

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, February 23, 2015

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

***Attending:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Andrew Mackie, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Vice-Chairman Phillip Lynch was absent. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, 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 PM

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Approval of Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 3 yes 1 abstain motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 2 yes 3 abstain motion carries

***Transfers:***

A transfer of \$102,473.63 from Tuition-Private Schools to Salaries.

A transfer of \$39,351 from Salaries to Expenses to cover student speech services due to the resignation of a speech teacher.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the recommended transfers

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Student Representatives Update:***

The students reviewed recent activities at Norton High School since early January.

- Updates on sports teams
- Visits by college students who are former NHS graduates
- NHS Talent Show and Senior Class Play in March
- TVL Cheerleading Competition hosted by NHS

***Norton Middle School Updates – Mr. Vincent Hayward:***

Principal Hayward introduced Student Council Advisor, Ms. Juli Dalzell, and members of the NMS Student Council who gave a brief update on recent activities at NMS which included a Halloween Dance, costume contest, and parade. Students also collected donations for the Cupboard of Kindness and Turkey Shoot.

Mr. Michael Kramer, Robotics Club Advisor, and members of the Robotics Club informed the Committee of its recent activities. There are 38 members in the program this year. Six members of the team recently participated in the regional robotics competition held at Blackstone Regional Vocational School.

Assistant Principal Ronnie Goldstein and student Jessica Cicerone discussed their participation in the Project 351 Day of Service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. The day began at Faneuil Hall in Boston. They took part in a painting project at Brighton High School and met Governor Baker at the State House later in the day.

***Norton Middle School Softball/Baseball Presentation – Mr. Dan Sheedy:***

Mr. Sheedy gave an overview of the proposed softball/baseball teams for the middle school. The teams would consist of 15 members for each, and would be self-funded. No funds would be required from the district. The user fee would be set at \$300. The organization needs approximately \$5,152, and several fund-raisers are planned. Members of the Committee expressed concern about what would happen if the fundraising did not meet the amount needed. Mr. Sheedy was very confident they would be successful. Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee approve the request with no financial obligation from the district.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve NMS Softball/Baseball as recommended by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Cricket League Presentation – Representative from Lagaan Cricket Club:***

Two representatives were present to request the use of the H. A. Yelle School fields by the Lagaan Cricket Club for league cricket games. The games are played from May to September and would not interfere with any school sports. Very little preparation is needed for the field set-up. Improvements will actually be made to level the playing area. The club will abide by the use of facilities agreement and pay a rental fee. The Superintendent recommended that they work out an agreement for one year to allow the Lagaan Cricket Club use of the facility from April 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the use of HAY field by the Lagaan Cricket Club as recommended by the Superintendent

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Technology Update – Mrs. Karen Winsper:***

Mrs. Winsper told the Committee she is in the middle of updating the technology plan. Laptops have not arrived but should very soon. Many of the desktop computers for use by the staff and students in PreK-8 are 8-10 years old, and many of the current laptops are old and cannot be operated wirelessly. She reviewed inventory, instructional staff, current programs, technology integration, hardware shifts, and vision for technology in the Norton Public Schools. She also passed around some of the new Chromebooks students are using.

***Technology Policies Second Reading and Vote – Mrs. Karen Winsper:***

The NPS Technology Policies, first presented at the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, were discussed briefly. A few revisions in the area of social media were recommended. Dr. Baeta suggested that legal counsel be contacted to review the changes.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the Technology Policies, with the exception of the social media section

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***School Choice Discussion – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

The Public Hearing and Vote for School Choice will be on the agenda for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> School Committee meeting. Dr. Baeta reviewed the number of seats that were made available this school year. He will present new recommendations for the number of seats available, which can be adjusted at a later date. There is no School Choice in Kindergarten.

***Other:***

Presently, the last day of school is Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Baeta discussed how any further snow days could be made up. Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> is an option, plus two more days in June. Good Friday, and April vacation days can also be used if necessary.

Dr. Baeta also discussed the state of snow removal. Roofs are in good shape with just a few leaks. The district does not have its own equipment and is dependent on the town highway department.

Dr. Baeta also read an email from Mr. Ed Hitchborn, Division 4 Director for Indoor Track and Field, commending the NHS track teams and Coach Kent Taylor not only for their performance in the meet, but for the 15 members of the team that helped the officials in the operation of the meet.

***Adjourn:***

The chairman announced that the meeting would adjourn, not to return to open session, for the purpose of entering executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Roll call vote: Mrs. Werner-yes; Mr. Mackie-yes; Mrs. Desmond-yes; Mr. Savas-yes.

The open session adjourned at 8:35 PM.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, March 2, 2015

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

- NMS Softball/Baseball Information
- Lagaan Cricket Club Presentation
- Technology Department Updates
- Technology Policies
- School Choice Application

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