

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Monday, January 10, 2011

**Location:** Norton Middle School Library

**Attending:** Committee Members: Chairperson Andrew Mackie, Vice-chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Mr. Tom Golota was absent with prior notification. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and Student Representatives Kady Ferguson and Sara Pishdadian and were also present.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Mackie called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:**

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, both regular and executive session, were approved by a 4-0 vote.

**Transfers:**

Dr. Ansay requested to transfer funds from the regular salary account to the regular expenses account to support materials and equipment for the high school and middle school. A request for transfer of funds from regular expenses to the SPED bus account for necessary repairs was also requested. On a motion by Mrs. McManus, seconded by Mr. Savas, the transfers were approved by a 4-0 vote.

**Futures Education Analysis Results – Mr. Michael Neiman, Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:**

Mr. Michael Neiman and Dr. Michael Paladino, along with Mrs. Sullivan, provided a comprehensive summary of the clinical and educational service analysis of the Norton Public Schools Special Education Department. The evaluation took place May – July, 2010. Strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement were discussed. Dr. Ansay and Mrs. Sullivan will develop an action plan to be implemented in the near future.

**Vote to Approve Hazing Policy:**

There have been procedures and policies in place for several years. These policies are published in the student handbooks and relayed to students, athletes, and coaches at mandatory parent athletic meetings. At this time the Committee is formalizing the practice by approving the Hazing Policy. On a motion by Mr. Savas, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the Committee voted to approve the policy as written by a vote of 4-0.

**Vote to Approve Grade Placement and Eligibility for High School Graduation of Students Leaving a Commonwealth Charter School and Seeking Enrollment in a District School:**

Chapter 12, Section 11 of the Acts of 2010, requires:

*Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of elementary and secondary education shall draft a model policy for school districts regarding the grade placement and eligibility for high school graduation of students leaving a commonwealth charter school and seeking to enroll in a district school. In drafting the model policy, the department shall confer with school districts and commonwealth charter schools. The model policy shall be made available not later than December 31, 2010.*

The school district will decide which grade a student should be placed in depending on the time of year. Graduation will be determined on an individual basis and if graduation requirements have been met. On a motion by Mrs. McManus, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the Committee approved the policy by a 4-0 vote.

**Update on Norton High School Building Project – Dr. Ansay:**

On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Ansay, Mr. O’Neil, and Mr. Mackie participated in an interview process as part of the MSBA “Designer Selection Panel.” JCJ Architecture was hired as the designer. Over the next six weeks the feasibility study and expansion/renovation options will be finalized. JCJ will meet with high school staff to determine space needs, etc. School Committee, Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Building Committee will meet jointly in the near future. A large group from SBA will visit during February vacation.

**Discussion relative to School Committee – NHS Building Project Needs:**

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, a representative from JCJ Architecture will meet with the School Committee for the purpose of attaining members’ input.

**Personnel:**

**Retirement:**

Miss Linda Gefis, JCS Special Education Teacher, effective December 31, 2010, after 35 years of service.

**Other:**

Dr. Ansay acknowledged a generous donation from Norton Cable Access to supplement equipment for the middle school.

DECA students recently attended a convention and many students advanced to the state competition.

Chairman Mackie made a motion to enter executive session, not to return to open session. On a roll call vote all members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, January 24, 2011, at Norton Middle School

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.  
Secretary pro tem

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