

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, January 6, 2014

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Phillip Lynch, and Mr. Andrew Mackie. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Operations and Finance Barry Nectow, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Student Representatives Cassidy McDonald and Tyler McNeill.

Call to Order: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013, Open Session

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor Mr. Lynch abstained motion carries

Student Representatives Update:

Tyler and Cassidy informed the Committee of some recent activities at the high school. The AP Biology and Science Honor Society had a field trip to the Body World exhibit in Boston. The National Honor Society is hosting graduates from last year's class to share their experiences after graduation with juniors and seniors. The Science Honor Society is working with students for the JCS Science Fair and have become pen pals with some of the students. Winter sports are going well. The boys track team is undefeated and the swimming and wrestling teams are also doing great. The Committee is glad to have the students as a regular part of the meeting.

NMS Unites: Friends Helping Friends – Mrs. Lisa Daley and Students:

Principal O'Rourke gave a brief overview of the creation of the program. Friends Helping Friends is a student group dedicated to breaking barriers and most importantly promoting respect and unity of all members of the NMS community. It is also part of a bigger movement at NMS that encourages all students to become agents of change whose actions can positively impact the school, community, and even the world. Staff members Lisa Daley, Pam Jensen, Jessica Meier, parents Casey Bortolotti, Carol Sheehan, and four students explained the mission and philosophy of the new program. Interest in the group grew to over 70 students this year. They now have

lunch buddies, bus buddies, and specials buddies. The middle school students also help out with the BICO students during the ICE period. Students who join may form a 1:1 friendship with another student or be in a friendship group, attend Special Olympics as a mentor or friend, participate in events possibly before and after school, and work with a friend in the classroom. Plans for the future were discussed. Currently there are 16 staff members and 3 parents working with the group. Dr. Baeta would like this program to be a district-wide effort because it is incredibly powerful.

Announcement of John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Recipient:

This year 53 Norton High School seniors are eligible for the John and Abigail Adams tuition waiver for up to eight semesters of undergraduate education at a Massachusetts state college or university if they meet all of the required criteria. The scholarship covers tuition only and must be used within six years of a student's high school graduation. The recipients for the Class of 2014 are as follows:

Abigail Anderson	Emily Anderson	Rachel Anderson	Kyle Aucoin
Wayne Belcher	Jeremy Beschi	Mason Bouchard	Ryan Brown
Kristen Caramanica	Natalie Connors	Kristen Cuneo	Nathan Diorio
Alison Dufault	Brandon Durocher	Jarrod Economou	Emma Hathaway
Alexander Feinschreiber	Kerrin Hughes	Nicholas Hynes	Christina Intoccia
Corina Jurczyk	Levi Kahn	Nicholas Keene	Joanna Kennedy
Nicole Kiley	Noah Lach	Alexander Lesiw	James Loring
Conor Lynch	Rachel MacDermott	Joseph Maia	Max Marcott
Sean Matthews	Myles Mcalpine	Cassidy McDonald	Tyler McNeill
Alicia Mello	Grant Monast	Andrew Morse	Emily Patrone
Brandon Perry	Meghan Pestana	Emily Quintanilha	Sarah Ready
Abigail Sitte	Sariah Sugarman	William Sullivan	Christine Tamulis
Johnathan Taylor	Trevor Taylor	Heather Walsh	Carl Weber
Merrianna West			

FY '15 Budget Presentation – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Mr. Nectow presented the 1st draft of the FY '15 Superintendent's budget request. They are trying to build a three-year budget. This is not the final recommendation. Budget items are sorted into three categories: 1) mandates (contractual and legal), 2) reinstatements, and 3) new requests-staff/programs. The Committee will have a second look at the budget on January 27th and will attend a budget workshop during the first week of February. The final request will be presented on February 10th. State funding is estimated at 70 percent. SPED tuition costs continue to increase. This budget request is an increase of \$1,960,284. Alternate ways to supplement the budget include: fundraising/increased funding from Town, implement School Choice, restructure Pre K-5, increase fees, entertain public/private business endeavors, and rent space to other programs. Options for funding a school resource officer were also discussed. Mr. Mackie felt this is the time for the state legislature to address this issue.

The Committee agreed on the budget workshop session for February 8th at 9:00 a.m.

Personnel:

New Hire:

Jeff Hallenbeck – Long-Term Substitute Wellness Teacher, NHS

Temporary Reclassification:

Wayne Devens, Junior Custodian Grounds (Days), to Junior Custodian (Nights) HAY

Michael Feneck, Junior Custodian (Nights) HAY to Junior Custodian Grounds (Days) for the period December 16, 2013 – March 7, 2014

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- NMS Unites Document
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship - 2014 Recipients
- Adams Scholarship Requirements
- Draft Budget
- Draft Budget Highlights

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 27, 2014, Norton Middle School

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem
