virtual Meeting
April 1, 2020	3:00 p.m.	Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Workshop TBD
April 13, 2020	6:30 p.m.	School Committee Meeting: FY21 Budget Public Hearing Distance Learning Lab at North Reading Middle/High School

IV. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to adjourn at 9:45 a.m. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.