

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts
NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
DEC 13 A 8:45

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 13, 2017

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

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, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Student Representative Bobby Portway.

Call to Order: Chairman Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded by Norton Cable Access for public record.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2017 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- October 30, 2017 \$58,554.31

Student Representatives Update:

- Class of 2019 Fundraiser at Chipotle Restaurant
- High School Quiz Show team advances to next round
- Junior/Senior semi-formal held at Holiday Inn on November 9th
- Pep rally
- Senior denim day
- Open House for Grade 8 students at NHS
- National Honor Society inductions on November 21st

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented excellence awards to the following four NHS students:

Academic Growth and Student Leadership Award....Kelly Nelson

Academic Growth and Student Leadership Award....Alexander Wisnaskas

Superintendent's Award of Excellence...Lucas Arruda
MA Association of School Superintendents' Academic Excellence Award...Tristan Grieve

LGN Grade 1 Student Presentation – Ms. Jennifer Carlson and Students:

Ms. Carlson and a group of first graders have been studying bats and they gave a slide presentation and sang a song.

Vote to Approve DECA Trips for 2017-2018 School Year – Mrs. Heather Albritton:

Mrs. Albritton and DECA Action Team Members Bobby Portway and Bridgette Carr, presented information regarding the upcoming DECA Conferences for the year.

#1 - All DECA members will attend the District 8 DECA Competition at the SeaCrest in Falmouth, MA January 10th – 11th. The three DECA Advisors, as well as chaperones, will attend.

#2 - DECA students who qualify in the Top 7 of the District 1 Conference will qualify to compete at the MASS DECA State Competition on March 8-10, 2018. Two advisors will attend the conference.

#3 - ICDC Conference in Atlanta, GA will be held April 20-24, 2018. Students ranking in the Top 4 of the state competition are qualified to compete at this conference. Three chaperones will also attend this national conference.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the DECA trips for the 2017-2018 school year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Unified Track Proposal – Ms. Nicole Nunes and Ms. Kayla Sweed:

Ms. Nunes and Ms. Sweed made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Unified Track Proposal. The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and Special Olympics have established a partnership focused on growing Unified Sports in High School Athletics with the emphasis on growth at the track and field level. In January, 2013, The Department of Education Office of Civil Rights announced guidance detailing school districts' legal obligations to provide students with disabilities equal access to athletic activities.

Unified Sports in schools:

- Allows all students, regardless of ability level, the opportunity to share their talents with the school and community.
- Teaches teamwork and the value of inclusion in all aspects of life
- Builds lasting relationships between students with and without intellectual disabilities
- Creates a school climate of acceptance and respect
- Expands the opportunities for all students to compete in their school's athletics program

Applications for the South League need to be submitted by December 1st. Grants will be applied to the annual cost.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Unified Track Proposal

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Catherine Luke:

Mrs. Luke said it was a busy summer because the Project Early program was moved to the J. C. Solmonese School. There are currently 287 students at LGN and class sizes are generally at a good level.

Technology Department Update – Mrs. Karen Winsper:

Mrs. Winsper gave a Powerpoint presentation to update the Committee on District Technology including 1:1 Chromebook Initiative; Professional Development for staff; JCS and LGN libraries and ongoing initiatives including a Lancer Film Festival. She stated that the district is gradually replacing older technology and hopes to add more iPads. Currently there are 3000 devices, mostly acquired over the last two years. Mrs. Winsper reviewed participation, damage to equipment, IT Tech and Innovation Course, and Mobile Hot Spots Pilot.

Literacy Plan Presentation – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill presented the recently developed Early Literacy Plan that was created in partnership with Norton educators Kristine Kefor and Jerusha Bjork. The goal of this plan is to ensure high-quality literacy instruction and experiences in every classroom, every day, for every student.

National Education Support Professionals (Paraprofessionals) Day Proclamation – Dr. Baeta:

Ms. Shannon Taylor read a statement and thanked the paraprofessionals for their support in all areas of the educational process. Dr. Baeta recognized the paraprofessionals in the district by reading a proclamation stating that November 15, 2017 is National Education Support Professionals Day.

Discussion and Vote on Allocation of School Choice Funds – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch proposed the following allocation of school choice funds:

- 1) \$18,700 for books, supplies, and online materials to support the library programs at L. G. Nourse, J. C. Solmonese, and Norton High School.
- 2) \$57,001.89 to lease 400 Chromebooks as a 1 to 1 initiative at the H. A. Yelle School for Grades 4 and 5. After a brief discussion the Committee voted.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the expenditure of school choice funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Transportation Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch referred to the last meeting, at which time 87 families had not paid for transportation.

He reported that as of this meeting 26 of those families have paid in full or are on a payment plan, 22 have taken the children off the bus and returned passes, 2 left the district, and 8 are appealing. Currently, 22 families have not responded or returned his phone calls. The Committee agreed that certified letters should be sent, and perhaps a penalty phase for payment be added. An update on the situation will be discussed at the December 11th meeting.

Other:

- Working on presentation date with Boosters
- Director of Guidance position has been posted
- December 11th will tentatively be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen
- Community Forum presentation
- LUCK community event on November 30th
- Dr. Baeta is the MA representative on NEASC Executive Board
- Dr. Baeta proposed canceling the November 27th meeting due to lack of agenda items-vote required

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to cancel the meeting scheduled for November 27, 2017.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Mrs. Stern reviewed the recent MASC/MASS joint conference recently held in Hyannis, MA.

Adjourn:

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

The open session adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Next Meeting Date: December 11, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. at Norton Middle School Library

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

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern