

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, May 16, 2016

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Daniel Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Marge Werner. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Student Representatives Daniel Gao, Amanda Galpin, Mackenzie Dwyer, Tristan Grieve.

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

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

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

Chairman Savas wished to amend the minutes of the May 9, 2016 meeting to read "after reviewing each of the three budget options, the Committee unanimously agreed to eliminate Option 2".

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of May 2, 2016 and May 9, 2016 as amended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

Student Representatives Update:

- Senior Spirit Week – new theme for each day
- Senior Prank Day, seniors left class for a morning BBQ
- Spanish students field trip to El Mariachi Restaurant
- Prom at Luciano's
- Upcoming senior final exams

Amanda and Daniel introduced the new student representatives, Mackenzie Dwyer and Tristan Grieve, both juniors.

Dr. Baeta presented Amanda and Daniel with a token of appreciation for their service on the Committee. Chairman Savas welcomed the new representatives.

***Recognition of JCS Community Volunteers – Mrs. Maryan Welch:***

Mrs. Welch introduced her classroom volunteers in attendance. Over the last two school years she and her first grade students have benefited from over fifteen caring and committed volunteers. Many are retired or semi-retired and have backgrounds in a variety of professions.

The initial goal of the program was to provide students of all reading abilities the opportunity to read, one on one, with an adult to practice and enhance the skills learned during class time. Many of Mrs. Welch's students told the Committee about how the volunteers help them with reading.

***Recognition of NHS Seniors Anthony Kolodziejczyk and Alexandria Freedman – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta presented Anthony with a Citizenship Award in recognition of his many accomplishments during his high school career. He also presented Alexandria with a Certificate of Excellence in recognition of her acceptance to the United States Naval Academy.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn the meeting briefly due to a faulty alarm

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM and reconvened at 7:02 PM.

***Introduction of Class of 2016 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:***

Principal Lafayette read the biographies of the graduation speakers, Salutatorian Louis Dion III and Valedictorian Cassandra Phillips. The Committee praised the students for their great accomplishments during their school careers. Louis will attend Bryant College and Cassandra will attend Providence College.

***Update on Guided Best Practices Initiative – Mrs. Jen O'Neill:***

The presentation began with the statement "Every child can learn, just not on the same day or in the same way" (by George Evans). Mrs. O'Neill said that this will most likely be a two or three year project.

Overview of Guided Best Practices: K-12 initiative (K-5 this year) grounded in efforts to reach ALL students within the curriculum, instruction, and assessment process that creates the opportunity for ALL students to be provided access to the core curriculum within the general classroom. Teach ALL by choosing what to teach and doing so with FIDELITY!

Four Essential Elements:

Collective Responsibility, Concentrated Instruction, Convergent Assessment, and Certain Access

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed the components of the initiative and the next steps which include implementation of Lucy Calkins Units of Study for Reading in K-5, and expanding Guided Best Practices Initiatives to Grades 6-12. The Instructional Support Team (IST) process has been an integral component of the GBP initiative this year. The revised process: Brings consistency across all elementary buildings; Focuses on student needs and providing interventions as early as possible; Allows for fluidity of building IST Teams. Mrs. Stern commented on how beneficial the *Foundations* program has been. Mr. Savas said "we are not afraid to try new things". The goal is to be able to catch kids before they are referred for services. Dr. Baeta stated that the way to improve special education is to improve regular education.

***Update on FY '17 Budget – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta said there is no further information until the results of the vote are known.

***Other:***

Mrs. Stern said Monday is the seniors' last day and volunteers are needed at noon for the cook-out.

Mrs. Werner mentioned that this is not a school department override, but also a town override.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM

***Next Meeting Date: June 6, 2016, Norton Middle School Library***

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

- Guided Best Practices Documents

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

---

Deniz Savas, Chairman

---

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

---

Sheri Cohen

---

Kathleen Stern

---

Margaret Werner