

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts
JOINT MEETING
NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
NORTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING

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Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2017

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present:

School Committee Members: Chairman Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas. ***Absent:*** Mrs. Kathleen Stern.

Board of Selectmen: Chairman Robert Kimball, Mr. Michael Flaherty, Mr. Robert Salvo, Mrs. Mary Steele. ***Absent:*** Mr. Brad Bramwell

Also present: Town Manager Michael Yunits, Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta.

Call to Order: Chairman Sheedy and Chairman Kimball each called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

Interview and Vote to Appoint Permanent Building Committee Member:

The first order of business - interviews for two openings on the Permanent Building Committee. Mr. Robert Medeiros was first and gave his background and qualifications. The second candidate was Mr. James Slattery, also stating his background and qualifications. Members of both committees commented on their knowledge of both candidates and felt they were excellent candidates.

MOTION: by Mrs. Steele to appoint Mr. Robert Medeiros to the Permanent Building Committee

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Unanimous by both committees

MOTION: by Mrs. Steele to appoint Mr. James Slattery to the Permanent Building Committee

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Unanimous by both committees

Town Meeting Timeline:

Mr. Yunits said Town Meeting will most likely be May 14th. If so, the School Department budget would be due on March 19th. Mr. Kimball said there would possibly be a Special Town Meeting to discuss the location of the proposed Town Hall or Senior Center project. Several possible locations were mentioned: Wheaton property; privately owned land adjacent to Town Hall; former bank site on West Main Street adjacent to Yelle School; and state owned land on East Main Street near Rt. 495 and Leonard Street. He said it would be advantageous to combine Town Hall and the Senior Center if approved.

Adhoc Committee Update:

Mr. Savas said the Adhoc Committee had been meeting over the past two years, but it was difficult to set regular meetings. At this time the committee has been disbanded, but hopefully more informal meetings could continue in the future. Mrs. Cohen agreed that it was a beneficial experience and the two boards are working well together. They will exchange meeting minutes to keep up on current matters. All agreed that it was great to share ideas and work together. Dr. Baeta referred to the formula used by the State to fund the school & municipal budgets and mentioned that due to unexpected out of district special education placements, the school department is responsible for \$430,000 more than what was budgeted. Mr. Kimball suggested that both boards could draft a joint letter in an attempt to rally support in funding and send it to every community in Massachusetts. Dr. Baeta will draft a letter and send it to Mr. Yunits. Mrs. Steele stated that the Finance Committee will meet with Selectmen and School Committee prior to budget formulation. The public will be invited. The location is scheduled for Norton Middle School Library.

Discussion on Water/Sewer Sprinkler System Fee:

Mr. Yunits, Dr. Baeta and chairs of both committees will meet with Town Council to discuss the recently established fees by the Water/Sewer Commission. Municipal buildings are assessed a fee for their sprinkler systems. Mr. Kimball asked why they should pay a fee for a service they do not use. Town departments decided not to pay until clarification can be provided. There is a need to know what is done with the money, and the Town has no intention of paying. Is there justification for the fee? Dr. Baeta said the School Department received the bill after July 1st, after the budget was set. Mr. Kimball said each building is paying \$1000 per year for something they are not using. Mrs. Steele said the public should be informed as to where the money is going, and how much is being paid to consultants, etc.

Mr. Kimball discussed the sewer connections on Rt. 123. Future construction, redesign of Rt. 140, and traffic lights will cause disruption in the area for the near future.

Mr. Kimball also mentioned that the Water/Sewer Commission is required to provide a dispensing machine to deliver clean, filtered water free for the community. Possible locations were discussed.

Other:

Dr. Baeta informed the Selectmen that Norton Public Schools is one of 477 school districts in the U.S. to be placed on the College Board's 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Student Access and Success.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Kimball

SECOND: by Mr. Salvo

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern

NORTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robert Kimball, Jr., Chairman

Bradford Bramwell, Vice-Chairman

Robert Salvo, Sr., Clerk

Mary Steele

Michael Flaherty