

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2015

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Mrs. Valerie Desmond. 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 Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

Student Representatives Update:

Seniors Amanda Galpin and Daniel Gao updated the Committee on current activities.

- Senior Cruise on Boston Harbor with a nautical theme
- Volleyball tournament for the benefit of a high school staff member
- Get well cards for a NHS teacher

L. G. Nourse School Update – Mrs. Catherine Luke and Staff:

Mrs. Luke said the year began great. This is her fifth year as principal. She mentioned new programs for this year. She was just informed that LGN has been reaccruited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). The philosophy at LGN is that they are “all teachers” and each group has something to teach the students, whether it is the cafeteria ladies, the custodians, the nurse, or the secretary. She introduced Mrs. Young and Mrs. Sunderland, Title I teachers, who updated the Committee on the summer reading program. This year the goal is to increase reading at school and at home, and to encourage students and parents to read together. They pointed out that if a student reads for 20 minutes each day, they will read 1,800,000 words per year. A student reading 5 minutes a day will read 282,000 words per year, and a student reading 1 minute per day will read 8,000 words per year. The amount of reading time correlates to the standardized test scores. November is Family Literacy Month and activities such as Guest Readers and Battle of the Books are planned.

MCAS Results Overview – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed the results of the MCAS taken last spring. In most areas, Norton exceeded the state average. Grade 3 had very good increases, and it is attributed to changes in the curriculum. Last year’s mid-year switch of the math curriculum seems to have been very beneficial. Mr. Savas pointed out that in Grade 10, not only Norton, but all of the state did well. Mrs. O’Neill said students are leaving Norton “ready”.

Discussion on Class of 2016 Graduation:

Dr. Baeta was pleased to announce that graduation would be as originally scheduled for the Xfinity Center on June 3, followed by the all-night graduation party.

Superintendent’s Goals – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed his goals for 2015-2016.

Student Learning Goal

Goal #1: Develop (K-12) and implement (K-5) during the 2015-2016 school year our *Guided Best Practices-GBP* (Response to Intervention) initiative for meeting the needs of ALL students.

Professional Practice Goal

Goal #2: During the 2015-2016 school year, he will complete at least two learning walks with each building principal.

District Improvement Goals

Goal #3: By February 2016, complete a full review of student services including: guidance department, adjustment counselors, team chairs, psychologists, paraprofessionals, structured resource room staff, and specialized program staff.

Goal #4: Complete by June 2016 targeted Strategic Plan initiatives.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Superintendent’s Goals as stated

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

Superintendent’s Evaluation Process:

Dr. Baeta discussed the evaluation process as outlined at the previous meeting, the Assessment Progress Toward Goals, Standards, and the End of Cycle Summation.

Other:

Mr. Sheedy agreed to attend the Capital Improvement Committee meeting on Wednesday.

Dr. Baeta reviewed recent enrollment figures and pointed out that they are not the official October 1st numbers.

Personnel:

Retirement: Mrs. Theresa Gallagher, LGN Grade 3 Teacher, effective October 2, 2015, after 10 years with the District.

Adjourn:

The chairman announced that the meeting would adjourn, not to return to open session, and enter executive session for discussion on School Safety and Crisis Plan.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Werner-yes; Mr. Sheedy-yes; Mr. Savas-yes; Mr. Mackie-yes.

The open session adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Next Meeting Date: October 19th, at 6:00 PM in the NHS Teachers' Lounge prior to the Fall Annual Town Meeting.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- MCAS Summary, 2015
- Superintendent's Goals: 2015-2016

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

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner