

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2015

Location: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, and Mrs. Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond. Absent: Chairman Andrew Mackie. 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.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Savas made an amendment to the minutes of October 19, to delete "a vote will be taken at a future meeting", regarding the class rank discussion.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2015 as amended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

Student Representatives Update:

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

- Field Trip to Cape Cod Community College for a college fair
- Class of 2019 election of officers
- DECA Leadership Conference at Bentley College
- NHS soccer team sponsored a Soccer Bubble Tournament
- Honor Society tapping on October 29th and induction ceremony on November 12th
- French and Spanish Honor Society semi-formal on November 10th
- Spanish Honor Society trip to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston

H. A. Yelle School Update – Principal Anthony DiFonso, Staff Members and Students:

Mr. DiFonso praised his hard working staff. He is working diligently to improve communications through the use of social media. His goal is to spread the recognition of student achievements, and each month one student from every classroom is chosen and presented at an assembly. By the end of the year 160 students will have been recognized. He also praised the PTO for all they do to help the school and students.

At this time the meeting moved to Mrs. Carline's Grade 5 classroom for a demonstration of Plickers, which stands for paper clickers. By using this new system of student response the teacher can quickly assess how many students are getting the correct answers. Students held up answer cards and the teacher quickly scanned them with her smart phone, getting immediate data. This method can be used in several subjects when multiple choice answers are utilized. The students answered questions from the Committee.

At 7:20 the meeting reconvened in the library.

NHS Music Field Trip Approval – Dr. Joseph Baeta (for Mr. Nick Krafka):

The NHS Music Program is requesting permission to attend a Broadway presentation of *Aladdin* in New York City on April 6, 2016. Students and chaperones would leave at approximately 5:15 AM. They plan to visit Times Square, have lunch at Planet Hollywood, attend the performance, and return to NHS at approximately 10:30 PM. It is anticipated that 60-70 students will attend, and financial aid is available if needed. Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee approve this trip.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the request to attend the performance

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

Class Size Report for Kindergarten – Grade 8 – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta gave an update on class size and enrollment and explained the October 16th figures. The next figures will be available on December 1st. Dr. Baeta said his major concern is the class size at NHS and the high school staff is his first priority.

Strategic Plan Update – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta plans on updating the Committee periodically on the status of each item, whether it is on-going, partially completed, or completed. He also discussed the MCAS November 17th vote. Depending on the outcome the strategic plan may need a major overhaul.

Other:

Old Business – Continuation of Discussion on NHS Class Rank:

There will be future discussion on proposed changes. Mrs. Desmond discussed the admission policy with admission officers at Wheaton College. The discussion was tabled.

Mr. Krafka, music teacher at NHS, arrived and made a few comments regarding the proposed trip to New York. He said they already have enough money to help students who want to attend.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2015 at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School, 6:30 PM

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Enrollment Data
- Strategic Plan Update

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

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner