

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, May 18, 2015

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

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

***Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes motion carries (Mr. Mackie arrived after the vote)

***Student Representatives Update:***

The students informed the Committee of activities at the high school.

- Senior Spirit Week, a different theme each day
- Memorial Day Assembly
- Senior final exams next week
- NHS & NMS Band Concert
- Class Night on June 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Graduation on June 5<sup>th</sup> at Xfinity Center

***Destination Imagination Update – Students and Advisors:***

Advisor Betty Saccocia was present to give an overview of the program. Destination Imagination teaches students how to think, not what to think. The students learn patience, flexibility, persistence, ethics, respect for others and their ideas, and the collaborative problem solving process. All of the ideas and solutions are strictly the students'. Each year, Destination Imagination releases seven academic challenges for teams to choose from. This year Norton had two teams from the high school and one from the Yelle School. Two teams placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in their categories. One high school Improv team placed first in their category and advanced to the State Tournament held at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Dr. Baeta presented certificates to the students.

***DECA Student Presentation – Students and Advisors:***

Mrs. Heather Albritton and four students who attended the national competition were present. DECA has 104 members from the high school in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. Twenty-five members attended the state conference. Members Anthony Kolodziejczyk, Gwen Saccocia, Nancy Atkins, and Bobby Portway attended the Nationals in Orlando, Florida on April 25-28. The students were presented with certificates.

***NHS Sports Reading & Writing Class McDonough Awards Recipients – Mr. Kent Taylor and Students:***

Several of the students in Mr. Taylor's Sports Reading & Writing Class won awards for participation in the Eleventh Annual Will McDonough Writing Contest. Senior Emily Durst was a first place finisher in her age group and won a new Kindle. She was honored at a ceremony at Boston TD Garden in April. Sophomore Kristi Wildanger was a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher and the following students received honorable mentions: Zach Charboneau, Joe Collamore, Brett Gauvin, Matthew Peterson, Cody O'Brien, Colin Leary and John Weeks. The students received certificates from Dr. Baeta.

NHS boys and girls track teams continue to dominate. Both teams won Division 4 State Championships and set many records. Dr. Baeta presented certificates.

***Introduction of Class of 2015 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:***

NHS Principal Megan Lafayette read the impressive biographies of each of the graduation speakers. Valedictorian Meitong Chen will attend Brown University in the fall and Salutatorian Laura Carlson will attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

***Vote to Approve FY '16 Budget – Dr. Joseph Baeta and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

Town Meeting approved an operating budget of \$25,000,000, which is an increase of 3.57% (\$862,416). A formal vote is required.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the FY '16 \$25,000,000 budget as voted by Town Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

***Personnel:***

Retirements effective at end of school year:

- Susan Capalbo, HAY Grade 5 Teacher – 15 years with district
- Linda Thomasian, HAY Grade 5 Teacher – 31 years with district
- Michael Feneck, Grounds – 28 years with district

***Resignations:***

- Nancy Weber, JCS Paraprofessional, effective April 17, 2015 – 10 years with district
- Lisa Farrell, HAY Principal, effective end of school year – 9 years with district

- Laura Twomey, NHS Special Education Teacher – not returning from current LOA – 4 years with district

The Committee expressed appreciation and wished them luck.

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

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that he received a request from Selectwoman Mary Steele to present her daughter's high school diploma at the graduation ceremony. He noted that this has been allowed in the past. The Committee granted her request.

Dr. Baeta mentioned that there will be a Lancer Athletes Awards Night to be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for team members and their families.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, June 8, 2015, at Norton Middle School

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

- Graduation Speakers Biographies

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

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Andrew Mackie, Chairman

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Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

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Valerie Desmond

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Daniel Sheedy

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Margaret Werner