

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Monday, February 7, 2011

**Location:** Norton Middle School Library

**Attending:** Committee Members: Chairperson Andrew Mackie, Vice-chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Tom Golota, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and Student Representative Sara Pishdadian 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 Mr. Savas, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the minutes of the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, both regular and executive sessions, were approved by a 5-0 vote.

**Transfers:**

A transfer of funds from the Technology Administrator salary account for the purchase of items including textbooks, supplies, and equipment was recommended by the Superintendent. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the transfer as described by Dr. Ansay, seconded by Mrs. McManus, and approved by a 5-0 vote.

**H. A. Yelle MCAS Achievement Recognition From DESE – Mrs. Farrell and HAY Staff:**

The Yelle School has been recognized by the DESE as one of fifteen schools to have narrowed achievement gaps for low-income students. The school will receive a \$10,000 award through a Title 1 Academic Achievement Grant. A representative from the DESE will visit the school in April. Initiatives such as new texts, MCAS support sessions, SMILES mentoring, physical restructuring, lesson planning, and Title 1 math have enabled the school to make such progress. Mrs. Farrell made a Powerpoint presentation for the Committee highlighting the techniques used in classrooms. Mr. Mackie thanked and congratulated the Yelle staff for this accomplishment.

**School Calendar – 2011/2012 School Year:**

Dr. Ansay discussed the starting and ending dates, professional development days, and early-release days. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the 2011/2012 school calendar, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Strategic Plan Questionnaire; Mission, Vision, Core Values Statement:**

Dr. Ansay mentioned the brief questionnaire given to the Committee and asked for comments on the Mission, Vision, Core Values Statements.

**Update on Norton High School Building Project:**

Mr. Kevin O'Neil gave a brief update on the progress so far. Mrs. Margaret Wood arrived with architectural drawings of the proposed design options. The Feasibility Study is due to the MSBA on February 18<sup>th</sup> and will determine if the state will allow the district to proceed with the schematic design phase. The options are renovation of the existing building and bring it up to code, a renovation/expansion project to accommodate science classrooms, or construction of a new building. The building addition appears to be the preferred option so far. A single floor addition would accommodate new science classrooms. A two-floor addition would put science classrooms/labs on the second floor and move the cafeteria to the first floor, making it more accessible to the public. This option would provide for renovation of substandard areas and better arrangement of classrooms. The School and Building Committees will meet with the Finance Committee and Selectmen next week to discuss the project. Final approval of the project will be decided at Town Meeting in the spring. Discussion followed the presentation and Mr. Mackie voiced concern regarding the library.

**Personnel:**

Mrs. McManus announced the retirement of Mr. Peter Leddy, high school science teacher, at the close of school in June. She highlighted his many academic and professional accomplishments over his 38 year career in education.

Chairperson Mackie motioned to enter executive session for the purpose of not returning to open session. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 8:14 P.M.

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

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

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