

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 20, 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 Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Mackenzie Dwyer and Tristan Grieve.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of June 6, 2016

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Student Representative Update:

- Final exams week
- Student Council distributed rainbow ribbons in support of families of Orlando shootings victims

Awarding of NEED Grants – Mrs. Gretchen Stalters and Members of NEED Organization:

Members of the NEED Organization (Gretchen Stalters, Shauna Powers, Karen LaCamera, Beth Blakely and Donna Ross) were present to award \$11,060 in grants (\$5,440 art fundraiser, \$4,377 Thank a Teacher fundraiser as well as family donations and \$2,500 from Horizon Beverage). This was the 9th year that NEED provided grants totaling \$71,000 over the nine-year period. There were 12 requests this year totaling \$22,000. The HAY parent board supported one grant. The School Committee thanked the organization for their efforts.

Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools:

Mr. Joseph Spremulli, NTA President, addressed the School Committee regarding the ballot question for November 2016 against lifting the cap on the number of Charter Schools allowed in the Commonwealth. Mr. Spremulli discussed the loss of students to charter schools and decrease in funding to the public schools.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to support the Resolution Against Lifting the Cap on Commonwealth Charter Schools

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Resolution Calling For a Moratorium on High Stakes Standardized Tests:

Mr. Spremulli addressed the School Committee regarding the resolution currently before the state legislation conference committee. There is little to no information on what the test will look like next year. It will have an impact on students even those for whom it is not a graduation requirement. Teachers like testing and the information we can get from it but for now scores represent too much of the whole picture which should only be a small piece. Mr. Spremulli asked the School Committee to support the three-year moratorium on high stakes testing. This moratorium does not mean that we do not support accountability.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to support Moratorium on High Stakes Standardized Tests:

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Vote to Approve School Handbook Changes:

Principals and Assistant Principals presented to the Committee changes to their school handbooks as outlined in the School Committee packets.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve NMS handbook changes

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve Elementary handbook changes

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve NHS handbook changes

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Vote to Award Before and After School Child Care Bid:

Mr. Lynch presented the RFP and award process for the new before and after school care contract. After review by a team of five District representatives, the bid was awarded to Champions for continuation of their contract beginning September 1, 2016.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to award Before and After School Child Care Bid to Champions

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Discussion and Vote on School Choice Funds:

Dr. Baeta informed the School Committee that the District is expecting an anticipated increase of \$300,000 in School Choice funds in addition to the current \$220,000 in the School Choice account. The Superintendent recommended using these funds as follows: 1:1 Chromebooks for Grade 8 students; NHS wireless upgrade; and Grade 8 projection upgrades.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve use of School Choice funds as recommended by the Superintendent

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Superintendent's Goals and Evaluation:

Superintendent Baeta updated the School Committee on his progress towards his goals. The Committee discussed the process for completing the Superintendent's evaluation.

Personnel:

Personnel changes for the 2016-2017 school year were discussed. Mrs. Judy LaConte, LGN Grade 2 teacher, expressed her appreciation for her wonderful experience as a teacher for 27 years in the Norton Public Schools. Mrs. LaConte is retiring at the end of the school year.

Other:

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill was not present at the meeting as she was representing him at the World Youth Conference and Global Education Summit in Europe. This was a trip that Dr. Baeta had won at a conference he attended.

The Committee was asked to add two members as liaisons to the Norton Select Board. Mrs. Sheri Cohen and Mr. Deniz Savas volunteered.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mr. Savas and Mrs. Cohen as liaisons to the Select Board

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Next Meeting Date: September 12, 2016, Norton High School Library

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

Deniz Savas, Chairman

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

Margaret Werner