

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 6, 2016

Location: Norton High School Auditorium

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, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representative Tristan Grieve.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Representative Update:

- Rally on May 21st in support of the override ballot question
- Memorial Day Ceremonies
- AP Science and Honors Science field trip to Genzyme to explore opportunities in the biotech industry
- Graduation and all-night party on June 3
- Final exams for underclassmen beginning June 16th

Discussion and Vote on FY' 17 School Budget – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Based on the town meeting vote in May, the amount given for the FY '17 School Budget is \$25,887,286, an increase of \$706,286.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the FY '17 School Budget of \$25,887,286

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of May 16, 2016

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Discussion and Vote on Fees for Fy'17 – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta said they have been trying to find a way around the \$945,000 shortfall for level services. The Committee intends to ask the Town for \$150,000 if funds are available in October.

A vote at Town Meeting will be required. They do not feel that cutting approximately 5 teachers is an option. The goal is to keep teachers in the classroom, and the best option for the time being is to increase fees and institute pay-to-play athletic fees. The Committee feels the best option for now is to request \$150,000 from available funds in the fall, and increase fees as follows:

- Athletics: Pay-to-Play \$250 initially, depending on future funding (per sport/no cap)
- Transportation \$250 to \$350 (no cap)
- Full-Day Kindergarten \$3,000 to \$3,500
- Pre-K \$2,000 to \$2,500

There will be no lay-offs in the teaching staff, and a reduction of one full-time technician. This is the best option for now. It was pointed out that if the extra money is available in the fall, it will only be used to off-set the athletic fees. Chairman Savas read a statement prior to opening discussion of the proposals by those in attendance.

Several students, parents, and residents spoke regarding both options. Committee members all commented and stated that cuts to the teaching staff would be devastating.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to accept the recommendation of Dr. Baeta to increase fees for transportation, Full-Day K, and Pre-K, and institute Pay-to-Play for Athletics

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Discussion and Vote on Educational Program Plan for Pre-K – 8 as Requested by Board of Selectmen – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta explained that he was asked to begin a study involving a committee to evaluate the possibility of the Town Hall/Council on Aging using school space. Many factors need to be considered including grade/class size, facilities, transportation, special education, specialized staff, safety, lunch program, and outdoor space. In order to move forward a vote to approve an educational plan is the first stage. The committee members will be volunteers. Dr. Baeta felt that it was a worthy endeavor.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to go forward with the Educational Program Plan Pre-K - 8

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta asked parents to email him if interested in serving on the committee.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Next Meeting Date: June 20, 2016, Norton Middle School Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- FY '17 Budget Documents
- Educational Program Plan PK-8

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

Deniz Savas, Chairman

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

Margaret Werner