

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 26, 2016

Location: L. G. Nourse School Cafeteria

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Marge Werner. ***Absent:*** Vice-Chairman Daniel Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, 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. Stern to approve minutes of September 12, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 3 yes, 1 abstain Motion Carries

Transfer - Salaries to Expenses:

- \$22,000: eSpark Learning
- \$25,000: iPads and Apple Apps for *eSpark Learning*
- \$7,500: Laptops for staff
- \$5,000: *Foundations* and other consumables (Kindergarten Level)
- TOTAL: \$59,500

The available funding for the transfer is due to unforeseen retirements and resignations. Replacements hired for retired and resigned staff usually have less experience and lower salaries than what was originally budgeted. School Committee vote is required.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the transfer of funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Student Representatives Update:

- The Senior Class Cruise is scheduled for September 27th. The theme is "The 50's".
- Students are working to diversify and expand the extra curricular experience.
- The Photography Club is planning a fundraiser
- Educators Rising Club plans to expand

- Creative Writing Club is a recent addition
- Students for Humanitarian Change is dedicated to aid/raise awareness for lesser known causes

Opening of School Report and Introduction of New Faculty and Staff – Mrs. Catherine Luke:

Mrs. Luke reported that the school is off to a great start. The building was connected to town sewage over the summer. Enrollment figures are as follows: PE-80, K-78, Gr. 1-61, Gr. 2-75, Gr. 3-74 for a total of 374 students. Grade 2 students are being trained in *Foundations*. Several teachers were reassigned. Mrs. Luke introduced new staff members. The PTA is active and supportive. Dr. Baeta stated that the new apartment complex on East Main Street could impact future class size. The enrollment figures will be reviewed after October 1st. Mr. Savas suggested that they should look at what the numbers are now and project out what the enrollment numbers may be going forward.

Vote to Approve Grade 8 Trip to New York – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:

Mr. Goldstein informed the Committee that he is starting the process earlier this year in order to allow ample time to make reservations, check references, etc. Grade 8 had a great trip last year and he is optimistic that this year will be even better. After a student survey, the departure time from Norton will be 5:00 AM. The earlier start will provide flexibility. Stops on the itinerary include Battery Park, ferry to Ellis Island, Wall Street area, the 9/11 Memorial, and One World Trade Center Observatory. Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that they are required to vote on out-of-state travel.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the Grade 8 Field Trip to New York

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Superintendent's Goals – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed his goals for 2016-2017.

Student Learning Goal

- Complete the implementation of the K-5 Guided Best Practices
- Initiate during the 2016-2017 school year the Grade 6-12 Guided Best Practices

Professional Practice Goal

- During the 2016-2017 school year, utilize at least weekly, new technology tools with attention to Google Docs, Google Classroom, Instagram, Twitter, and other such tools that model best practices for administrators and classroom teachers.

District Improvement Goals

- By February 2017, complete the Educational Program Plan (EPP) PreK-8 and present full report and recommendations to the School Committee for approval.

- Continue to prioritize the District Strategic Plan by meeting specific deadlines noted in the most recent update.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Superintendent's Goal as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Other:

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee of a hardship case under school choice which has just come to his attention. A Grade 12 student who has been in Norton since Grade 7 has moved to another nearby community. As stated in the policy, Grade 11 & 12 students are not able to participate. The Superintendent is requesting an exclusion to the School Choice Policy to allow the student to continue his education at NHS under School Choice.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve an exclusion to the School Choice Policy and allow the student to continue his education at Norton High School

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Mr. Lynch informed the Committee of a proposal the Town Accountant would like to adopt to streamline bill paying. In the rare event an error of under \$100 is detected on bills owed by the School Department, he would be authorized to notify the school and make the change without having to resubmit the bill. A vote is required.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the \$100 Tolerance

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Mrs. O'Neill stated that the report regarding the MCAS and PARCC testing was just received. All 5 Norton schools are Level 2. A full report on the data will be presented on October 24th.

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that a vote was needed to appoint Mrs. Stern as delegate representative to the MASC Conference in Hyannis.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to appoint Mrs. Stern as the delegate representative to the MASC Conference

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta stated that the request for additional funds from the Town Meeting is for this year only. Anyone with questions or comments should attend a School Committee Meeting.

Motion to Adjourn:

The chairman announced that the meeting would adjourn, not to return to open session, entering executive session for the purpose of discussion on current legal issues and Union contract negotiations. Roll call vote: Mrs. Werner-yes; Mrs. Stern-yes; Mrs. Cohen-yes; Mr. Savas-yes.

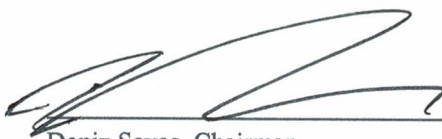
Next Meeting Date: October 17, 2016, Norton High School prior to Town Meeting

The open session adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

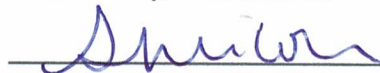
- Budget Transfers
- Superintendent's Goals

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



Deniz Savas, Chairman

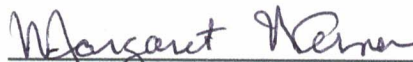
Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman



Sheri Cohen



Kathleen Stern



Margaret Werner