

**North Reading Public Schools**  
North Reading, Massachusetts

**Regular Meeting of the School Committee**  
*Open Session*

Date: June 12, 2023

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: Hybrid: Distance Learning Lab / Virtual Meeting [meet.google.com/cxq-kauo-muy](https://meet.google.com/cxq-kauo-muy)  
Join by phone (+1 475-441-4825 / PIN: 932 356 195#)

***School Committee Members Present***

Dyana Boutwell  
Scott Buckley  
Jeff Friedman  
Rich McGowan  
Noelle Rudloff

***Staff Members Present***

Patrick Daly – Superintendent of Schools  
Michael Connelly – Assistant Superintendent of Finance  
and Operations (arrived 5:40 pm)  
  
Cindy Elmore – Recording Secretary

**I. Call to Order Open Session:**

Chair Scott Buckley called the Open Session to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Executive Session:**

*At 4:31 p.m. the Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Buckley to enter into Executive Session to discuss negotiations with union and non-union personnel and that they would resume in Open Session following the Executive Session. Motion passed 5-0 on a roll call vote.*

Mr. Buckley called the Open Session back to order at 5:08 p.m.

**II. A. Public Input:** There was no public input.

**II. B. Student Report:**

Cassandra Fitts, Class of 2024 provided the student report and presented her class work.

**II. D.1. Recognition of NRPS Retirees:**

The Superintendent and School Committee recognized the following teachers and staff members in the district who are retiring:

Kathleen Casazza – Special Education Paraprofessional, Little School  
Maureen Cusolito – Administrative Assistant, Middle School  
Joe Davis – Science Teacher, Middle School  
Barbara Fitzgerald – ELL Teacher, District  
Jane Kerhulas – General Paraprofessional, Little School  
Anne Lundell – Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
Carol MacHugh – General Paraprofessional, Middle School  
Dianne Maguire – Digital Learning Paraprofessional, Little School

Colleen Pennie – Special Education Paraprofessional, Batchelder School  
Jo Anne Thorlin – Special Education Teacher, Batchelder School  
Bill Cassell – Grade 3 Teacher, Batchelder School

**II. D.2. School Committee Award of Appreciation:**

The School Committee believes that it is important to recognize the outstanding accomplishments, work, and service made by individual parents, citizens, and community groups and organizations which contribute to the improvement and quality of education and the schools.

A nomination for a School Committee Award of Appreciation was received from Dr. Catherine O’Connell, Principal of the Middle School who recognizes Geof Simons for his clean-up and planting of a garden at the front of Middle School.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve that the School Committee present Mr. Geof Simons with the School Committee Award of Appreciation to recognize that “Geof cleaned up a weeded area in front of the Middle School main office and planted a beautiful garden. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. D.3. Biology Study:**

Ms. Katelyn Jolibert, North Reading High School Biology Teacher, presented information about the opportunity for students to participate in the “Blueprint of Life” Biology lessons that involve a student survey with opt-out provisions.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the study from WestEd for the next school year. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. D.4. SEPAC Presentation:**

Ms. Kathy O’Donnell Bustin, Co-President of the North Reading Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), along with Ms. Cynthia Conant, Director of Student Services, updated the School Committee on the projects completed in school year 2022-2023 and upcoming projects for the 2023-2024 school year.

**II. D.5. Review of Town Meeting Warrant Articles:**

The School Committee discussed relevant Town Meeting articles for the Town Meeting scheduled for tonight, June 12, 2023.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Mr. McGowan to recommend Article 3. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Boutwell to recommend Article 11. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Boutwell to recommend Article 19. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. Friedman and seconded by Ms. Boutwell to recommend Article 25. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Mr. Friedman to not recommend Article 35. Motion passed 3-2, Ms. Boutwell and Ms. Rudloff voted no.

**II. E.1 Minutes:**

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the May 8, 2023 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the May 8, 2023 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the May 22, 2023 Executive Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

The Committee voted on a motion by Ms. Boutwell and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to approve the May 22, 2023 Open Session minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. E.2. Budget Update:**

Mr. Connelly, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, gave an update of the FY23 budget and presented the student activity quarterly report which reflects activity through March 13, 2023.

**Booster and Support Group Application of Recognition:**

The North Reading High School Baseball Boosters has successfully completed the requirements of the application for recognition of a booster and support organization under School Committee Policy LEC.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to recommend that in adherence to School Committee Policy LEC the North Reading School Committee vote to recognize the above organization as a support group and authorize School Administration to work collaboratively with them for the betterment of the North Reading Schools. Motion passed 5-0.

**II. E.3 Staffing:** No staffing update.

**II. E.4. Bids and Donations:**

- Hood School Parents' Association – Donation of \$90,000.00 to help fund the play structure.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$90,000.00 from the Hood School Parents' Association to help fund the Hood School play structure. Motion passed 5-0.

- Batchelder School Parents' Organization – Donation of \$15,000.00 to help fund the wireless clock system for the entire school.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 from the Batchelder School Parents' Organization to help fund the wireless clock system for the entire school. Motion passed 5-0.

- Hood School Parents' Association – Donation of \$300.00 to help fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip transportation.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$300.00 from the Hood School Parents' Association to help fund the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade field trip transportation. Motion passed 5-0.

- Hood School Parents' Association – Donation of \$3,015.60 to help fund the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Kimball Farm.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$3,015.60 from the Hood School Parents' Association to help fund the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Kimball Farm. Motion passed 5-0.

- Middle School Parents' Association – Donation of \$1,920.00 to help fund the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Museum of Science field trip.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$1,920.00 from the Middle School Parents' Association to help fund the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Museum of Science field trip. Motion passed 5-0.

- Chartwell's Compass Group – Donation of \$1,000.00 towards NRHS scholarship.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$1,000.00 from Chartwell's Compass Group to support a scholarship for a student at the High School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Little School PTO – Donation of \$400.00 defray the cost of buses for 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to the Museum of Fine Arts.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$400.00 from the E. Ethel Little School PTO to help defray the costs of buses for a 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to the Museum of Fine Arts. Motion passed 5-0.

- NRHS Hornet Hall of Fame – Donation of \$6,000.00 to be used for soccer nets.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation of \$6,000.00 from The North Reading High School Hornet Hall of Fame to purchase soccer nets to benefit the students of the High School. Motion passed 5-0.

- Little School PTO – Donation of \$330.00 defray the cost of buses for 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Ipswich River Park.

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude a donation in the amount of \$330.00 from the E. Ethel Little School PTO to help defray the costs of buses for 5<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Ipswich River Park. Motion passed 5-0.

- Batchelder School Parent Organization – In-kind donations of \$39,392.87 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following list of activities

Expense Category	2022-2023 School Year
Teacher Supply Reimbursements	3,196.43
Enrichment Activities	4,444.50
Class Field Trips	17,571.63
General School Supplies	
Other Miscellaneous Items	14,180.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,392.87</b>

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude the extensive in-kind donations for the above list of school activities and expenses for the 2022-23 school year from the Batchelder School Parents' Organization totaling \$39,392.87. Motion passed 5-0.

- J. Turner Hood School Parents' Association – In-kind donations of \$13,338.98 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following list of activities

Expense Category	2022-2023 School Year
Teacher Appreciation Events	2,032.13
Enrichment Activities	7,267.25
Class Field Trips	3,839.60
General School Supplies	200.00
Other Miscellaneous Items	983.73
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,338.98</b>

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude extensive in-kind donations for the above list of school activities and expenses for the 2022-23 school year from the J. Turner Hood Elementary School Parents' Association totaling \$13,338.98. Motion passed 5-0.

- E. Ethel Little Elementary School Parents' Association – In-kind donations of \$24,965.21 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following list of activities

Expense Category	2022-2023 School Year
Teacher Classroom Supplies	2,848.50
Enrichment Activities	7,376.50
Class Field Trips	5,706.00
General School Supplies	4,044.10
Other Miscellaneous Items	704.86
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,965.21</b>

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude in-kind donations for the above list of school activities and expenses for the 2022-23 school year from the E. Ethel Little Elementary School Parents' Association totaling \$24,965.21. Motion passed 5-0.

- Middle School Parents' Association – In-kind donations of \$4,092.23 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following list of activities

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>2022-2023 School Year</b>
Teacher Supply Reimbursements	0.00
Enrichment Activities	2,650.00
Class Field Trips	560.00
General School Supplies	
Other Miscellaneous Items	882.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,092.23</b>

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude in-kind donations for the above list of school activities and expenses for the 2022-23 school year from the Middle School Parents' Association totaling \$4,092.23. Motion passed 5-0.

- High School Parents' Association – In-kind donations of \$3,695.46 for the 2022-2023 school year for the following list of activities

<b>Expense Category</b>	<b>2022-2023 School Year</b>
Teacher Supply Reimbursements	
Enrichment Activities	3,250.00
Class Field Trips	
General School Supplies	
Other Miscellaneous Items	445.46
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,695.46</b>

The Committee voted on a motion by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to accept with gratitude in-kind donations for the above list of school activities and expenses for the 2022-23 school year from the High School Parents' Association totaling \$3,695.46. Motion passed 5-0.

## **II. E.5. Grants:**

A survey will be shared with middle school students as part of the district's participation in the Arts and Cultural Vitality Index grant.

## **II. F.1. Subcommittee Reports:**

Mr. Buckley provided an update on the Finance Planning Team meetings of June 2, 2023 and June 9, 2023.

Mr. McGowan and Dr. Daly gave an update on the May 23, 2023 Athletic Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Rudloff gave an update on the May 31, 2023 Fine Arts Subcommittee meeting.

There are no scheduled subcommittee meetings at the time.

**II. F.2 Administrative Report:**

- Dr. Daly commented on how wonderful the Class of 2023 Graduation went last Friday. The speeches were excellent and the amount of money the class earned in donations is remarkable. Congratulations to the Class of 2023.
- Dr. Daly was pleased to say that he was able to award Logan the Service Dog with the School Committee Award of Appreciation.

**II. F.3. Correspondence:**

- Mr. Buckley has received several emails regarding the school district's budget and is glad to have the community commenting on the budget. It is nice to have the input from the community

**III. Future Business:**

Monday	July 24, 2023	TBD	Goals Workshop
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**IV. Adjournment:**

*The Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. McGowan and seconded by Ms. Rudloff to adjourn at 6:36 pm. Motion passed 5-0.*

**Documents and Exhibits:**

1. NRPS School Committee Award of Appreciation Nomination
2. WestEd Parent/Guardian Informational Letter
3. SEPAC Presentation
4. Minutes – Executive Session – May 8, 2023
5. Minutes – Open Session – May 8, 2023
6. Minutes – Executive Session – May 22, 2023
7. Minutes – Open Session – May 22, 2023
8. FY23 Student Activity Quarter 3 Report (January-March 31, 2023)
9. Booster and Support Group Application of Recognition and Application
10. Gift Acceptance Memo – Hood School Parents' Association
11. Gift Acceptance Memo – Batchelder School Parent Organization
12. Gift Acceptance Memo – Hood School Parents' Association
13. Gift Acceptance Memo – Hood School Parents' Association
14. Gift Acceptance Memo – Middle School Parents' Association
15. Gift Acceptance Memo – Chartwell's Compass Group
16. Gift Acceptance Memo – Little School PTO
17. Gift Acceptance Memo – NRHS Hornet Hall of Fame
18. Gift Acceptance Memo – Little School PTO
19. Gift Acceptance Memo – Batchelder School Parent Organization
20. Gift Acceptance Memo – J. Turner Hood Elementary School Parents' Association
21. Gift Acceptance Memo – E. Ethel Little Elementary School Parents' Association
22. Gift Acceptance Memo – Middle School Parents' Association
23. Gift Acceptance Memo – High School Parents' Association
24. ACV – Middle School Student Survey