

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2018 FEB 27 P 4: 10
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, February 5, 2018

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representative 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 Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- January 22, 2018 \$359,126.99

Student Representative Update:

- Best Buddies speaker at NHS
- NHS Track Team member Julia Palin qualified for the Nationals with a win at the TVL Championships
- College Planning Night for the Junior class on Thursday, February 8
- On Monday and Tuesday Trainers from Northeastern University will discuss domestic violence causes and prevention

Announcement of Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning PK-12 – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta introduced Mr. Vinny Cerce who has accepted the position of Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning PK-12, effective July 9, 2018. Mr. Cerce is a Norton resident and has 30 years of experience in therapeutic services.

Project 351 Day of Service – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein and NMS Student:

Project 351 is the largest service based not for profit of its kind in the country. Every year 351 communities in the Commonwealth select a worthy eighth grade student to take part in the day of service at various sites around the City of Boston, dedicated to the spirit and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. Mr. Goldstein, along with Bobby Portway, introduced Jack McPartland, the student chosen this year. Accompanied by Mr. Goldstein, Jack took part in service at the State House alongside the governor and first lady creating packages for people who have moved to Massachusetts after being displaced by the hurricanes this past summer, mostly from Puerto Rico. Dr. Baeta thanked Mr. Goldstein for his volunteer participation.

NEED Organization Grant Announcements – Members of NEED:

Members of the organization and recipients were present to review the grants awarded this year. This process was moved to January/February to allow teachers to implement their grants during the same school year. This year NEED received 12 grant requests totaling almost \$14,000.00. Grants were funded through fundraising, donations, and school parent organizations.

Vote to Approve Amendment to NMS Student/Parent Handbook – Mr. Vincent Hayward:

Norton Middle School is seeking approval to amend the 2017/2018 student handbook by adding the following language.

Under Chapter 70, Section 22, Chapter 71, Section 20 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Education Reform Act, students and adults are prohibited to smoke or use any tobacco products in school or on school grounds. For the purpose of this section smoking is defined as the lighting of any cigar, cigarette, pipe, electronic transmission device, vaping device, or other tobacco products or having possession of same. Consequences may include:

For possession of any smoking related paraphernalia (including the aforementioned items) will result in suspension from school.

For use of any smoking related substances or paraphernalia (including the aforementioned items) will result in suspension from school.

Mrs. Stern suggested adding **“including but not limited to”** as has been noted on the district policy manual.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the amendment to the NMS Student/Parent Handbook including the additional language as suggested by Mrs. Stern.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

NHS Bridge Program Update – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Mrs. Lafayette reviewed the Bridge Program at its mid-year point. The Bridge Program provides a short term spot for students returning to high school and was created to help students transition back into the classroom. She reviewed clinical/academic support, student data from last year, and the referral process. The average length of stay in the Bridge Program is 8-12 weeks .

Naviance Presentation – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Naviance is college planning software that provides a customized, secure website that supports post-secondary, college and career planning. It is designed to assist students in making informed decisions about college opportunities and career choices. It promotes self-discovery, college preparation, career exploration, and academic planning. Parents can connect with resources that can assist their child throughout high school in organizing for success in their future goals. Mrs. Lafayette reviewed the components of the software and its usage at NHS. Naviance is more than just college application software, it also provides a secure portal to upload transcripts, view available scholarships, and the ability for staff to upload recommendation letters.

Review and Vote on Town Meeting Articles – Dr. Baeta:

The Committee is required to vote on the following articles to be submitted to Town Manager and placed on the warrant for the May Town Meeting.

Article 1:

Unpaid bill from previous year – Vendor: Town of Norton Water/Sewer Department,
Amount : \$1,007.22

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Town Meeting Article 1 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Article 2:

Supplemental budget for unforeseen out-of-district tuition and transportation costs. The amount to be requested is TBD as of this date and will be based on extraordinary relief approval from DESE.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Town Meeting Article 2 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Article 3:

MSBA window/door replacement projects at the HA Yelle, JC Solmonese, and LG Nourse Elementary Schools. Dollar amount TBD. The budget for the project has not been set by District's Project Manager. ADA Compliance is mandatory.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Town Meeting Article 3 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Article 4:

Establish a Special Education Stabilization Fund for the purpose of reserving funds to pay unforeseen expenses related to special education.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Town Meeting Article 4 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Article 5:

Define the transfer process (from free cash) of the Special Education Stabilization Fund.
(Transfer must be at least \$100,000.00)

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Town Meeting Article 4 as written

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

First Review of Draft School Calendars for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

These calendars follow the current model. Use of the facilities for the golf tournament has not been requested at this time. A vote on the calendars will be on the next meeting agenda.

Recommendation and Vote on FY '19 Budget – Dr. Baeta:

The Committee finalized the FY '19 budget at the Saturday, February 3rd budget meeting and presented its recommended budget. The total FY19 Superintendent Budget Recommendation is \$30,181,994, a 10.82% increase over the FY18 budget. Mr. Savas wished to highlight the special education increase of 4.35% and noted that without that increase general education will be cut. The final vote will be taken at the February 26th meeting.

Other:

- Mrs. Cohen asked if minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meetings had been received.
- It Takes a Community benefit basketball game to be held at NHS.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

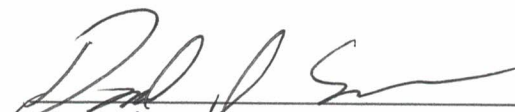
The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

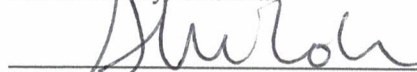
- Bridge Program update
- Naviance presentation
- 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 draft school calendars
- FY19 Budget Document

Next Meeting Dates: Monday, February 26, 2018 at NMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

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



Daniel Shedy, Chairman



Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern