

**North Adams Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
April 2, 2019**

MINUTES

The School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools met Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in the Office of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

Members present

Mayor Thomas Bernard, chair
Ian Bergeron
Karen Bond
Nicholas Fahey
Tara Jacobs

Members not present

Heather Boulger, vice chair
James Holmes

Also attending

Dr. Barbara Malkas, Superintendent
Carrie Burnett, Business Administrator
Andrew Callahan, Student Representative
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

Joshua Moran, Liaison to the School Committee, North Adams City Council

Joyce Brewer, Program Manager, Berkshire Area Health Education Center
Wendy Penner, Director, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition

Press

Adam Shanks, The Berkshire Eagle

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

HEARING OF VISITORS

There were no visitors to be heard.

READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

A. Minutes of March 5, 2019, School Committee meeting

The committee considered the minutes from the March 5, 2019, School Committee meeting.

It was **moved** by committee member Fahey and **seconded** by committee member Bond to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019.

Action #6165: minutes	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Balance sheet

The school committee reviewed the balance sheet.

No action was required.

C. Personnel Report

The school committee reviewed the personnel report. Superintendent Malkas indicated that the district has begun posting open positions for the 2019 – 2020 school year due to pending retirements, current waivers, and right of assignments. Superintendent Malkas indicated there was notice of a mid-year resignation of a math teacher at Drury High School, effective April 12, 2019.

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

Action #6166: personnel report	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Supporting Youth in North Adams, 2019 Prevention Needs Assessment

Wendy Penner, Director of Prevention and Wellness, Northern Berkshire Community Coalition (nbCC), presented findings from the 2019 Prevention Needs Assessment for North Adams. Ms. Penner indicated that the survey is administered by the nbCC every two years. Superintendent Malkas stated that NAPS is using data from the survey to help inform the administration's decision-making.

No action was required.

B. Vaping Presentation

Committee member Tara Jacobs introduced the vaping discussion by sharing her experience working on anti-smoking campaigns and drew similarities to challenges currently presented by the increase in vaping among students.

Joyce Brewer, Tobacco-Free Community Partnership Program Manager, Berkshire Area Health Education Center, provided an overview on vaping and its impact on teenagers. Ms. Brewer also shared literature providing more information on how to quit smoking, noting that studies show vaping leads to an increased use of nicotine dependency and addiction.

Ms. Brewer reiterated that vaping had increased at Drury High School since November of 2018 when the prevention needs assessment survey was administered. The school recommended that the Wellness Committee consider this issue.

No action was required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Statement of Interest (SOI): Greylock Elementary School

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the Greylock Elementary School SOI with the committee, noting that the document had been reviewed in-depth at the March 13, 2019 finance and facilities sub-committee meeting. Chair Bernard informed the committee that the North Adams City Council voted to approve the submission of the SOI. Superintendent Malkas confirmed she would submit the SOI to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) the week of April 8, 2019.

No action was required.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance and Facilities Sub-Committee

Sub-committee chair Fahey and Superintendent Malkas updated the committee on the finance and facilities sub-committee meeting held on March 13, 2019. The sub-committee agenda included a review of the draft FY20 budget, the draft SOI for Greylock Elementary School, and the Chapter 70 review work to-date.

No action was required.

B. Draft FY20 Budget review

Superintendent Malkas and Business Administrator Burnett presented the FY20 budget proposal to the school committee. The presentation included an overview of the proposed budget and a summary of grant revenue and expenditures. The proposal reflected a level service budget from 2018-2019.

The projected spending takes into account contractual obligations, utilities, transportation, and enrollment (including regular enrollment and special education/out of district placement). Business Administrator Burnett explained that the revenue sources supporting the proposed budget included \$13,795,263 from Chapter 70 (state aid), \$3,973,812 from the municipal contribution toward net school spending, and school choice funds in the amount of \$265,000.

Superintendent Malkas confirmed that the public hearing for the North Adams Public Schools FY20 budget would be held on May 7, 2019.

No action was required.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Superintendent Malkas noted that the April 2, 2019, meeting would be the last school committee meeting held at 37 Main Street. The May school committee meeting will be at the new location.

Chair Bernard indicated that the Drury jazz band will perform at city hall on Friday, April 12.

Chair Bernard noted that the recent issue of *School Administrator* magazine included an article on school resource officers in which Superintendent Malkas was quoted regarding the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the North Adams Public Schools and the North Adams Police Department.

Chair Bernard thanked Superintendent Malkas for serving as a member of the search committee for the city's next police chief.

It was noted that the MASC advocacy day is on Beacon Hill on Wednesday, May 1. Superintendent Malkas and committee member Jacobs will represent the district at this event.

ADJOURNMENT

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

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Fahey to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rauscher
Administrative Assistant
/nr