

North Reading Public Schools
North Reading, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting of the School Committee
Open Session

Date: February 10, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Place: Distance Learning Lab at North Reading Middle/High School

School Committee Members Present

Dyana Boutwell

Scott Buckley

Janene Imbriano

Rich McGowan

Chris Pappavaselio

Staff Members Present

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools

Michael Connelly – Assistant Superintendent of Finance
and Operations

Cindy Elmore –Recording Secretary

Visitors: Ms. Samantha Galvin (Class Representative – 2020), Ms. Judy Dymont (NR Representative to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School), Mr. Jay Picone (Finance Director, Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School), Dr. Carla Scuzzarella (Principal, Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School), Ms. Jillian String (of the North Reading Transcript)

I. Call to Order Open Session:

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 6:02 PM. in the Superintendent's conference room.

Executive Session:

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Pappavaselio and seconded by Ms. Imbriano pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with union and non-union personnel, and to reconvene in Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

At 6:26 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Imbriano to return to Open Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session back to order at 6:32 PM.

II. A. Public Input:

There was no public input.

II. B. Student Report:

Ms. Samantha Galvin, Class of 2020, presented the Student Report and her class work to the School Committee.

II. D.1. Presentation: Representatives of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School

Ms. Judy Dymont, North Reading's Representative to the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School, Mr. Jay Picone, Finance Director; and Dr. Carla Scuzzarella, Principal, of the Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School, presented the programs and initiatives taking place at the school, where students from North Reading are eligible to attend high school vocational education programs.

II. D.2. Land to Be Considered for Purchase

Mr. Buckley discussed the Town's first refusal option to purchase property located at 14 Concord Street ("Seven Acres Turkey Farm"). The Committee reviewed the information presented and agreed they had no objection to the Town purchasing the land for future use.

II. D.3. Fiscal Year 2021 Budget: SEEM Collaborative

Superintendent Daly provided the Fiscal Year 2021 budget highlights for the SEEM Collaborative, which has been adopted by the Board of Directors.

II. D.4. VISTA Survey

Each year the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education asks Superintendents and Principals to participate in providing feedback in the form of a survey (VISTA). The student survey, Views of Climate and Learning (VOCAL) is voluntary and is administered at the conclusion of the MCAS test in grades 4, 5, 8 and 10. After a discussion, the School Committee voted against North Reading students taking the VOCAL survey.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to continue once again to decline the VOCAL survey after the MCAS in grades 4, 5, 8 and 10. Motion passed 5-0.

II. D.5. Mid-Year Update: School Improvement Plans Superintendent's Professional Practice Goal

Superintendent Daly reviewed the Mid-Year Update Reports for each of the five schools, identifying the work that is being done by each school to achieve the goals set forth in its School Improvement Plan.

III. D.6. Mid-Year Update: School Committee Goals for 2019-2020

Superintendent Daly facilitated a discussion of a mid-year review of the progress of the School Committee in meeting its established goals for the 2019-2020 school year.

III. E.1 Minutes:

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Imbriano and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to approve the January 27, 2020 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

III. E.2. Budget Update:

There was no budget update.

II. E.3 Staffing:

There was no staffing update.

II. E.4. Bids and Donations:

- Hood Parents' Association: \$440.00 donation to be used towards Hogan/Crosby workshop

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to accept with gratitude a donation of \$440.00 from the J. Turner Hood School Parents' Association to be used towards a staff workshop for Heidi Hogan and Paula Crosby at the Hood School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Hood Parents' Association: \$500.00 donation to be used towards the Grade 5 field trip

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to accept with gratitude a donation of \$500.00 from the J. Turner Hood School Parents' Association to be used towards the Grade 5 field trip to Kimball Farms. Motion passed 5-0.

- Little School Parents' Association: \$6,900.00 donation to purchase 30 Chrome Books

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to accept with gratitude a donation of \$6,900.00 from the Little School Parents' Association to fund the purchase of 30 HP Chrome Books and applicable licensing at the Little School. Motion passed 5-0.

- NRPS staff, community members and friends of Jon Bernard: \$2,714.21 Jon Bernard Scholarship

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Pappavaselio to accept with gratitude a donation of \$2,714.21 from North Reading Public Schools staff members, community members and friends of Jon Bernard to fund the Jon Bernard Scholarship to be awarded to future high school graduates of North Reading High School. Motion passed 5-0.

III. F.1. Subcommittee Updates:

Ms. Imbriano provided an update of the January 31, 2020 Finance Planning Team meeting.

Mr. Connelly provided an update of the February 5, 2020 CIPC meeting.

Ms. Boutwell provided an update of the February 10, 2020 Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Subcommittee Schedule:

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| a) Substance Use Coalition | February 25, 2020 | 10:00 AM |
| b) Athletic Subcommittee | February 26, 2020 | 12:30 PM |
| c) Fine Arts Subcommittee | February 26, 2020 | 2:30 PM |

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|----|-----------------------|-------------------|---------|
| d) | NORCAM BOD | February 27, 2020 | 7:00 PM |
| e) | Finance Planning Team | March 5, 2020 | 8:15 AM |

III. F.2 Administrative Report:

- **Update: Student Opportunity Act (Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019)**
North Reading is among the 57% of districts who are “held harmless” and will not be receiving additional funds as a part of the Student Opportunity Act. However, we are still required to submit form of our plan to the DESE by April 1, 2020 describing how we will be using the approximately \$69,600 in Chapter 70 aid. Stakeholders will be engaged as we develop this plan, which will be presented to the School Committee on March 23, 2020 for a vote.

There are four commitments that we are required to make when we submit out plan:

1. Intentionally focus on student subgroups who are not achieving at the same high levels as their peers;
 2. Adopt, deepen or continue specific evidence-based programs to close opportunity and achievement gaps for student subgroups and allocate resources to support these programs;
 3. Monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement among student subgroups over three years with a small number of metrics and targets; and
 4. Engage families, particularly those families representing student subgroups most in need of support, about how best to meet their students’ needs.
- **Bravo! to the cast and crew of the “Rock of Ages”**
Congratulations are extended to Ms. Carla Lister, North Reading Middle School’s Friends of Hornet Productions, and the cast and crew of “Rock of Ages.”
 - **North Reading High School Assistant Principal Search**
On February 10, 2020 the position of North Reading High School Assistant Principal was posted. A timeline for the search process was distributed.
 - **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Recognition Ceremony**
On Monday, May 11, 2020 the L.D. Batchelder School will be recognized as a 2019 School of Recognition and E. Ethel Little School will be recognized as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon school. Since the Superintendent and Principals would like to attend this evening ceremony a recommendation was made and it was agreed to change the May 11, 2020 School Committee meeting to May 18, 2020.

III. F.3. Correspondence:

No correspondence at this time.

IV. Future Business:

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| March 2, 2020 | 6:30 PM | Regular Meeting
Distance Learning Lab at North Reading Middle/High School |
| March 23, 2020 | 6:30 PM | Regular Meeting
Distance Learning Lab at North Reading Middle/High School |

V. Adjournment:

The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Pappavaselio and seconded by Mr. McGowan to adjourn at 8:09 pm. Motion passed 5-0.

Documents and Exhibits:

1. Student Work
2. Town of North Reading Select Board Notice of Public Hearing
3. SEEM Collaborative Approved FY2021 Budget Highlights
4. Views of Climate and Learning (VOCAL) Survey Project
5. L.D. Batchelder School Improvement Plan – Mid-Year Update
6. E. Ethel Little School Improvement Plan – Mid-Year Update
7. J. Turner Hood School Improvement Plan – Mid-Year Update
8. NRMS – School Improvement Plan – Mid-Year Update
9. NRHS – School Improvement Plan – Mid-Year Update
10. NR School Committee Goals Action Plan 2019-2020
11. Gift Acceptance Memo – J.T. Hood Elementary School Parents' Association
12. Gift Acceptance Memo – J.T. Hood Elementary School Parents' Association
13. Gift Acceptance Memo – E. Ethel Little School Parents' Association
14. Gift Acceptance Memo – Jon Bernard Scholarship
15. NRHS Assistant Principal Search Process Timeline