

**North Adams Public Schools
School Committee Meeting
November 7, 2018**

MINUTES

The School Committee of the North Adams Public Schools met Wednesday, November 7, 2018, in the Office of the Superintendent, 37 Main Street, Suite 200, North Adams.

Members present

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

Members not present

Nicholas Fahey
James Holmes

Also attending

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

Vincienza Alicandri, Student, Drury High School

Press

Tammy Daniels, iBerkshires

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bernard called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 October 2, 2018, School Committee meeting

The committee considered the minutes from the October 2, 2018 School Committee meeting.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Jacobs to approve the minutes of October 2, 2018.

Action #6126: minutes	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Balance sheet

Business Administrator Carrie Burnett reviewed the balance sheet as of September 30, 2018. Business Administrator Burnett responded to questions from committee members Jacobs and Bergeron regarding annual spending rate relative to prior years. Business Administrator Burnett confirmed that the insurance line spending is consistent with prior years. Business Administrator Burnett indicated that technology expenditures are less than previous years as some of these expenses are being covered by grants for 2018 – 2019. Business Administrator Burnett explained that the overall spending to-date is in line with the FY19 appropriated budget.

No action was required.

C. Personnel Report

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the personnel report. Superintendent Malkas indicated that currently there are two open teaching positions in the district due to unanticipated resignations. Superintendent Malkas responded to a question from committee member Jacobs about mentor stipends. Superintendent Malkas explained that Year 1 teachers are assigned a trained mentor to improve instructional practice and help navigate policies and practices. Since 2005, we have had protocols in place to guide appropriate mentor assignments.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to place the personnel report on file.

Action #6127: personnel report	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

A. Certificate of Academic Excellence

Superintendent Malkas presented the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents' *Certificate of Academic Excellence* to Vincienza Mai Alicandri, the daughter of Linh Brown. This singular honor is conferred annually to the highest ranking high school senior in the district; a student who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence. The committee extended their congratulations and good wishes to Vincienza Alicandri.

No action was required.

B. DESE District Review

Superintendent Malkas presented the final DESE District Review document as submitted to DESE on October 10, 2018. Superintendent Malkas explained that the on-site review team had noted that they are very interested to watch where the North Adams Public Schools go over the next few years as we embark on a period of growth. Superintendent Malkas indicated it will be four to five months before we receive a draft report from DESE. At that time only factual information can be corrected. A final report will be issued to the School Committee in the coming year.

Overall it was understood that the on-site review visit went very well. Observers noted how organized the District was with its preparation. Superintendent Malkas shared that the effort put forth by the Administrative team showcased the district well, while at the same time provided an honest description of the District's needs.

Chair Bernard thanked school leaders, faculty and staff for managing the effort required to respond to the DESE review. The Chair noted that the North Adams Public Schools will ultimately be able to reflect on the findings of the review to build on a good foundation through the processes that are in place to allow us to do the work needed to integrate the recommendations.

It was **moved** by vice chair Boulger and **seconded** by committee member Bergeron to file the *DESE District Review* document.

Action #6128: DESE district review	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

A. \$413 gift from Saint John's Episcopal Church, 35 Park Street, Williamstown

Superintendent Malkas and Principal Wallace announced a gift from Saint John’s Episcopal Church to Brayton Elementary School. Principal Wallace noted that this donation to Brayton Elementary School was made to support the needs of students where needed most. The gift may cover items such as supplies, clothes, toiletries, or other items needed by students depending on what is needed most as the year progresses.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by committee member Bond to accept the gift of \$413 from Saint John’s Episcopal Church.

Action #6129: gift from Saint John’s	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

B. Policy Sub-Committee Update

Superintendent Malkas and the Policy Sub-Committee reported on the Policy Sub-Committee meeting held on October 16, 2018.

Committee member Bergeron updated the Committee on the discussions around the policies focused on “alternative structured learning day programs” also known as the “blizzard bag” policy; field trips; and fundraising activities. These policies will be further refined at the next Policy Sub-Committee meeting on November 26, 2018, with the goal of presenting to the School Committee at the December 4th meeting for approval.

Superintendent Malkas confirmed that the sub-committees review and current draft of the “alternative structured learning day program” policy was informed by union input as well as parental input.

Committee member Bergeron shared that the Policy Sub-Committee was working to ensure that the revised field trip policy language underscores that all students are to have access to field trips, regardless of ability to pay. It was agreed by committee member Jacobs that the language should reinforce accessibility.

Committee member Bergeron noted the review and discussion around fundraising policies is to better inform the crowdfunding policy for both faculty and students. The Policy Sub-Committee will also be reviewing the social media policy at their upcoming meeting.

It was **moved** by committee member Jacobs and **seconded** by vice chair Boulger to accept the Policy Sub-Committee update.

Action #6130: Policy Sub-Committee Update	
Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMITTEE

Superintendent Malkas reviewed the schedule for the upcoming performances of the Drury High School musical, *Sweet Charity*. Superintendent Malkas shared that the students were very excited about their upcoming performances and the musical looked to be absolutely top-notch.

Mayor Bernard asked that Colegrove Park Elementary School parents and guardians not use the library as a cut-through to the intersection of East Main Street and Church Street as this poses a danger. Signs will be posted to reinforce this message.

Mayor Bernard shared that the *City of North Adams 2018 Holiday Food Drive* is currently underway, noting the annual food drive runs from 11/5 through 11/15. The Mayor explained that the food drive benefits the Northern Berkshire Interfaith Action Initiative's Al Nelson Friendship Center Food Pantry and this year's goal is to exceed 900 pounds of food to be delivered to the pantry on 11/16 at 9:00.

Mayor Bernard noted that the annual Veterans Day parade would be held on 11/11.

Committee member Karen Bond announced Greylock Elementary School is hosting a Spaghetti Supper on 11/8 at 4:30 at Greylock Elementary School and invited all to attend.

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 Jacobs to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes	5
Nays	0
Result	Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rauscher
Administrative Assistant
/nr