

**North Adams Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
September 3, 2019**

MINUTES

The School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools met Tuesday, September 3, 2019, in the Office of the Superintendent, 10 Main Street, Second Floor, North Adams.

Members present

Mayor Thomas Bernard, chair
Heather Boulger, vice chair
Ian Bergeron
Karen Bond
James Holmes
Tara Jacobs

Member not present

Nicholas Fahey

Also attending

Dr. Barbara Malkas, Superintendent
Carrie Burnett, Business Administrator
Timothy Callahan, Principal, Drury High School
Kimberlee Chappell, Literacy/Title 1 Coordinator
Sandra Cote, Principal, Greylock Elementary School
Amy Meehan, Principal, Colegrove Park Elementary School
Nancy Rauscher, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Thomas Simon, Director of Student Support Services
Carolyn Wallace, Principal, Brayton Elementary School

Michelle Darling, Teacher, Drury High School, North Adams Teachers Association (NATA) Co-President
Stephanie Kopala, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, Drury High School
Stacy Parsons, Regional Technical Liason with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, North Adams Public Schools
Lisa Tanner, Teacher, Colegrove Park Elementary School, NATA Co-President
Josh Moran, Liaison to the School Committee, North Adams City Council

Press

Tammy Daniels, *iBerkshires*

The mission of the North Adams Public Schools is to help every child learn every day and empower all students to recognize and optimize their full potential.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bernard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of June 18, 2019, School Committee meeting

The committee considered the minutes from the June 18, 2019, School Committee meeting.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019, School Committee meeting.

Action #6210 minutes from June 18, 2019	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Balance sheet

The school committee reviewed the balance sheet.

No action was required.

C. Personnel Reports

The school committee reviewed the personnel reports for the months of July and August 2019. Superintendent Malkas reviewed the list of new staff hired over the summer for the 2019-2020 school year.

It was **moved** by committee member Holmes and **seconded** by committee member Bond to place the personnel reports on file.

Action #6211: personnel reports	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. School Opening

Superintendent Malkas gave an overview of the district convocation. The opening day for staff included a video presentation, “*Overcoming Bias in Schools*,” with Dr. Tracey Benson; staff break-out sessions including “*Stop the Bleed*” led by State Trooper Canata and School Resource Officer Detective Beaudreau; an introduction to new compliance training, “*Public School Works*;” “curriculum updates;” and updates from the North Adams Teachers Association (NATA).

School principals reported on opening day for students, indicating a positive first day at each of the schools. Principal Meehan noted that the kindergarten at Colegrove Park Elementary School has high enrollment for 2019-2020.

No action was required.

B. Employee Handbook

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the highlights of the revised 2019-2020 employee handbook. Superintendent Malkas noted revisions included updates to reflect changes to 51A reporting procedures, the North Adams Public Schools policy on social media, staff contacts, and the addition of the North Berkshire Academy and the annual review of curriculum materials.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the 2019-2020 Employee Handbook.

Action #6212: 2019-2020 Employee Handbook	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

C. Brayton Elementary School Student Handbook

Superintendent Malkas and Principal Wallace reviewed highlights of the 2019-2020 Brayton Elementary School student handbook, including the addition of the North Adams Public Schools’ new bicycle transportation policy. Superintendent Malkas confirmed that the schools would continue to work toward consistency across the student handbooks where applicable.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Brayton Elementary School Handbook.

Action #6213: 2019-2020 Brayton Elementary School Handbook	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

Committee member Jacobs expressed concerns with the district’s current student dress code policy.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to have the district consult with the district’s legal counsel to advise on the district dress code policy, with follow-up by the policy sub-committee as needed.

Action #6214: Seek legal counsel on dress code policy	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

D. Colegrove Park Elementary School Student Handbook

Principal Meehan reviewed highlights of the 2019-2020 Colegrove Park Elementary School student handbook, including the addition of the North Adams Public Schools’ new bicycle transportation policy.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the Colegrove Park Elementary School Handbook.

Action #6215: 2019-2020 Colegrove Park Student Handbook	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

E. Greylock Elementary School Student Handbook

Principal Cote reviewed highlights of the 2019-2020 Greylock Elementary School student handbook, including the addition of the North Adams Public Schools’ new Bicycle Transportation policy.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Greylock Elementary School Student Handbook.

Action #6216: 2019-2020 Greylock School Student Handbook	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

F. Drury High School Student Handbook

Principal Callahan and Stephanie Kopala reviewed highlights of the 2019-2020 Drury High School student handbook. Principal Callahan noted the inclusion of the new block schedule, as approved by the Drury School Council over the summer.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Drury High School Handbook.

Action #6217: 2019-2020 Drury High School Student Handbook	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The committee discussed the specifics of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) academic eligibility language.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee chair Bernard to refer the MIAA language referencing academic eligibility and rule 58 to the district’s legal counsel for further interpretation.

Action #6218: Refer MIAA academic eligibility and rule 58 language to district’s legal counsel for review	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

G. Open House Schedule

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the schedule for the September 2019 open houses at each of the schools.

It was **moved** by committee member Bond and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to file the open house schedule.

Action #6219: Open House Schedule	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

H. End-of-Year Report

Superintendent Malkas and Business Administrator Burnett highlighted the Scanlon & Associates end-of-year independent accountant’s report on applying agreed-upon procedures over compliance for year ended June 30, 2018, noting no findings, and provided an update on the end-of year report filing for June 30, 2019.

No action was required.

I. Water Sampling Report

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the latest water testing results for each of the schools. All lead and copper levels have tested below actionable levels.

It was **moved** by committee member Bergeron and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to file the water sampling report.

Action #6220: Water Reports (Lead and Copper Sampling Program)	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

A. McKinney-Vento needs assessment

Director of Student Support Services Simon introduced Stacy Parsons, the district's Regional Technical Liaison with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Simon explained that the funding for this position comes from a \$10,000 grant from the state to help remove barriers to high quality education, with an emphasis on educational stability to keep students enrolled in school. Ms. Parsons will be conducting a community needs assessment, including identifying professional development opportunities for staff.

No action was required.

B. Brayton Elementary School: School Improvement Plan 2019-2022

Principal Wallace reviewed the Brayton Elementary School improvement plan.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the Brayton Elementary School, School improvement plan.

Action #6221: Brayton Elementary School: School Improvement Plan	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Greylock Elementary School: School Improvement Plan 2018-2020

Principal Cote reviewed the Greylock Elementary School improvement plan.

It was **moved** by committee member Bergeron and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the Greylock Elementary School improvement plan.

Action #6222: Greylock Elementary School: School Improvement Plan	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

C. Colegrove Park Elementary School: School Turnaround Plan

Principal Meehan reviewed the Colegrove Park Elementary School turnaround plan. Principal Meehan noted that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is meeting with the school quarterly to review timelines and milestones.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by vice chair Boulger to approve the Colegrove Park Elementary School turnaround plan.

Action #6223: Colegrove Park Elementary School: Turnaround Plan	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

D. Drury High School School: School Turnaround Plan

Principal Callahan reviewed the Drury High School turnaround plan. Principal Callahan noted that fundamental structures are being put in place to support the plan.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Drury High School turnaround plan.

Action #6224 Drury High School: Turnaround Plan	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Superintendent Malkas distributed a print out of the on-line district calendar noting the open house dates, Start with Hello week, Sandy Hook training, Walk to School Day, Attorney General Healy’s scheduled visit, and the bike rodeo at Greylock Elementary School.

Superintendent Malkas distributed the Drury High School athletic calendar for September.

Chair Bernard expressed congratulations on recent “Best of the Berkshire” awards to the North Adams Public Schools’ 21st Century program, for the best after-school program, and Ms. Krista Gmeiner, for being recognized as the best teacher in the Berkshires.

Chair Bernard thanked Drury High School Principal Callahan and Drury Director of Curriculum and Instruction Stephanie Kopala, for participating in the recent Downtown Celebration and providing Drury High School brochures and enrollment materials.

Chair Bernard noted that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) has continued its accreditation of Drury High School.

Chair Bernard acknowledged appreciation for the “*In Kindergarten*” book, an initiative of the Berkshire Museum. The book was distributed to North Adams Public Schools students during kindergarten screening and registration.

Chair Bernard wished everyone good luck for a strong, successful school year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Bernard announced that the committee would enter into executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21 to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2019, executive session and to conduct a strategy session for negotiations with professional and non-professional staff with the intent to reconvene in open session.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by member Jacobs to enter into executive session. Chair Bernard administered the roll call:

Action #6225: Enter into Executive Session	
Ayes: Heather Boulger Ian Bergeron Karen Bond James Holmes Tara Jacobs Chair Thomas Bernard	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The committee entered into executive session at 7:56 p.m.

The committee exited executive session at 8:33 p.m.

The committee reconvened in open session at 8:34

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the North Adams Teachers’ Association and the North Adams Public Schools School Committee, Appendix B - Salary Differentials, Brayton Elementary Chorus.

Action #6233: MOA Brayton Elementary Chorus	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the North Adams Teachers' Association and the North Adams Public Schools School Committee, Article V- Teaching Hours and Workload, Section H, Guidance Counselor and Director of Curriculum and Instruction (Drury); Appendix B – Salary Differentials, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (Drury)

Action #6234: MOA DCI (Drury)	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, North Adams Teachers' Association and the North Adams Public Schools School Committee, Article V- Teaching Hours and Workload, Section D, Preparation Periods, Collaboration Time; Article V- Teaching Hours and Workload, Section E, Assignment Language.

Action #6235: MOA High School Schedule	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the Agreement between the North Adams Paraprofessional Association/MTA/NEA and the North Adams School Committee, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022.

Action #6236: Para Agreement	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Bernard indicated that there was no more business to come before the committee.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bond to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rauscher, Administrative Assistant