

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2014

Location: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Mr. Phillip Lynch, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Mr. Andrew Mackie. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, and Student Representatives Amanda Galpin and Daniel Gao.

Call to Order: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Lynch wished to amend the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting to indicate that the vote on the September 29, 2014 minutes should be 3-0, and 1 abstention.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Mrs. Farrell introduced the HAY staff members in attendance.

Transfers:

Transfer of funds from Tuition-Private Schools: \$130,587.31 to special education and regular education salary lines. This is funded through savings in tuition with the return of out-of-district students.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the transfer of funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Student Representatives Update:

The students listed some recent activities at the high school:

- Honors Chemistry students visited the Museum of Science.
- NHS Tapping ceremony for inductees into the honor societies. The induction ceremony is November 13th
- Students met with Franco Majok, formerly of southern Sudan and now a U. S. citizen, and learned about his experiences growing up in that country.

- NHS Open House for eighth grade students on November 5th
- Junior/Senior semi-formal to be held on November 10th
- On November 12, 40 Spanish honor students will attend a Spanish dance performance at Matignon HS in Cambridge.

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Lisa Farrell:

Mrs. Farrell said the school was off to a strong start. Current enrollment is 400 students. The Deaf/Hard of Hearing program is also at the Yelle School. Several staff members took a sign language workshop at NHS over the summer. The program administration is housed at HAY. A DHH student from the high school has been a peer model for the physical education classes several days a week at the Yelle school. Mrs. Farrell introduced Bob Bielawa, Dean of Students, a position that was instituted during the last school year. Again this year, Title I math and reading support is offered. A new program, GWYN (Get What You Need) is offered for ELA and math. MCAS highlights were covered. November is Family Literacy month. After school programs include Homework Heroes, Helping Hands, and Chess Club. HAY has a strong parent board helping to update the library. Mrs. Farrell thanked her staff and Dr. Baeta for all their support.

Mr. Savas spoke about the new position of Dean of Students and how it was developed due to a need over the last couple of years.

Announcement of Class of 2015 Adams Scholarship Recipients – Dr. Baeta:

The following 47 students qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship which provides free tuition to state institutions of higher learning for four years:

Marisa Amato	Holly Beaucage	Noah Beauchamp
Jensen Bramwell	Matthew Bukowski	Lauren Caffelle
Paul Caramanica	Lauren Carlson	Meitong Chen
Jonathan Chew	Mia Coffman	John Cormier
Jacquelyn Cotter	Ahnya Dague	Emily Durst
Lauren Erickson	Sean Eykel	Matthew Finney
Katherine Folan	Noah Freitas	Chloe Gill
Stephanie Holmes	Daniel Hughes	Tyler Hughes
Ryan Iannotti	Jacob Kent	Liam Lenhart
Ashley Liebherr	Christopher Litchfield	Brian Maloney
Adam Marcon	Melanie Morris	Jacob Munoz
Sean Murphy	Lauren O'Connor	Joseph O'Malley
Troy Parker	Jacob Pereira	Michael Phelan
Gregory Phillips	Connor Rouillard	Eric Sanford
Kayla Sicard	Angelina Varela	Emily Weber
Matthew Whittington	Adam Winiarz	

November 4, 2014 Professional Development Day Agenda – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

A conference model is offered this year with a total of 34 sessions provided by over 40 staff members. A wide range of topics is offered including technology, computer programs, classroom activities, and also a mandatory session with the school resource officer on school safety topics. Walker Partnerships will cover several topics for the paraprofessional staff.

FY ’15 Budget Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch said 97 percent of the approximately \$24,000,000 budget has been spent or encumbered to date. Salaries account for 76 percent of the total budget, just under 10 percent for tuitions, and just under 15 percent for utilities, transportation, and maintenance.

Superintendent’s Evaluation – Mr. Deniz Savas:

Each Committee member submitted an evaluation and Mr. Savas compiled them into one spreadsheet. Topics included Progress Toward Goals, Assessed Performance on Standards, Overall Summative Performance, and Impact on Student Learning. All members felt it was a positive review. The process was difficult because they had only one year of data to evaluate due to the Superintendent’s short tenure.

Superintendent’s Goals – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Student Learning Goal:

Goal #1: I will promote student achievement gains by completing and implementing the MCAS Action Plan by November 2014.

Student Learning Goal:

Goal #2: I will formally meet with each building principal at least once per month for the sole purpose of observing, analyzing and communicating effective teaching and learning practices within their building.

District Improvement Goals:

Goal #3: By June 2015 we will complete with the Educator Evaluation Joint Committee (EEJC), the required District Determined Measures (DDMs).

Goal #4: By June we will align and complete written curriculum (scope and sequence; maps etc.) for ELA/Reading and Math in Grades PreK-8.

Goal #5: By December 15th complete a new Strategic Plan: 2014-2017.

Goal #6: By February 2015 we will complete a full review of student services including guidance, adjustment counselors, team chairs, psychologists and other relevant support staff and make recommendations for improvements in order to meet the needs of all students.

Goal #7: By June 2015 complete a full Technology Plan for the District that encompasses infrastructure, instructional technology tools, teaching and learning, professional development and cost analysis.

A vote by the School Committee is required.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to accept the Superintendent's Goals as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Other:

Dr. Baeta gave the Committee enrollment figures. The total district enrollment is 2,538, including 11 School Choice students. The numbers seem to be leveling off and this is the smallest decline in 11 years. The district loses \$11,000 for each student at the Charter School, which now has 153 students from Norton.

Dr. Baeta gave a high school sports update and reminded everyone that the *Harlem Wizards* will be at the high school on November 17th. The Solmonese Parent Organization is sponsoring the program and is hopeful that this will be a community event.

Reminder: The next meeting will be on November 24th at the J. C. Solmonese School.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 24, 2014, J. C. Solmonese Elementary School

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Adams Scholarship Recipient List
- Professional Development Day Agenda
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Superintendent's Goals
- Enrollment Data

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

Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

Valerie Desmond

Andrew Mackie

Margaret Werner