

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, February 29, 2016

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice Program for 2016-2017 School Year:

The School Choice Program requires a public hearing and then a vote by the School Committee on whether or not to participate for the following school year. With financial constraints and declining enrollment Superintendent Baeta recommended that the School Choice Program be continued for the 2106-2017 school year. A vote and letter to the DESE must be submitted by June 1st of each year. Similar to the current year, the recommendation is as follows: Full Day K and Grades 4, 5, 9, 10 - five seats per grade and Grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 – ten seats per grade. There are 37 students currently enrolled. The current account for School Choice tuitions is over \$200,000. Dr. Baeta meets with all applicants and will emphasize that the district has high expectations. Mr. Savas wished to amend the recommendation to allow town residents priority in the Full Day K program.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the School Choice Program for the 2016-2017 school year as amended to allow priority to town residents for the Full Day K program

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

Public Hearing on FY 2017 School Budget:

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Notice of Public Hearing has been published in the *Sun Chronicle* prior to this meeting. Dr. Baeta reviewed the figures and stated that this budget includes keeping what we have and additions necessary to put us back on track. The total budget request is for \$28,302,062, a 12.39% increase based on the FY 2016 budget.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the FY 2017 Budget Request of \$28,302,062

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-yes, 1-abstain

Student Representatives Update:

Student Representatives updated the Committee on current activities.

- Art Honor Society face painting at LGN
- Exhibit of student artwork at Patriot Place March 11-13
- New Hope T-shirt campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse
- Tri M Coffee House

Recognition of NHS Student Deven Schuko – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Coach Pat Coleman informed the Committee about the recent event at a wrestling match at Dighton Rehoboth High School involving a special needs athlete who was in his last year and Lancer wrestler Deven Schuko. Deven's outstanding act of sportsmanship during the match at DR went viral across the country. Dr. Baeta presented a Norton Public School Lancer Citizenship Award of Excellence in recognition of outstanding leadership and character.

Vote to Approve NHS Music Field Trip – Mr. Nick Krafka:

Mr. Krafka addressed the Committee to request permission to accompany a NHS student who has been selected to participate in the MMEA All-State Conference. Only 200 students are chosen to participate and this is the first student from Norton in many years that will have the opportunity to work with some of the finest vocal coaches and choral instructors in the country. The Committee discussed additional details and arrangements.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the NHS Music Field Trip

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous

Vote to Approve NHS Ski Club – Mr. Craig Murray:

Mr. Murray and student Kyle Murphy addressed the Committee to request permission for the formation of a ski club for Norton High School. If approved, the club would like to take one ski trip this year to Mount Sunapee Resort in Newbury, NH on Saturday, March 12th. Mr. Murray provided the Committee with details regarding safety, expenses, transportation, and chaperones. After a brief discussion the Committee voted.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Ski Club and field trip to Mt. Sunapee
SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond
VOTE: Unanimous

Vote to Approve NHS Amended Graduation Requirements – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

The Massachusetts High School Program of Studies (MassCore) is intended to help the state's high school graduates arrive at college or the workplace well prepared and reduce the number of students taking remedial courses in college. MassCore recommends a comprehensive set of subject area courses and units as well as other learning opportunities to complete before graduating from high school. In order to ensure that students are meeting these requirements, Norton High School is adding a year of arts to the graduation requirements, beginning with the class of 2020. Students will be able to choose from a generous selection of fine art and performance art offerings. Sample offerings are band, chorus, music appreciation, music theory, art, sculpture, and graphic design. Hopefully students can fulfill this requirement early in their high school years.

Mr. Savas suggested that a financial literacy course would be beneficial in the future.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the amendment to graduation requirements as requested
SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy
VOTE: Unanimous

2016-2017 School Year Calendar Options:

Mrs. Jen O'Neill reviewed the three options for the 2016-2017 school year calendar based on feedback from staff members and families. The Committee discussed each option and a vote was tabled until the March 14th School Committee Meeting.

Vote to Approve Final 2015-2016 Superintendent's Evaluation:

According to DESE regulations, the Superintendent is evaluated at least yearly. Each School Committee member has completed an individual evaluation based upon the DESE evaluation instrument. The chairman has compiled the final evaluation to be voted on by the members of the Committee. Members commented that the Superintendent has done an exemplary job and Mrs. Werner commended him for the great relationship he has formed with Wheaton College.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the final 2015-2016 Superintendent's evaluation
SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond
VOTE: Unanimous

Other:

There is a joint meeting of the School Committee, Finance Committee, and Selectmen on March 7th in the middle school library.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Next Meeting Date: March 14, 2016 at Norton Middle School Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- FY'17 Budget
- Graduation Requirements
- Calendar Memo
- Superintendent's Evaluation
- Field Trip Requests

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

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner