

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, February 6, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Vice-chairperson Deniz Savas, Mr. Tom Golota, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Mr. Andrew Mackie was 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:

Dr. Ansay opened the meeting with a moment of silence in remembrance of Mrs. Christine Condon, retired School Adjustment Counselor, who passed away on February 3rd.

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Savas made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23rd open meeting and January 28th budget workshop meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Approval of Budget Transfers:

There were no transfers.

Recognition of NHS Swim Team:

Attending the meeting were approximately 15 members of the swim team and coach Kim Bray. She introduced team captains and gave highlights of the team's season. Diving has also been added to the activities. The team is thankful to be able to utilize the Wheaton College pool and facilities. The School Committee praised the team for its outstanding season.

Vote on \$23,235,958.34 FY '13 Budget:

The recommended budget will be submitted to the Town Manager and then go to the Finance Committee. The School Committee will be invited to a Finance Committee meeting to present the budget. This budget reflects an increase of \$724,000, mainly due to contractual obligations, increased transportation costs, and out-of-district tuitions. Dr. Ansay said this is not a "wish list", and all items are essential. The Committee hopes the Town will support it. The budget will be presented in open forum later this spring. Dr. Ansay said Mr. Mackie was unable to attend the meeting but fully supports this budget. Mr. Golota made a motion to direct Superintendent Ansay to submit the FY '13 budget in the amount of \$23,235,958.34. Mr. Savas seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion.

Update on Norton High School Building Project:

The Project Team (Pinck & Co., JCJ Architecture, and WT Rich) recently met with the Building Committee to report on the 90% estimate, as well as the schedule. The estimates indicate that the project is approximately \$230K over budget. The team provided a range of possible cost reductions for review. The Building Committee approved \$130K in changes. The team will seek another +/- \$100K to close the gap. The project is moving along swiftly with the team completing pre-qualification of sub-contractors, and the bid document advertisement in mid-February. Recently the committee had the opportunity to preview some furniture. Hopefully the ground breaking will take place in early March.

Superintendent Search Committee Update:

The committee met on January 30th to finalize the interview questions and rating criteria. Much thought was given in selecting questions. The next meeting is February 13th and the committee will begin to review application packets received to date. The deadline for applications is February 17th. Dr. Ansay mentioned that the position was re-advertised on several sites.

Personnel:

Appointment:

Mrs. Margie Bettencourt – NMS Assistant Secretary. Transfer from the position of assistant secretary in the Special Education Office.

Other:

Dr. Ansay mentioned that local newspapers had covered recent math activities at the Yelle School. She also gave updates on activities of the wrestling team, as well as other sports teams.

Mr. Savas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Golota. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote. The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 5, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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