

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2017

Location: Norton High School Auditorium

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Kathleen Stern. ***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 Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition of Wrestling Coach Pat Coleman – Dr. Baeta, Mr. Ted Currle, Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Dr. Baeta turned the meeting over to Mr. Currle who read Coach Pat Coleman's impressive list of achievements as a competitor and coach. He then introduced the new inductee to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Coach Pat Coleman. Mrs. Lafayette also commended Coach Coleman for his dedication and service at Norton High School. She said parents approached her about naming the wrestling room as a tribute to him. The Norton High School Site Council also approved. Dr. Baeta said he accepted the recommendation of the principal, the athletic director, parents, and the site council and put it to a formal vote by the School Committee.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the naming of the Patrick Coleman Wrestling Room

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Coach Coleman thanked everyone for their support as he graciously accepted this honor. Dr. Baeta informed the audience that they would take a short recess to convene in the wrestling room for the formal dedication and naming of the Patrick Coleman Wrestling Room.

The Committee and those attending recessed briefly to the wrestling room for the dedication and refreshments.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Savas wished to make the following corrections:
Under ***Reorganization of Norton School Committee***, strike the sentence "Dr. Baeta, Acting as chairman pro tem, cast one vote

- Second paragraph, last sentence, should read “ Mr. Savas asked for a vote to approve Mrs. Cohen for vice-chairman”

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the minutes of May 22, 2017 meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Warrant Information:

Mrs. Cohen reported that she had reviewed and approved the warrants of May 22, 2017, in the amount of \$418,659.41, to be entered into the public record,

Student Representatives Update:

- Softball team will play in the state semi-finals at Endicott College
- Student Council sponsored mental health week during the last week of May
- History Honor Society organized the historic tours of Norton for elementary students

Dr. Baeta thanked the student representatives and hoped to see them back in September.

Recognition of NHS Athletes – Mr. Ted Currle:

Mr. Currle, the athletic director, reviewed the 2016-2017 school year. It was a great year with many team and individual awards and accomplishments. He noted that the girls’ softball team will continue playing for the state semi-finals at Endicott College on Tuesday.

JCS Enrichment Program – Mrs. Riitta Bolton:

Mrs. Bolton gave an overview of the before school/after school enrichment programs, open to 2nd and 3rd graders, that have been running at JCS for a few years. Several students were present and talked about their participation in the program. Their *Solmonese Scoop* newsletter was created in one of the programs. Approximately 150 students are involved in the enrichment program.

Destination Imagination - A group of students who competed at the globals in Knoxville, Tennessee were present to update their recent project. Dr. Baeta commended them and thanked the parent volunteers.

Global Education Certificate Proposal – Mrs. Jennifer Tonelli and Mr. Michael Travers:

Mrs. Tonelli and Mr. Travers are proposing the addition of a Global Citizenship Club and a Global Certificate Program. Club members of all grades would meet monthly to discuss global issues and connect with people throughout the world to gain a more global perspective of life outside of Norton. The certificate program would be an organized process in place for interested students. Those selected would display good character, engage in global coursework, complete community service, travel abroad (or complete an equivalent option) and present a senior project based on their research of a global issue.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to accept the Global Education Certificate Proposal as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Recognition of Not-For-Profit 1st and 10 Foundation – Dr. Baeta:

As per a previous announcement that NPS organizations must become not-for-profits by June 30, 2018, the 1st and 10 Foundation is the first organization to file with the Norton School Committee. The information will be added to the school department website and the organization will file their financials with the School Committee on a yearly basis.

Review and Approval of Handbook Changes for NHS – Mrs. Megan Lafayette and Ms. Lisa Giuliano:

The high school administrators discussed changes to the handbook. Most were minor changes in language, additions and deletions, including the addition of the Community Service requirement. Under the Electronic Equipment section, the following statement was added: *Unless previously authorized by the school's administration or designee, students are not to use personal electronic devices for the purpose of recording conversations, taking pictures or video footage of others at school, on the bus or at school-related activities/events without the permission of those being recorded.*

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to accept the Norton High School Handbook changes as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Discussion and Vote on Updated Facilities Use Manual – Mr. Wade Lizotte and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

The administration has reorganized and simplified the Facilities Use Manual to be effective July 1, 2017. The fee structure is now based on a total of the per-hour cost within the custodial contract plus general costs for supplies, materials, and utilities. The rate will be \$48.00 to cover those costs. The Committee also noted that the Wellness policy, Hazing and Anti-Bully policies have been added and outside groups must abide by the policies when utilizing the facilities.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept the updated Facilities Use Manual as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Activity and Club Fees Review and Vote – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

The Committee discussed the fee schedule for NMS and NHS. Dr. Baeta recommended that no action be taken at this time, and Mr. Savas agreed. Mr. Lynch reviewed the clubs and fees. Mr. Savas felt there should not be a fee for the honor society, as did other members. The Committee will revisit the fee schedule in the new school year.

Discussion and Vote on Transportation Application and Routes Deadlines – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reported that bus pass applications have been sent out and he has received 230 back so far. July 28th is the deadline for returns, and then the bus company will compile the routes. Bus passes will be distributed on September 5th. Reminders will be sent out. Hopefully by consolidating routes the district will be able to cut down on the number of buses for a great savings. Mr. Savas questioned why no pass is needed until September 11th. Mr. Lynch said it was the first year for this system and they are trying to work with the families.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Transportation Application and Routes Deadlines as written as they relate to bus transportation

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

NYS Use of Facilities Contract review and Vote – Mr. Wade Lizotte:

The Committee reviewed the contract and Dr. Baeta recommended that they accept the 3-year agreement with the Norton Youth Soccer organization. He pointed out the paragraph referring to coordination with the Norton Conservation Committee and various town inspectors, and that Norton Public Schools K-12 will have priority use of all fields.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the contract between Norton Youth Soccer and NPS with the two mentioned stipulations.

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Southeastern Technical Institute High School Dual Enrollment Program Discussion and Vote – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta recommended and presented the details of the dual enrollment program for NHS seniors who meet minimum requirements. This is an opportunity for students to start a certificate program with Southeastern Regional at the Southeastern Technical Institute high school program. There is no cost to NPS, however, students graduating from NPS will have a cost that they are responsible for in order to complete the program.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the dual enrollment program as outlined

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

College and Career Readiness Recommendations – Dr. Baeta:

The CCR advisory committee has prioritized the needs for improving the college and career preparation. These recommendations will be distributed to administration for implementation throughout the district.

PD Plan – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill gave a brief overview of the Professional Development being planned for the 2017-2018 school year.

NEASC Report – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Mrs. Lafayette reviewed the recent evaluation report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which supports the full reaccreditation of NHS based on the 2016 NEASC visit. The visiting committee was impressed with many of the programs and services available. The high school will report at the 2-year and 5-year points to inform NEASC of progress in meeting recommendations.

Awarding of NEED Grants – Members of Need Organization:

Norton Embracing Educational Development (NEED) is a non-profit community foundation chartered to fund innovative and educational programs and/or technology for the Norton Public Schools through fundraising efforts and donations. Mrs. Gretchen Stalters reviewed the awards made to staff members this year. Sixteen grants were awarded for a total of \$21,000 for the 2017-2018 school year.

Vote to Approve Food Services Contract – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta announced that they are awaiting ratification by the Food Services union of a new 3-year contract for consideration by the School Committee.

Superintendent’s Mid-Cycle Evaluation – Dr. Baeta:

The School Committee, via the chairperson, will receive a mid-cycle form that should be completed by August 1st, to be voted on at the first school committee meeting in September.

Personnel:

Retirements:

Deborah Araujo, JCS Grade 2 Teacher, effective June, 2017 after 33 years with the district

Virginia Charpentier, LGN Grade 1 Teacher, effective June, 2017 after 22 years with the district

Victoria Morse, HAY Grade 4 Teacher, effective June, 2017 after 21 years with the district

Rosanne Wells, NMS Grade 6 English Teacher, effective June, 2017 after 8 years with the district

Fred George, JCS Custodian, effective July 15, after 17 years with the district

Dr. Baeta thanked them for the combined 101 years of service.

Other:

Norton Teachers Association sent a letter of support for the implementation of the full-day Kindergarten program, as well as the Paraprofessional Association.

Fall Town Meeting – School Committee will submit an article to authorize the MSBA replacement of windows and doors at the elementary schools.

Administration is currently working on 2017-2018 adult trip to China to explore a sister school program as part of the international educational initiative.

Joint conference of MASS/MASC in November - registration information

Authorization to keep NHS Grade 12 student (school choice)

Summer enrichment program has enrolled 101 students for the 4 week program, at no cost to NPS. Thank you to Karen Winsper.

School Choice Funds – Technology for incoming Grade 6 students, lease chrome books and purchase 104 laptops. Also, expend \$80,000 for instructional technology, and a one-time expenditure of \$90,000 for curriculum needs (math and ELA K-5 literacy)

Requires a vote for expenditures.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the expenditure of no more than \$170,000 of School Choice Funds for curriculum and technology enhancements as requested by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- JCS Enrichment Program samples
- 1st and 10 Documents
- NHS Handbook Changes
- Updated Facilities Use Manual
- Dual Enrollment Program
- PD Plan
- NEASC Report
- NEED Grant Awards
- Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review Form

Next Meeting Date: September 11, 2017

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

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern