

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, October 24, 2016

Location: HAY Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Daniel Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Marge Werner. ***Absent:*** Chairman Deniz Savas.

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 Representative Tristan Grieve.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve minutes of October 17, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Student Representative Update:

- Wheaton College A Capella group donated proceeds from their recent festival to the Norton Arts Program
- Lions Club speech competition held recently
- Students rallied to show overwhelming support of the District budget request on the Town Meeting Warrant

Opening of School Report and Introduction of New Faculty and Staff – Mr. Anthony DiFonso:

Principal DiFonso gave an overview of the opening of school. Traffic was a problem at pick-up and drop-off time but the staff is looking at an alternative plan to allow for a better traffic flow. He reviewed enrollment and introduced three new staff members. Mr. DiFonso also discussed plans for events to include families and the community.

21st Century Skills Global Education Initiative – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta stated that for the past three years the staff has worked to address both the diversity of Norton Public Schools and opportunities for students to connect with the world. The district has hosted international students from Japan, Mexico, China, Austria, and Vietnam. The district has been involved with numerous organizations that support international studies and have students who are interested in service learning, language immersion, cultural exchange, and world travel.

When starting this initiative, a three-year program for NPS was planned.

- 2013-2014: Study options for Global Education
- 2014-2015: Begin to host international students
- 2015-2016: Initiate options for language immersion, service learning, cultural awareness, and developing the Global Education Initiative
- 2016-2017: Provide a comprehensive program of options for students

The mission of the Global Education Initiative is to promote global competency and 21st Century skill development. Dr. Baeta outlined the following tentative calendar of events for Grades 9-12:

Summer 2017: Cultural awareness in Portugal/Spain

Spring 2018: Service learning in the Dominican Republic

Summer 2018: Global Student Leaders Summit in Berlin

Spring 2019: Service Learning in Costa Rica

Spring 2020: Cultural Awareness in France

(These opportunities are tentative and subject to change)

The Global Education Initiative has a specific tiered structure that includes one or both of the following:

- A) Membership and participation in the Global Citizenship Club; and/or
- B) Participation in the Global Education Initiative Certificate Program

Both programs will require a stipend position or positions depending on participation. The families of participating students will be responsible for their expenses. The Tuition Line of the Budget, which is collected from international students, can be utilized. There is also the opportunity to grant fund students as needed and/or available. Several staff members and committee members commented favorably on the plan.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the Global Education Initiative Program for 2017-2018 and the tentative calendar of events as outlined by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MCAS Presentation – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill made a PowerPoint presentation of the 2016 MCAS Data. Included in the presentation were:

- Types and Purpose of Assessment
- District Results
- Addressing Critical Areas
- Future of MCAS

Mrs. O’Neill reported on the subject areas in comparison with the 2015 data. In the spring of 2017 students will be tested using MCAS 2.0 in Math and ELA. All students will participate in online testing by spring of 2019. In Norton, all students in Grade 4-8 will take the assessment online this spring.

School Improvement Plans – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Principals Vincent Hayward-NMS, Anthony DiFonso-HAY, and Catherine Luke-LGN reported on their individual school improvement plans. They all thanked the Site Council members for their assistance in formulating the plans.

Principals of NHS and JCS will present their School Improvement Plans at an upcoming meeting.

Second Reading and Vote to Adopt Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs Policy:

Each Superintendent must file a Substance Abuse Prevention and Education Policy on behalf of each school in the district no later than 5:00 PM on October 28, 2016 and in accordance with DESE filing instructions. No edits were made after the first reading. Second reading and policy adoption vote is required.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to support the *Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs Policy* as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Second Reading and Vote to Adopt Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited Policy:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to support the *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited Policy* as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta asked for a motion to approve the Health Risk Survey for Grades 6-12, but most likely to be administered to Grades 9-12.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the Health Risk Survey for Grades 6-12, but most likely to be administered to Grades 9-12.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Other:

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that it has been difficult to obtain substitute teachers due to the fact that other communities pay more than Norton. He recommended that in order to be competitive the rate of pay should be raised from \$70 to \$80 per diem.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the substitute teacher pay increase to \$80 per diem on the recommendation of Dr. Baeta, effective November 1, 2016.

SECOND: Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Recognition of Karen Winsper for MassCUE Pathfinder Award – Dr. Baeta:

Mrs. Winsper, Director of Technology, was selected to receive the 2016 MassCUE Pathfinder award. This annual award is given to an educator and leader who has enhanced the field of educational technology.

Personnel:

Retirements:

- Margie Rezendes, JCS/LGN Physical Education Teacher, effective April 8, 2017, after 30 years with the District
- Alisa Ruby-Torres, HAY/LGN Art Teacher, effective October 21, after 18 years with the District
- Leigh Francis, JCS Paraprofessional, effective February 3, 2017, after 18 years with the district

Resignations:

- Jay Curran, HAY Physical Education Teacher, effective November 23, 2016, after 10 years with the District
- Elizabeth Cina, NMS Math Teacher, effective October 28, 2016. Started with District at beginning of current school year

New Hires

- Randi Carine, JCS Physical Education Teacher, effective September 27, 2016
- Emily Solup, NMS World Language Teacher, effective September 19, 2016
- Anna Demerjian-Pitts, NMS Paraprofessional, effective October 5, 2016

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2016, JCS School Library at 6:30 PM

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- 21st Century Skills Global Education Initiative
- MCAS PowerPoint
- School Improvement Plans
- Letter of Congratulations for Karen Winsper

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

Deniz Savas, Chairman

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

Margaret Werner