

**North Adams Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
May 7, 2019**

MINUTES

The School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools met Tuesday, May 7, 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
Nicholas Fahey
James Holmes
Tara Jacobs

Member not present

Karen Bond

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 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
Chrisopher Caproni, Teacher Drury High School

Press

Tammy Daniels, *iBerkshires*
Adam Shanks, *The Berkshire Eagle*

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bernard called the meeting to order at 6:02 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 April 2, 2019, School Committee meeting

The committee considered the minutes from the April 2, 2019, School Committee meeting.

It was **moved** by committee member Fahey and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the minutes of April 2, 2019.

Action #6169: minutes	
Ayes	6
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 been posting open positions for the 2019 – 2020 school year due to pending retirements, current waivers, and right of assignments. Chair Bernard requested a summary of pending retirements for the June 4, 2019, school committee meeting.

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

Action #6170: personnel report	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

D. Amend order of items on the agenda

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Jacobs to amend the agenda to re-order items and proceed to three items under New Business, including: Drury field trip request to Washington D.C.; Setting of tuition rates; and Non-precedent setting student tuition agreement.

Action #6171: re-order the agenda	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

A. Drury High School field trip request

Band director Christopher Caproni, presented the details of a field trip request for the Drury high school band to participate in the 2019 Independence Day parade in Washington D.C. Mr. Caproni noted that the July 2-5 trip is the third time in eight years that Drury Band student have participated in the parade.

Mr. Caproni noted that no high school student would be unable to attend the trip due to financial constraints.

It was **moved** by committee member Bergeron and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the proposed field trip to Washington D.C.

Action #6172: Drury Field Trip Request	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Setting of tuition rates for 2019-2020 school year

Superintendent Malkas explained that the school committee is asked to annually set the tuition rates where a student from another district enrolls to attend one of North Adams Public Schools or for special programs. The proposed tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year represent a 3% increase over 2018-2019 rates. The proposed tuition rates for 2019-2020 are: General Education, \$12,303; Special Education, \$22,175; and Special Programming, \$29,569.

The 2019-2020 rates also include tuition for the North Berkshire Academy, pending approval of the proposed shared services agreement between the North Adams Public Schools and participating districts.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by vice chair Boulger to approve the proposed tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year.

Action #6173: FY20 tuition rates	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

C. Non-precedent setting student tuition agreement

Superintendent Malkas reviewed a non-precedent setting agreement between the North Adams Public Schools and the town of Stamford, VT for an individual student.

The Superintendent noted that the agreement was developed with advice from the Massachusetts Department of Secondary and Elementary Education and school legal counsel, and is consistent with state law.

It was **moved** by committee member Fahey and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to approve the proposed non-precedent setting tuition agreement for an individual student.

Action #6174: individual student tuition agreement	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Service Learning Presentation

Dr. Kimberly Roberts-Morandi, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided an update on service learning programs in the North Adams Public Schools: Service learning projects are aligned with curriculum standards; recent projects include a literacy initiative for the E3 program; work with the Berkshire Food Project, and gardens at Drury High School and Brayton and Greylock elementary schools.

No action was required.

B. Wellness Committee Update

Superintendent Malkas provided an update from the April 29, 2019, meeting of the Wellness Committee. Committee member Jacobs, who serves on the Wellness Committee, noted that the April meeting included a recommendation to create a sub-committee to address vaping to be implement during the next school year.

No action was required.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. FY20 Budget Approval

Superintendent Malkas presented the North Adams Public Schools budget for fiscal year 2020. The proposed \$17,769,075 budget included a request for \$265,000 from the school choice revolving account, a \$15,000 increase over FY 2019, with the additional funds intended to cover increased stipends for school nurses, (as approved by the committee in October, 2019). Superintendent Malkas noted the level service budget represents a 2% increase over FY 2019.

The school committee reviewed the budget, and discussed the increase to the technology budget line due to reallocation of IT staff from the Title I grant to the appropriated budget.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Fahey to approve budget line 2305 0101 0031 0505 (Drury Teacher budget line; committee members Bergeron and Boulger abstained.)

Action #6175: Budget line 2305 0101 0031 0505	
Ayes	4
Nays	0
Abstentions	2
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Jacobs to approve budget line 2305 0101 0011 0035 (Brayton Teacher budget line; committee member Holmes abstained.)

Action #6176: Budget line 2305 0101 0011 0035	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Abstentions	1
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to approve the fiscal year 2020 school budget in the amount of \$17,769,075 and to authorize the presentation of the fiscal year 2020 budget by the superintendent to the Finance Committee of the City Council on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Action #6177: FY20 budget	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by vice chair Boulger to approve the transfer of \$265,000 from the school choice account to the Fiscal Year 2020 school budget.

Action #6178: transfer of \$265,000 from school choice to FY20 budget	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Greylock Elementary School Revised Field Trip Request

Principal Cote reviewed the revised request for Greylock Elementary School’s fifth grade field trip on June 10, 2019 to Mystic Aquarium to include a visit to the Mystic Seaport. This addition to the field trip will be funded by Williams College in connection with the Williams Mystic program.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the Greylock Elementary School field trip to Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport.

Action #6179: Revised Greylock field trip request	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS (continued, as per re-ordering of agenda items)

D. Shared Services Agreement for North Berkshire Academy

Superintendent Malkas presented a proposed shared services agreement for North Berkshire Academy. The agreement is a contract between the North Adams Public Schools and participating school districts for professional services for the 2019-2020 school year.

Superintendent Malkas explained that the North Berkshire Academy was developed as a collaborative public day program in partnership with the Northampton-based collaborative (CES) under a state efficiency and regionalization grant. The grant has ended and the required tuition rates under CES are prohibitively expensive. The success of the students in the program is a testament to the need to sustain the academy in Berkshire County.

The shared services establishes North Adams Public Schools as fiscal agent, and establishes participating and non-participating member rates, allowing for continued engagement through a shared services agreement among participating districts, including North Adams Public Schools; North Berkshire School Union; Hoosac Valley Regional School District; Central Berkshire Regional School District; and Mount Greylock Regional School District. With approval of this agreement by the school committee the other districts will be able to make this change with their respective communities and we can maintain this high quality program and continue to seek development of collaborative services for the region. The projected cost savings in FY 2020 to the North Adams Public Schools over the current structure through CES is \$154,000.

Superintendent Malkas noted that current staff of the North Berkshire Academy would be designated as North Adams Public Schools' employees.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Fahey to approve the proposed shared services agreement between the North Adams Public Schools and member participating school districts for the 2019-2020 school year.

Action #6180: North Berkshire Academy shared services agreement	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

E. New England School Development Council (NESDEC) Feasibility Report

Superintendent Malkas noted the statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for Greylock Elementary School was based on a NESDEC facility study from 2009. Since then there have been several changes including the opening of Colegrove Park Elementary School, grade reconfigurations, and inclusion of PreK into the elementary school buildings.

Superintendent Malkas presented a proposal to contract with NESDEC to provide updated long-term enrollment projections and trends to support district-wide decision-making. The proposed NESDEC study will include a community demographic report with district student enrollment projections; description of current and proposed educational programs; a capacity analysis; and the identification of alternative scenarios to school use. The cost is \$16,985 and \$195 per hour for any additional scope of work as requested by the district.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to approve the proposed contract with NESDEC with a fixed fee of \$16,985 and an hourly consultant fee of \$195 per hour.

Action #6181: Approve contract with NESDEC	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Holmes to fund the NESDEC study through the school choice account.

Action #6182: NESDEC proposed fees to be paid from school choice	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

F. Bicycle Transportation Policy: File JLID

Policy sub-committee chair Bergeron and Superintendent Malkas presented a proposed bicycle transportation policy, File JLID.

Policy sub-committee chair Bergeron and Superintendent Malkas presented a bicycle transportation policy that was developed by a subcommittee of the Wellness committee including Greylock Elementary School Dean of Students Sue Candiloro, Amanda Chilson from Mass in Motion, and Emily Schiavoni. The policy is based on a model provided by Safe Routes to Schools.

The policy was reviewed by legal counsel and represents approved best practices for supporting students who have parental permission to bike to school.

It was noted that while this policy will be piloted in 2019-2020 at Greylock Elementary School, the policy is a district-wide policy.

It was **moved** by committee member Fahey and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to approve the proposed bicycle transportation policy, File JLID.

Action #6183: Bicycle Transportation Policy, File JLID	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

G. Policy on Social Media

The committee reviewed and discussed revisions to the policy. The committee elected to postpone further review of the policy to the June 4, 2019 school committee meeting.

H. 2019 Drury High School Summer Credit Recovery Program

Principal Callahan reviewed the 2019 Drury High School summer credit recovery program. Last year 36 students participated in the program: 34 from Drury and two from out of district. Principal Callahan noted that this is a program that allows students to recover up to two credits during the summer break.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by vice chair Boulger to approve the 2019 Drury High School Summer Credit Recovery program.

Action #6184: 2019 Drury Summer Credit Recovery Program	
Ayes	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Committee member Holmes thanked the staff at Drury for inviting him to participate in career day.

Vice chair Boulger announced the Greenhouse was hosting their annual open house sale on May 10 and 11, noting this was a great opportunity to purchase herbs and plants.

Vice chair Boulger shared that the Nu Sigma/Pro Merito honor society induction ceremony would be held on Thursday, May 9, at Drury and extended congratulations to all being inducted into the honor societies.

Vice chair Boulger noted the Drury prom was being held on Saturday, May 11, at the NORAD mill.

Vice chair Boulger encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming North Adams Memorial Day festivities on Monday, May 27.

Committee member Jacobs and Superintendent Malkas shared their experience in Boston while attending the Massachusetts Association of School Committee's "Day on the Hill" advocacy program on May 1.

The committee acknowledged Dean of Students Jonathan Slocum and Food Services Director Nicholas for their efforts with the "healthy starts to school" breakfast program. It was noted that both Brayton and Colegrove Park elementary schools would be recognized at the State House for earning gold star status by achieving a student participation rate above 80%.

Chair Bernard announced Superintendent Malkas will receive a president's award from the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents.

In recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day, Chair Bernard thanked all North Adams Public School staff for the work they do each school day.

Chair Bernard thanked Principal Wallace and the Brayton Elementary School community for hosting the swearing-in ceremony for North Adams Police Chief Wood.

Chair Bernard and the committee congratulated Andrew Callahan on his pending graduation and thanked him for serving as student representative to the school committee this year.

Committee member Bergeron thanked Principal Cote for the work done in connection with hosting the recent Greylock Elementary School Science Fair.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Bernard announced that the Committee would enter into executive session to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and would reconvene in open session.

It was **moved** by committee member Bergeron and **seconded** by member Holmes to enter into executive session. Chair Bernard administered the roll call:

Chair Bernard	aye
Vice chair Boulger	aye
Committee member Bergeron	aye
Committee member Fahey	aye
Committee member Holmes	aye
Committee member Jacobs	aye

The committee entered into executive session at 7:52 p.m.

The committee exited executive session at 8:01 p.m.

The committee reconvened in open session.

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	6
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rauscher
Administrative Assistant
/nr