

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES

Date of School Committee Meeting: February 19, 2011

Location: Superintendent's Conference Room

Attending: Denis Savas, Tom Golota, Marge Werner and Beth McManus. Mr. Mackie was absent. Also in attendance was Dr. Ansay.

Call to Order: Executive Session began at 11:10 a.m.

Preliminary FY '12 Budget Discussion:

A question was posed to Superintendent Ansay about whether or not known retirees were taken out of the FY '12 budget. Superintendent Ansay reported in the affirmative, however, she did mention that Kindergarten registration is not over until the following Friday. She is unclear as to the number of Kindergarten teachers that will be needed. She has been informed by Principal Dewar that he is sorely in need of a Social Studies and dual-certified teacher at the high school level to help alleviate the significant class size issues in the social studies department.

Dr. Ansay also informed the School Committee that several teaching positions at some of the elementary schools can be reduced and that the current class sizes will not be impacted by such reductions. Those salary adjustments will be made in the next version of the FY '12 budget. Superintendent Ansay will return to the Committee with firmer numbers with all of these reductions and additions rolled into the draft FY '12 budget.

The question was asked about the need to close LG Nourse School this year and consensus of the Committee appeared that, if at all possible, this is not the year to engage in that task. Superintendent Ansay described FY '12 EduJobs balance. She also reiterated Mr. Purcell's description of the Town's financial status, restating the \$600,000 balance on the Town budget is actually, at this point, already at \$0 with increased health insurance percentages as well as Southeastern Vocational Technical School's increased tuition request will most likely be forthcoming. Superintendent Ansay's concern is that if the Governor's proposal for local aid to cities and towns is further reduced by the House or Senate versions of the FY '12 budget then the Town's bottom line will have gone from \$600,000 in the positive to a negative number of which the school side would be responsible for 70%. Superintendent Ansay also explained to members that the Governor's budget did make provision to increase the Circuit Breaker special education out of district

tuition reimbursement from 40% to 60%. That would result in an increase in revenue to the School Department for out of district tuition costs to approximately \$312,000. Dr. Ansay did mention that, with everything that she is reading, it does not appear that this increase in reimbursement will remain in the FY '12 House budget. She is recommending that the Committee not consider having that \$312,000 in FY '12 budget deliberations.

The regular meeting and discussion of the FY '12 budget was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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