

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, June 2, 2014

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library

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

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Transfers:***

Surplus funds in accounts which were not fully spent down were transferred to supply accounts. Additional transfers will be recommended at the next meeting as well.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to transfer funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Approval of Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014 open session

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Student Representatives Update:***

The students listed some recent activities at the high school. Graduation is Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Xfinity Center, AP testing, elections for honor societies officers, Student Council Movie Night on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and the recent Prom in May at Lake Pearl Luciano's. The two new student representatives are sophomores Amanda Gilpin and Daniel Gao. Tyler and Cassidy will attend the final meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

***JCS Grade 2 Teacher, Mrs. Pauline Kitchen, and Students:***

Mrs. Kitchen's class has been practicing poems in class to build up reading fluency. Three of her students were present to read their favorite poems. The Committee thanked the students for their excellent presentation.

***Introduction of Class of 2014 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:***

Mrs. Lafayette introduced Class of 2014 Valedictorian, Tyler McNeill, and Salutatorian, Natalie Connors, and read their impressive biographies. Both students have distinguished themselves during their school years. The Committee congratulated them for their accomplishments.

***Recognition of NHS Track Coach, Mr. Kent Taylor:***

Coach Taylor was named 2013-2014 MIAA Coach of the Year for Outdoor Track – Boys. He has an extensive list of accomplishments and awards.

- 30 wins, 3 losses during last four spring track seasons
- Won Division 4 State Championship Relays for the first time in school history
- Named TVL Coach of the Year 10 times in 10 years for different seasons
- 17 sportsmanship awards in 6 years for different seasons
- Boston Globe Spring Track Coach of the Year 2012
- Voted 2009 “Teacher of the Year” by Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce
- Organized Norton Track and Field Road to provide scholarships for graduating athletes and donate funds to local food banks
- Build and maintain 3 Websites for Norton XC & Track and Field programs

In a show of support, many of the athletes and coaches attended the meeting. Mr. Taylor was extremely appreciative.

***Ratification of Teachers, Custodial, Clerical, and Paraprofessional Contracts:***

Superintendent Baeta recommended that the Committee ratify these contracts individually.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to ratify the Norton Teacher’ Association contract

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to ratify the Custodial contract

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to ratify the Clerical contract

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to ratify the Paraprofessional contract

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Introduction of New Norton Middle School Principal:***

Dr. Baeta introduced Mr. Vincent Hayward and briefly reviewed his resume. Mr. Hayward is anxious to join the district and thanked members of the search committee and Mr. Goldstein.

***Interview of School Business Manager Finalist:***

Dr. Baeta introduced finalist, Mr. Lincoln Lynch, for the Committee's approval. Mr. Lynch made opening remarks and the Committee asked several questions. Following the interview Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee approve the appointment effective on or about July 1, 2014.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to appoint Mr. Lincoln Lynch as School Business Manager

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Approval of Revisions to NHS and NMS Handbooks – Mr. Geoff Zini and Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:***

High School Assistant Principal Geoff Zini reviewed proposed changes to high school handbook regarding requirements for honor societies, guest policy for dances, adjustment to electronic equipment policy, credit progression, tobacco use policy, and parking fees.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to accept the NHS Handbook revisions as outlined by Mr. Zini

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

Mr. Goldstein, NMS Assistant Principal, reviewed revisions including bus discipline, improper use of cell phones, and possession of dangerous weapons.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to accept the NMS Handbook revisions as outlined by Mr. Goldstein

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Approve Superintendent to BICO Board of Directors:***

All BICO Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to appoint Superintendent Baeta to the BICO Board of Directors

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Approve BICO Capital Improvement Policy:***

The Committee reviewed the policy. School committee approval from at least 2/3 of member school districts is required.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the BICO Capital Improvement Policy

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Approve School Committee Dates for 2014-2015:***

The schedule of meetings is based on the current school year. After a brief discussion the Committee agreed to the schedule.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2014-2015

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Approve FY '15 Budget - Mr. Barry Nectow:***

School Committee proposed an increase of \$1,388,234 over FY '14 budget. Town Meeting voted a School Department budget of \$24,062,882, an increase of \$400,717 (1.7%) above the FY '14 budget. The Superintendent discussed the adjustments made in order to eliminate the deficit of \$987,517. Dr. Baeta said 3 teachers, 9 paraprofessionals, and a central office secretary had to be cut, along with some savings in tuition, SPED transportation, and retirements in order to meet the shortfall. Committee members expressed frustration with the results of the budget process and the way money was allocated at town meeting. They agreed to start planning for the FY '16 budget. The Committee took a vote on the final figure.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the FY '15 budget of \$24,062,882 as recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Project Early Fee Increase Discussion and Vote - Mr. Barry Nectow:***

The Superintendent proposed to increase the monthly fee for Project Early from \$165.00 to \$200.00. A recent survey of area towns was completed and Norton is on the lower end of fees charged for similar programs. Norton's last increase was several years ago. A fee increase could offset a portion of the expenses covered by the regular budget. The projected revenue increase is \$19,750. The Committee reviewed the figures and discussed the proposal.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to increase the monthly fee for Project Early to \$200.

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-1 in favor motion carries

***Personnel:***

Retirements:

NHS: Elizabeth Gibson, Special Education Teacher – 29 years with the district

NMS: Lynn Ducharme, Special Education Teacher – 9 years with the district  
Patricia Kalicki, Special Education Teacher – 32 years with the district  
Marilyn Porell, Science Teacher – 17 years with the district

JCS: Rosemary Kline, Kindergarten Teacher – 36 years with the district  
Carol Shipkin, Grade 1 Teacher – 36 years with the district  
Rosemary Spaulding, Title 1 Reading Teacher – 15 years with the district

Resignations:

NHS: Amy Mikels, English Teacher  
Diane Newell, English Teacher

NMS: Kim Spence, Social Studies Teacher

HAY: Timothy Lewis, Team Chair/School Counselor

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, June 9, 2014 at NMS Library

***Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:***

- Middle School Principal Resume
- Business Manager Packet
- BICO Capital Improvement Policy
- NMS/NHS Handbook Changes
- School Committee Meeting Dates: 2014-2015
- Valedictorian and Salutatorian Biographies

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

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Deniz Savas, Chairperson

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Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

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Valerie Desmond

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Andrew Mackie

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Margaret Werner