

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

2018 JAN -9 P 2:04

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2017

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas. ***Absent:*** 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, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Tristan Grieve and Bobby Portway.

Call to Order: Chairman Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 November 13, 2017 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2017 Executive session

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- November 13, 2017 \$329,062.29

Student Representatives Update:

- The Student Council has been collecting for the Santa Fund over the last few weeks.
- The Snow Ball dance was held on December 1st.
- NHS Winter Chorus & Band presentation was on December 21st
- PACT Club at NHS held a red ribbon week.
- Best Buddies – began as a small group last year but has received its official title. There are 50 members and several activities have taken place.
- Bobby Portway ran the 4th annual food drive for the Cupboard of Kindness.

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented the Superintendent's Award of Excellence certificate to Lucas Arruda and read his college recommendation letter from NPS Guidance department.

Vote to Approve Grade 8 Trip to New York – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:

Instead of using a tour company this year they will be self-coordinating the trip. The itinerary will be slightly different and will focus on sites mainly in mid-town Manhattan. The plan is to take buses to New Haven and then board the train to Grand Central Station. Hopefully the cost will be less than in previous years and more students will be able to attend. Mr. Savas expressed some concern about crowded trains into Manhattan. Mr. Sheedy also had issues with last year's trip. The parent board has been involved in subsidizing the trip in past years.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Gr. 8 trip to New York as presented by Mr. Goldstein

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Discussion and Vote on Full Day Pre-School Pilot Program – Mrs. Kristine Kefor:

After thorough review and careful consideration, Mrs. Kefor recommended the following changes to the pre-school program, effective in January:

- Begin to offer an extended day pilot effective January 8, 2018 to community peer students who will be attending Kindergarten in September. This change is being offered to increase inclusion and integration opportunities for current pre-school students.
- Increase tuition to \$400 from the current \$250 for students attending the extended day pilot.
- Enroll students in the extended day pre-school pilot as available beginning in November. If interest exceeds available spots a lottery will be conducted.
- Form a Working Pre-school Committee (W.P.C.)
- Change the name of the pre-school program from The Project Early Pre-school Program to The Little Lancers Pre-school Program

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Full Day Pre-School Pilot Program as recommended by Mrs. Kefor

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Fall Sports Recap – Mr. Ted Currle:

Mr. Currle read an impressive list of accomplishments of the Boys and Girls fall sports teams. Many of the athletes were designated as Tri-Valley League Large All Stars, EMASS All Stars, and Sun Chronicle All Stars. Mr. Eric Greene was named TVL Boys Soccer coach of the year. The Committee praised the athletes for such a great season.

Discussion and Vote on Capital Budget Requests for FY '19 – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reviewed the FY '19 Capital Budget Requests. Priorities include payments already discussed and approved in prior votes for new vans and new floors at NMS (3rd floor); the

MSBA project for windows and doors coming in at 55.63% reimbursement rate; and study of the athletic complex.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Capital Budget Requests for FY '19

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Article to be submitted as placeholder for the May 14, 2017 Town Meeting. Actual Article with figures will be submitted to Town Manager at a later date.

ARTICLE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be expended under the direction of the Norton School Committee for the collaboration with the MSBA in conducting a potential window/door replacement project at the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School, a potential window/door replacement project at the J.C. Solmonese Elementary School, and a potential window/door replacement project at the L.G. Nourse Elementary School, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an educational facility for the instruction of school children of at least 50 years, and for which the Town may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"). [Alternatively, if a repair project: The proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program.] The MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the Town incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town. Any grant that the Town of Norton may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of 55.63% of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA.

MOTION/VOTE/ORDER

That the Town of Norton appropriate the sum of \$TBD Dollars for the collaboration with the MSBA in conducting a potential window/door replacement project at the Henri A. Yelle Elementary School, a potential window/door replacement project at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School, a potential window/door replacement project at the L. G. Nourse Elementary School, which school facility shall have an anticipated useful life as an education facility for the instruction of school children for at least 50 years [Alternatively, if a repair project: which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the require educational program.], said sum to be expended under the direction of the School Building Committee, and to meet said appropriation the Norton School Committee, is authorized to borrow said sum under M.G.L. Chapter 44. or any other enabling authority; that the Town of Norton acknowledges that the Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA. And any project costs the Town of Norton incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Norton; provided further that any grant that Town of Norton may receive from the MSBA for the Project shall not exceed the lesser of **55.63%** of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; [provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and

contingent upon an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2 ½)]; and that the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the Town of Norton and the MSBA.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the article as a place holder

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Transportation Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reported that previously 22 students were not accounted for. Certified letters were mailed to the families. Of those contacted, 4 will receive free-reduced lunch, 10 are on a payment plan, 6 have paid in full, and two were taken off. The account is up \$55,000 over last year.

Vote to Appoint Anthony DiFonso As Attendance Officer for Norton Public Schools:

The Committee voted to appoint Principal Anthony DiFonso to the position of Attendance Officer for the Norton Public Schools so he can represent NPS when filing attendance documents with the courts.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to appoint Anthony DiFonso as Attendance Officer for the Norton
Public Schools

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Other:

Dr. Baeta announced that Norton Public Schools is one of 477 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll. To be included, Norton Public Schools had to, since 2015, increase the number of students participating in AP while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals shows that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

Dr. Baeta stated that on January 22-February 2, the district will host 14 Chinese students in Grades 4-8. Many activities are planned and he was pleased that all the student will be housed within the community by individual families or a neighboring community with staff members.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Grade 8 Trip information
- Full-Day Pre-School information
- Capital Budget Requests for FY '19

Next Meeting Date: January 8, 2018 – 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