

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, January 9, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Tom Golota, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Mr. Deniz Savas were absent. 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 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:

Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 5th open session meeting, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The vote was 3-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Mackie abstained.

Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19th meeting, both open and executive sessions, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The vote was 3-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Golota abstained.

Approval of Budget Transfers:

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of \$2,125 from the psychologist account and \$3,000 from the principal's secretary account to the Superintendent advertising line in order to pay for recent ads. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the transfers, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion.

NHS Physical Science Room Dedication Proposal:

Mrs. Tanya Benoit, Science Academic Coordinator, requested that the Physical Science Classroom in the new science wing of NHS be named in memory and honor of Peter Leddy, who recently passed away. Members of the Committee, colleagues, and students shared remembrances of Mr. Leddy's contributions as an educator, mentor, scientist, adventurer, coach, friend, and family man. Naming the science classroom in his honor would be a fitting tribute and a way to keep his memory alive. Dr. Ansay stated the NHS Site Council and Parent Board unanimously supported this request. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the request to name the Physical Science Room in honor of Mr. Leddy, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Vote to Approve New Courses at Norton High School:

Mrs. Heather Albritton began by informing the Committee of the many medals and trophies won by the DECA team at a recent competition. Twenty students qualified for the state competition.

Mrs. Albritton gave an overview of the proposed Fashion and Retail Merchandising course and provided the Committee with the textbook to review. This new course will help with the establishment of the new school store that is coming with the renovations. The Committee felt it was current and informative and seemed to be an exciting course for students. Total cost for the textbooks is approximately \$1,500. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the Fashion and Retail Merchandising course, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0 in favor and the motion carried.

Mrs. Pat Penza and Ms. Amy Mahoney requested the addition of honors classes for French and Spanish levels 2 & 3. This addition would allow for different pacing and assessment. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the addition of an honors level, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Eric Paulus requested that a new course, American History through Music, be added next year. This course would increase differentiated instruction. The cost would to add this course would be minimal. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the addition of American History through Music, seconded by Mr. Golota. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Superintendent Search Committee Update:

Advertising for the position has been submitted to the following: Norton Public Schools' website; Sun Chronicle; Boston Globe; Providence Journal; School Spring website; Ed Week On-Line publication; Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) website; Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) website; and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) website. The next meeting will be held on January 17th. Interview questions will be discussed and created. The Search Committee will narrow the candidate field to 10 and recommend 3-5 candidates to the School Committee.

Vote to Approve Capital Improvement Requests:

Capital repair requests are required to be submitted annually to the Town Manager for the Capital Improvement Committee on or about January 10th. Mrs. Werner serves as the School Committee representative. The priority items are the purchase of a SPED bus, JCS roof, and JCS inner core air conditioning. Dr. Ansay will submit several items as Town Meeting Articles. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the Capital Improvements Requests for 2013, seconded by Mr. Golota. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

Update on Norton High School Building Project:

Mr. Golota reported that furnishings, colors, and fixtures are being reviewed. The design development is approximately 90% complete. Certain items are still being refined for cost savings. A meeting with Town department officials will be held on January 27th to bring Police, Fire, DPW, Board of Health, and Building Inspector up to date. The next Building Committee Meeting will be held on February 7, 2012.

Personnel:

Retirement:

Mrs. Susan Taylor, JCS Grade 2 Teacher, at the end of the school year, after 36 years with the Norton Public Schools.

Resignation:

Mrs. Sandra DiBona, NHS Administrative Secretary

Appointments:

Mr. Paul Driscoll, NPS Network Technician, to the position of school representative for the Cable Access Board.

Mrs. Aimee Kolf, parent of NPS students, to the position of school representative for the Cable Access Board.

Other:

All the sports are doing well, and the student athletes are receiving many awards and honors.

The Committee asked the student representative how their college plans were proceeding.

The NPS staff raised and donated \$438 on Dress Down Day for the Norton Energy Fund to help heat homes of residents in need.

Mr. Mackie motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Golota. The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 23, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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