

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, February 27, 2017

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Marge Werner. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Tristan Grieve and Bobby Portway.

***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 the minutes of February 4 and February 6, 2017 open meetings

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Warrant Information:***

Mrs. Cohen reported that she had reviewed and approved the warrant of February 6, 2017, in the amount of \$410,400.60, to be entered into the public record.

***Student Representative Update:***

Tristan Grieve introduced Bobby Portway, a junior, who will also serve as student representative. Upcoming activities include:

- Tri M Honor Society Coffee House
- NHS Guidance Department sponsoring college planning night
- Student Council annual talent show on March 15
- Mr. NHS competition
- Girls basketball team in play-offs, first time since 1999
- 23 DECA students will compete in the state conference in Boston
- AP information night March 2

***Discussion and Vote on FY '18 School Budget – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

The total increase is 7.94%, the smallest increase in several years. Dr. Baeta reviewed Personnel & Expenses, Special Ed Tuition, Mandated Positions, Transportation, and School Choice, which represent a 4.63% increase over FY '17. A one-time use of school choice money, in the amount of \$175,000, will be applied to Full-Day Kindergarten. Priority Requests for personnel were discussed. The New Fee Structure includes eliminating bus fees and the addition of two buses. The athletic fees will be fixed at \$125 per sport (\$500 for hockey). The total Superintendent's recommended budget request is \$28,186,662, an increase of \$2,074,376. Dr. Baeta took questions from those in attendance and said the Committee has worked very hard to get the numbers down.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the FY '18 Budget of \$28,186,662 as recommended by the superintendent

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Discussion and Vote on New Courses at NHS for 2017-2018 School Year – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:***

Principal Lafayette reviewed the new course proposals.

Business and Technology Department: Advertising and Media Production in Business

Science Department: Computer Game Programming & Design, Robotics I, Robotics II, and Information Technology & Innovation (Student Tech Team)

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the four new courses as requested

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Discussion and Vote on Changes to Quality Points Issued for NHS Courses – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:***

Principal Lafayette explained that the request is to change the quality points issued per course level to align with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Massachusetts Department of Higher Education operates on a 4.0 GPA weighted scale. Honors courses receive an extra .5 and AP/Dual Enrollment courses receive an extra 1.0 point on the 4.0 scale. Currently, Norton High School is not aligned to this system. Naviance, the district's college and career readiness tool, and the vast majority of colleges and universities across the United States provide admissions data based on the MA Department of Education GPA scale, or one very similar. GPA's on Norton High School transcripts do not coincide with data in Naviance or on college and university websites, again causing confusion amongst students when trying to select appropriate colleges to apply to. Mrs. Lafayette provided a chart of the proposed GPA calculation.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve changes to the quality points issued for NHS courses

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Strategic Plan Update – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:***

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan objectives and goals. At this time there is no recommendation for restructuring the building use. There will be future review of the school start times. Students have expressed an interest in the addition of a course in American Sign Language.

***Discussion and Vote on Custodial Contract Memorandum of Agreement for July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018 – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that the custodial union has agreed to a one-year contract extension and \$.45 per hour increase across the board. The total amount of the increase is \$25,749. The Committee is required to accept the agreement.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to accept the one-year extension of the custodial contract

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Other:***

- Joint meeting of Selectmen and School Committee on March 9 at 7:00 PM at Town Hall
- Ad Hoc Committee meeting March 2 at 6:00 PM at Town Hall
- Karate Fundraiser – helping needy families, and also it will benefit NPS
- Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game
- Discuss possible meeting date change
- Dr. Baeta checking open meeting laws

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 13, 2017 – 6:30 PM at Norton Middle School

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

- FY ’18 School Budget
- NHS Proposed Courses
- NHS Changes – Quality Points, GPA
- Strategic Plan Update

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deniz Savas, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Cohen

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Stern

Kathleen Stern

\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Werner