

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Monday, January 24, 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 joined the meeting in progress. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and Student Representative Kady Ferguson 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 Meeting:**

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the minutes of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, both regular and executive sessions, were approved by a 4-0 vote.

**Transfers:**

There were no budget transfers.

**Middle School Update – Mr. Michael O’Rourke:**

Principal O’Rourke wished to update the Committee on happenings at the middle school and future plans. He presented an overview of goals with the emphasis on learning, how students learn, and steps to take if a student is not learning. He also spoke on the Intervention, Correction, and Enrichment initiative. The New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) visit in October, 2008, acts as an ongoing guide. Mr. O’Rourke informed the Committee the math lab was up and running. The canine squad had visited the school as a pro-active approach to students’ safety and well-being. Other items mentioned were Geography Day, Project 351, students’ input on the high school project, learning walks, professional development, anti-bullying assemblies, Homework Club, Community Service Club, TV studio, and a visit from author Fern Schumer Chapman in April.

**Middle School Math Update – Mrs. Mary Taylor:**

Mrs. Taylor introduced Mr. David Murphy, new teacher in the math lab. She updated the Committee on the lab and explained the four strands. They hope to make it a hands-on class, alternating with Math Plus, and helping to reinforce math concepts.

**Norton High School Course Approval for 2011-2012 – Mr. Ray Dewar:**

Principal Dewar presented the following courses, at the request of NHS staff, for School Committee approval:

*AP Environmental Science* – Level 1 – A grant was received last year to train teachers.

*Advanced Creative Writing* – Level 1 – for students interested in developing their creative writing skills.

*Honors Interdisciplinary Art* – one semester course.

Mrs. McManus made a motion to approve the three courses as described by Mr. Dewar. Mr. Golota seconded the motion, which was approved by 5-0 vote.

**Norton High School Recap of Community Service Learning:**

Mr. Dewar reviewed the types of community service students are involved with. He has documented 11,079 community service hours with still more to be added.

**Update on NHS Building Project – Mr. Greg Smolley:**

Greg Smolley, JCJ Architecture, and Margaret Wood, Project Manager from Pinck & Co. provided a brief update. They expect the reimbursement to be between 56-60 percent, with the cost of \$20-\$30 million dollars. The feasibility study will be given to the SBA in February, and schematic designs will be submitted in April. The Town Meeting vote will be held in June. They have had positive outreach and have met with 80 high school students and 40 middle school students. Mr. Smolley presented preliminary drawings. Option 1 would just add stairways for egress, address the safety codes, and renovate the existing building which is lacking 20,000 sq. ft. Option 2 would include additions to the first and/or second floors to increase the square footage to acceptable educational programmatic standards. Additions will make it possible to move classes around when the main building renovation is in progress. New options will be presented at the next building committee meeting.

**Mission, Vision, Core Value Statements – Dr. Ansay:**

Dr. Ansay requested input from the Committee for revision of the Mission, Vision, Core Value Statements before it is presented to the Site Councils, etc.

**Personnel:**

Retirements effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year

- Marcia Kennedy, JCS Grade 1 Teacher
- Rebecca Ramsey, HAY Grade 4 Teacher
- Donna Arruda, NHS SPED Teacher
- Lynn Ito, NHS Guidance

Mrs. McManus made a motion to enter executive session, not to return to open session, seconded by Mrs. Werner. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, February 7, 2011, at Norton Middle School

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

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