

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 25, 2017

Location: Norton High School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Kathleen Stern. ***Absent:*** Chairman Dan Sheedy. ***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 Representative Bobby Portway.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2017 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4-0 Motion Carries

Warrant Information:

Mrs. Cohen reported that she had reviewed and approved the following warrant, to be entered into the public record:

- September 11, 2017 \$306,570.89

Student Representative Update:

- Senior Cruise on Tuesday, September 26th

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

The school year began with 759 students at NHS. Mrs. Lafayette stated that the AP Program was quite successful, with 351 exams taken. New academic courses were added and the Lancer Learning Block was moved to the beginning of the school day. 400 Chrome Books were distributed and are a part of every day life. Mrs. Lafayette talked at length regarding the new Bridge Program now at NHS. A separate classroom has been dedicated for the class, which includes informal seating and a workspace. A private meeting space is also located within the classroom.

Gatorade Athlete of the Year – Mr. Ted Currle and Mr. Wade Lizotte:

The Gatorade Athlete of the Year Award is given to the most elite high school athletes. It recognizes not only athletic excellence but also academic achievement and exemplary character. One student from each of the twelve sports in each state, and the District of Columbia, is chosen to receive the award. Norton's Kelly Nelson is the Massachusetts recipient for softball this year. Mr. Lizotte and Mr. Currle read a list of her amazing statistics and presented Kelly with a banner and trophy that will be displayed in Norton High School.

Global Education Presentation – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill and Students:

Mrs. O'Neill and teacher Martha Godfrey, along with two students who participated, gave an overview of the first trip, which was a great success. There were 21 students who traveled to Lisbon, Seville, and Madrid for 9 days. Mrs. O'Neill narrated an informative slide presentation and it was pointed out that the students' families were kept in the loop via Facebook and social media. Additional trips are in the planning stages, and include the Dominican Republic in April, a language immersion experience in Quebec for a long holiday weekend, and a leadership conference in Berlin, July 2018. The group was grateful to the Committee for this opportunity.

Recognition of Norton High School Teacher, Dr. Todd Kefor, Massachusetts Teacher of the Year Nominee – Dr. Baeta:

During the 2016-2017 school year, Dr. Todd Kefor was nominated for consideration as the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year. There are four rounds to the demanding application process and Dr. Kefor progressed to the final round. The Committee commended him for his many innovative practices in the classroom. Dr. Kefor thanked all those who helped him in this process.

Vote to Approve NHS Field Trips to New England Tech in Rhode Island – Mrs. Heather Albritton:

Mrs. Albritton requested permission for field trips to New England Tech. This is a new facility. Each trip will feature different career programs that are offered. The first two are:

- Automotive/Criminal Justice Career Education Day – October 20, 2017
- Construction Career Education Day – November 17, 2017

These are free field trips and lunch will be provided. Because they are out-of-state, School Committee approval is required. Mr. Savas wished to rethink the policy because of the short distance to this facility. The Committee wished to approve all four trips at this time.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve four field trips to New England Technical Institute

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4-0 Motion Carries

Norton High School Bridge Program Presentation – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

The objective of The Bridge Program is to provide customized, short-term clinical and academic support for students to successfully re-enter school after a significant absence due to hospitalization, concussion, other medical, or disciplinary action. Returning students are at high risk for relapse, academic failure and social rejection. Mrs. Lafayette discussed the goals and entrance criteria. The average student participates in the program for 8-12 weeks before returning to a traditional classroom. This may become a program at Norton Middle School in the future. The Committee thanked Principal Lafayette for her informative presentation.

Student Health Survey Grades 6-12 – Dr. Baeta:

The Committee reviewed the 2017 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior (YRB) Grades 6-12. The survey was printed by the Center for Disease Control and was completed for the purpose of the sharing of information with the NOPE organization as an aid in determining Grades 6-12 Health Curriculum priorities. This is the first health survey since 2010.

Facilities Projects Update – Mr. Wade Lizotte:

Facilities Director Wade Lizotte reviewed the summer projects at each school, which included moving the Project Early program from LGN to JCS. Each school had several major projects, and extensive preventative maintenance was performed throughout the district. This all took place while each school hosted summer programs. Mr. Lizotte pointed out that the district-wide LED bulb replacement in all five buildings has been completed. Each school will eventually be equipped with new filtered/chilled water bottle filling stations/bubblers.

Other:

- Wheaton Community Council is seeking strategic players. Dr. Baeta is a member already and will keep the Committee informed.

Adjourn:

The vice-chairman announced that the meeting would adjourn, not to return to open session, for the purpose of entering executive session for discussion regarding ongoing litigation. Roll call vote: Mrs. Stern-yes; Mr. Savas-yes; Mrs. Gallagher-yes; Mrs. Cohen-yes.

The regular session meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Global Education Presentation
- NHS Bridge Program
- Student Health Survey Grades 6-12

Next Meeting Date: October 16, 2017 – H. A. Yelle Elementary School

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

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern