

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, October 16, 2017

***Location:*** H. A. Yelle Elementary School Library

***Present:*** Committee Members: Present: 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 Representative Tristan Grieve.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

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

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2017 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4-0 1 abstain Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2017 executive session

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4-0 1 abstain Motion Carries

***Warrant Information:***

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

- September 25, 2017 \$458,232.88

***Student Representative Update:***

- NHS Drama Club began auditions
- Global Citizenship Club conducted its first meeting
- SADD name changed to Peers Acting for Change Together (PACT)
- Student Council holding fundraisers at football games

***Opening of School Report – Mr. Anthony DiFonso:***

Principal DiFonso introduced the staff and students in attendance and thanked all for a great opening. Enrollment is at 396. He reported that the bus dismissal procedure has been altered resulting in saving time both in the morning and afternoon. Two 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have looping

classrooms this year, where each of them teach all subjects to their own group of students. Next year they will both loop to 5<sup>th</sup> grade with the same group of students. Mr. DiFonso reported on the visit by a group of Chinese educators. The Committee thanked Mr. DiFonso for his informative report.

***HAY Student Presentation – Mrs. Susan Cashton and Students:***

Computer teacher Mrs. Cashton and several of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade students gave a presentation utilizing Ozobots, mini robots that can read line drawings. The PTO purchased them for the computer classes and Mrs. Cashton is going around to all classrooms with them.

***Review of Out of State Field Trips Policy:***

The Committee discussed changes to the Out of State Field Trip Policy which will be developed over the school year. No action is required at this time.

***Vote on Updated Capital Improvements Plan Recommendation – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

The original Capital Improvement Plan (FY'18-FY'20) has been revised to include a \$37,000 request to repair a section of the middle school roof above the cafeteria. The roof is in dire need of repair and falls under the guidelines of a Capital Improvement project. This repair is estimated to last 4-5 years before a replacement will be needed. The purchase of a John Deere tractor has been moved to the FY'19 list of requests.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the revised Capital Improvement Plan

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

***ClearGov Presentation – Dr. Joseph Baeta and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

Dr. Baeta stated that the District has recently partnered with ClearGov to create more transparency for Norton taxpayers as it pertains to the District's finances. It is third party generated, and the platform that ClearGov provides gives a visual breakdown of not only the District's finances but also student demographics, staffing, and testing performance. The link to this platform is on the District's main page and can be accessed by clicking the banner that reads: NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS-TRANSPARENCY CENTER. It is also audited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

***Enrollment – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta noted that Project Early enrollment is rising. Kindergarten enrollment is currently 167. He reviewed the enrollments for the charter school and school choice. Enrollment of Norton students at the charter school continues to decline. In his opinion, the class size will be approximately 165-175 for the next decade.

***Vote to Appoint School Committee Representatives to NTA Paraprofessionals' Bargaining Unit Negotiations Committee:***

Two members would be ideal. Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. Savas both expressed interest in serving as negotiations representatives.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to appoint Mrs. Gallagher and Mr. Savas to the Paraprofessionals' Bargaining Unit Negotiations Committee

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

***Vote to Elect Kathleen Stern as School Committee Delegate at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Annual Business Meeting on November 1, 2017 – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to elect Kathleen Stern as School Committee Delegate at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees Annual Business Meeting on November 1, 2017

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

***Other:***

- Dr. Baeta discussed the visit by the Chinese educators
- Mrs. Sullivan reported that the Coordinated Program Review, which is conducted every 6 years, has begun. The process includes interviews, tours of the buildings, and parental input.
- Discussion regarding Town Meeting space requirements
- Mr. Savas discussed enrollment figures and the impact on staffing
- Mr. Savas and Mrs. Stern voiced support of the Town Hall/Senior Center motion on the Town Meeting agenda
- Discussion of charter school reimbursement

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

The regular session meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

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

- Capital Improvement Plan
- ClearGov Presentation

Next Meeting Date: October 23, 2017 – 6:00 p.m. at Norton High School Teachers' Lunch Room prior to Town Meeting

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

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Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

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Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

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Carolyn Gallagher

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Deniz Savas

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Kathleen Stern