

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2011

Location: Henri A. Yelle School Library

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

Call to Order: Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:

Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13th regular session, and June 13th and July 26th executive sessions, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Approval of Budget Transfer:

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of \$43,096 from the Special Education line to the regular education line for out-of-district tuition for a regular education student. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Savas, the transfer was approved by a 5-0 vote.

Opening of School Report – Superintendent of Schools:

Dr. Ansay reported that as of September 7th there are 2,801 students in preschool through Grade 12. There are 57 students in out-of-district placements, and approximately 13 students being home-schooled. The Foxboro Charter School will verify the number of Norton students enrolled this year. In June there were 208 students. There are 411 students at the H. A. Yelle School, 500 at the J. C. Solmonese School, 279 at the L. G. Nourse without the preschool, 672 at Norton Middle School, and 742 at Norton High School. These figures are very tentative and will be updated on Monday morning. Transportation ran very smoothly, and may need minor adjustments when the Kindergarten and preschool students begin later in the week.

On September 6th, 18 new teachers and professional staff were welcomed to the district. The new L. G. Nourse Principal is Cathy Luke, the new Norton Middle School Assistant Principal is Ronnie Goldstein, and the new Food Service Director is Suzanne Souza. Recognition was given to 30 staff members, three with 35 years of service, one with 30 years of service, one with 25 years of service, 11 with 15 years of service, and 14 with ten years of service.

Superintendent Ansay reviewed her proposed goals for 2011-2012:

- To provide grant-funded, additional in-house services for students with behavioral/emotional needs which interfere with learning.
- To be involved in all aspects of the NHS Building Project; provide correct data to the MSBA and Project Manager, in a timely fashion.
- Update the facility conditions of the 31 year old Solmonese School, including roof replacement, utilizing at least 50% grant funding.
- Complete two state audits; Coordinated Program Review and the Center for District & School Accountability Review.
- Monitor class sizes.
- Update employee job descriptions.
- Mentor the new Director of Operations & Facilities.
- Complete negotiations with all employee groups and individual contracts.
- Institute an inclusive service delivery model for K-12 special education students to provide wider exposure to expert content area teachers.
- Reduce the special education enrollment by 1% annually.
- Attain AYP in middle school mathematics in the aggregate and at the H. A. Yelle School in all subjects.
- Reduce the dropout rate at Norton High School by 1% annually.
- Monitor and maintain the FY '12 constrained school budget.
- Assist with the transition of the new Town Manager.
- Align Norton's English and Mathematics Curricula to National Standards.
- Provision software and professional development for staff to become proficient in data use.
- Increase number of out-of-district placements to collaboratives vs. private schools.

Opening of School Report – Principal Lisa Farrell:

Mrs. Farrell stated the enrollment numbers are 190 for Grade 4 and 211 for Grade 5. There are eight teachers at each grade level. This year, teaching models are comprised of two curriculum specialists and one learning specialist working together. She said the September 6th open house was well attended. Many programs will continue this year, such as SMILES mentoring, Helping

Hands Community Service, Grade 5 Band, Homework Heroes, and after school programs in the planning stage. Mr. Savas questioned Mrs. Farrell about class size and HAY teachers commented. The Committee thanked Mrs. Farrell for her presentation.

NHS Building Project Update – Mr. Tom Golota:

The building committee met during the summer and extended the contracts to Pinck & Company and JCJ Architecture. W. T. Rich and Company was selected as the Construction Manager at Risk, which enables the district to receive an extra 1% reimbursement. The addition will be first, to provide space for the classes to be moved about during the next phase of renovation. Mr. Golota showed the latest designs. The auditorium will be redesigned to accommodate handicap access, add air conditioning, and improve acoustics. The track is completed and the bleachers are due to be constructed soon. The actual ground breaking should begin in March. Updates can be viewed on the website, www.nhsbuildingproject.org.

Vote to Approve Fall Town Meeting Warrant Article:

During the summer the Yelle School had a pipe burst under the gym floor, causing considerable damage. An article is needed to spend the insurance money. The final figure will be determined, but the article needed to be submitted now. Mr. Mackie motioned to approve the article, seconded by Mr. Golota. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Personnel:

Mr. Savas read the personnel changes.

Resignations:

Andrea Fogg, JCS Autism/STEP Teacher
Lauren Herman, NMS School .6 Psychologist
Cheryl Lassey, JCS Adjustment Counselor
Maureen Doherty, NHS Para-Professional
Stacy Newman, NMS .7 Technology Integration Specialist
Susan Pell, LGN, .8 Speech
Germaine Milo, NHS Cook

Appointments effective September, 2011:

NHS

Liza Balzarini, Social Studies Teacher
Daniel Langmead, SPED Inclusion Teacher
Christina McGourty, SPED STEP Teacher
Nancy O'Brien, Guidance Secretary
Laura Twomey, SPED Inclusion Teacher
Joanna Wissler, Science Teacher

NMS

Michele Baeta, .5 SPED Chairperson

Daniel Blodgett, Grade 8 Social Studies Teacher
Janet Burzyk, .7 Technology Integration Specialist
Pamela Jensen, SPED Structured Resource Room
Nicole Nado, Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher
Jennifer Skowronek, Grade 8 SPED Teacher

HAY

Gia Sunderland, .8 Literacy Coach – HAY & JCS

JCS

Patricia Botteri, Nurse
Jeanette Call, SPED Teacher
Lauren Spates, Grade 3 SPED Teacher

LGN

Theresa Dunford, Nurse
Catherine Luke, Principal
Melissa Rego, Team Chairperson

Systemwide

Pamela Anderson, Curriculum Office Secretary
Jeanine Simmons, Crossing Guard
Suzanne Souza, Food Service Director

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor.
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 26th, 2011, at L. G. Nourse Elementary School.

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