

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, March 16, 2015

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

***Attending:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Phillip Lynch, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Mrs. Valerie Desmond and Student Representatives Amanda Galpin and Daniel Gao. 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.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Approval of Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 executive session and amended to note that Mr. Lynch was not in attendance.

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 3 yes 1 abstain motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 executive session

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Student Representatives Update:***

The student representatives were unable to attend the meeting but sent Dr. Baeta a list of recent activities at NHS.

- Five students qualified for the DECA International Conference in Orlando, Florida
- Four Student Council members attended the MASC State Conference
- AP Night was held last Wednesday
- Course selection sheets have been distributed
- Pennies for Patients fundraiser has begun
- Mr. NHS contest is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>
- English Department will hold a AP mock exam on Saturday

***Domestic Violence Leave Policy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:***

The Committee reviewed changes that were discussed at the last meeting and agreed to accept the policy as presented.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the Domestic Violence Leave Policy as written

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Full Day Kindergarten Update – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:***

Mrs. O'Neill reported that today was the closing of the registration period, and as of noontime 108 students had registered, 48 at LGN and 60 at JCS. Eighty-two families are interested in full-day Kindergarten. Because of the low number, and the anticipation of more students to register, the deadline has been extended to April 1<sup>st</sup>. The children who are already registered will automatically be placed in the full-day program. Additional students who register will be accepted into the full-day program on a first come, first serve basis. Mrs. O'Neill encouraged families to register as soon as possible so the district can make decisions based on accurate enrollment figures. Mrs. O'Neill will report back in early April on the enrollment figures. The Committee briefly discussed why the Kindergarten enrollment figure to date was low. It was noted that Norton is among a low number of communities that do not offer free full-day Kindergarten.

Mrs. O'Neill also reported that the district was informed in February that the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant for the current school year was recently reduced by approximately 20 percent, or \$11,370. The grant money is already allocated to subsidize the 5 full-day Kindergarten teacher salaries for this current year. Funding for the Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant for FY '16 is uncertain at this time. Not receiving the grant from the State gives the district flexibility in formulating the sliding scale for tuition.

***FY '16 Chapter 70 Summary – Dr. Joseph Baeta and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

Dr. Baeta reported that the recent joint meeting with the Finance Committee was positive. He discussed the comparisons of the last budget and the proposed FY' 16 budget, pointing out the overall net school spending figures. At the State level, the new administration is adding only \$20 per student. He said sending home the free/reduced lunch information resulted in an increase in the formula which equates to \$69,000. There has been a decrease in enrollment by Norton students to Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School and Bristol County Agricultural School, and an increase in enrollment at NHS. Norton has the largest decrease of all the sending districts, resulting in a savings of \$82,000 in tuition.

***Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee submit a place-holder article for the Special Town Meeting to connect the L. G. Nourse School to the municipal sewer connection project on Plain Street. This project has been proposed for a long time and connecting would eliminate a long-standing septic problem at the school. No cost estimate is available at this time. Without the connection the district cannot be part of the Wheaton project that has been proposed.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to submit a place-holder article for the Special Town Meeting regarding the municipal sewer project on Plain Street as described by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Superintendent's Report – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta received a formal resignation letter from H. A. Yelle Elementary School Principal Lisa Farrell. She served as principal here for eight years and will become the principal of the West Elementary School in Stoughton, MA. The Committee praised her for all she has done here and wished her well. Dr. Baeta announced the make-up of the search committee and the tentative timeline. The committee will include LGN/JCS parents, Mrs. O'Neill, Mrs. Sullivan, school counselor, psychologist, general education teachers/specialists, special educators, paraprofessional, administrative assistant, custodian, and School Committee member. Mrs. Werner volunteered to serve on the search committee. Up to 12 candidates could be interviewed and the posting will be through April 10<sup>th</sup>.

School Improvement plans will be reviewed at the last meeting of the year.

The State Board of Education will not vote on the MCAS or PARCC Test until November or December.

Paraprofessionals have ratified their contract and Academic Coordinators have come to an agreement. Administrative assistants are currently in negotiations.

***Other:***

Dr. Baeta discussed the recent Destination Imagination competition, and would like to see it supported at the elementary level.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, April 13, 2015

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

- Domestic Violence Leave Policy
- FY '16 Chapter 70 Summary
- Quality Full-Day Kindergarten Grant Memo

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