

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

2017 FEB -8 P 2: 22

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, January 23, 2017

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Marge Werner. ***Absent:*** Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan.

***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, 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:***

***Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice Program for 2017-2018 School Year:***

The School Choice Program requires a public hearing and vote by the School Committee on whether or not to participate for the following school year. Dr. Baeta opened the Public Hearing on School Choice by reviewing enrollment figures. There were 85 seats available this school year and currently 49 are enrolled. His recommendation for the 2017-2018 school year is to make available five seats for full-day Kindergarten, and ten seats for Grades 1-10 for a total of 105 seats. He feels that the district should stay on the conservative side and if needed, changes can take place before June 1<sup>st</sup>. Open enrollment begins January 20<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> is the enrollment deadline. A letter will be sent to the DESE to inform them of the decision to participate.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the School Choice Program for 2017-2018 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

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

Mr. Lynch wished to amend the minutes of January 9, 2017, regarding agenda item *Vote to Award Bid for On-Call Labor*, to read "to award the bid for Refrigeration/HVAC service to Mechanical Air Controls, Inc."

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2017 open meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

***Warrant Information:***

Mrs. Cohen reported that she had reviewed and approved the warrant of January 9, 2017, in the amount of \$229,767.57, to be entered into the public record.

***Student Representative Update:***

- Student Council members participated in the Wheaton Safety Training Day
- Tri M Music Honor Society coffee house to be held
- Student representative Mackenzie Dwyer has been accepted into an early college program and is no longer at NHS. Her position will be filled by another student.

***Vote to Approve NHS Music Field Trip – Mr. Nick Krafka:***

The Norton High School Music Program is requesting permission to attend a Broadway musical in New York City on Wednesday, March 29, 2017. Members of the band, chorus, jazz band, pep band, and select acappella are eligible to attend. Students and chaperones would depart NHS at approximately 5:15 a.m. The agenda includes visiting Times Square, lunch at Planet Hollywood and attending the Broadway performance of *Waitress*. The group will return to NHS at approximately 10:30 p.m. Approximately 50 students are anticipated to attend and financial aid is available through the booster organization, Norton Music Parents. Mr. Krafka mentioned that students are allowed to shop independently for about 1 to 1 ½ hours and will be able to contact chaperones by cell phone should they get separated from the group. Mr. Savas stated he has reservations and was not comfortable with students being able to leave the group. Mr. Sheedy also expressed concern. Dr. Baeta said that all student handbook regulations and consequences apply from the time of departure to their return. Mrs. Werner felt this is an excellent opportunity for some students that they may never have again.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the NHS Music field trip to New York

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 3 yes 1 no Motion Carries

***Superintendent's Draft FY18 Budget Presentation – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta presented the Draft FY18 budget. His recommendation is based upon the internal budget process including a review of the Strategic Plan, recent student achievement results, and building-level and program recommendations. He reviewed Level Services: Personnel & Expenses, Special Education Tuition, Mandated Positions, Transportation, and School Choice for an increase of \$1,258,277 based on the 2017 Budget. Priority Requests include Full-Day Kindergarten, and additions and changes to personnel for a total of \$833,369. New Fee Structure would eliminate transportation fees, add two buses, and reduce the user fee by 50% to \$125 per sport with the exception of hockey, which stays at \$500. The total request to restructure fees is \$394,886. School Committee members will attend a budget workshop on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and further discussion at the February 6<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting. The final budget will be presented and voted on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Other:**

NPS Forum on The Educational Program Plan at NMS auditorium on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Screenagers** presentation sponsored by Lancers United for Community Knowledge (LUCK)

Mrs. Cohen reported on the January 12<sup>th</sup> joint Ad Hoc Committee meeting held with the Norton Board of Selectmen. Audit information was not available at that time but will be at the next meeting. She stressed that this is not about a school override but planning for future needs of the whole town.

The Massachusetts Teachers Association approved a merger with the Paraprofessional/Library Media Technician Association.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:** February 4, 2017 – 9:00 a.m., Budget Workshop at Assistant Superintendent's office. February 6, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. at Norton Middle School

**Motion to Adjourn:**

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

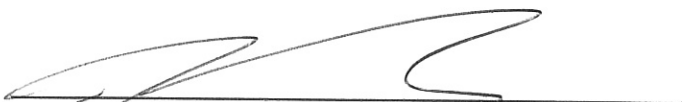
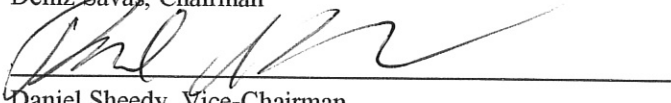
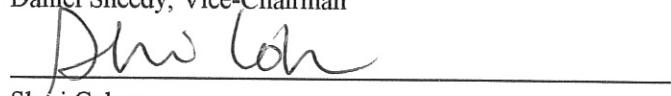
VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

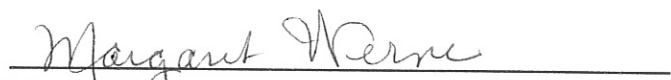
**Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:**

- School Choice Data
- FY18 Budget Information

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

  
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Deniz Savas, Chairman  
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Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman  
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Sheri Cohen

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Kathleen Stern

  
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Margaret Werner