

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2018 MAR 19 A 8:31

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, February 26, 2018

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:

Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice Program for the 2018-2019 School Year:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to open the public hearing on the School Choice program

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The School Choice Program requires a public hearing and then a vote by the School Committee on whether or not to participate for the following school year. Several factors clearly allow the district to have a School Choice program for the 2018-2019 school year, with a closing date of September 1, 2018. The Committee discussed class size issues in K-5 as part of the initiative to include potential addition of staff. There are currently 90 students participating. Students who wish to remain in Norton schools if they move away will not be counted in the cap.

Using enrollment projections for the coming school year, it was recommended that applications be accepted as follows: Kindergarten and Grade 1 (15) seats; Grades 2-5 (10) seats; and Grades 6-10 no cap.

Dr. Baeta reviewed the current School Choice enrollment of 90 students as of February 21, 2018. Notice of the Public Hearing has been published in the *Sun Chronicle*.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close the public hearing on the School Choice program

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on the School Choice program for the 2018-2019 school year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Public Hearing on FY 2019 School Budget:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to open the public hearing on the FY 2019 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta reviewed the Superintendent's recommended FY '19 school budget. He discussed increases in Special Education, Social Emotional Learning, and the circuit breaker reimbursement. He also reviewed personnel, transportation, and contractual obligations. This budget reflects a 10.82% increase for a total amount of \$30,181,994.

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Notice of Public Hearing was published in the *Sun Chronicle*.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to close the public hearing on the FY 2019 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the FY 2019 School Budget as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2108 and February 5, 2018
Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- February 5, 2018 \$321,586.83

Student Representative Update:

- DECA members attending state competition
- Math Honor Society tutoring
- NHS visiting Wingate Center
- Mr. NHS to be held on March 6th
- Class of 2018 fundraiser at the Chateau in Norton

Recognition of Band Students for Recent S.E.M.S.B.A. Auditions – Dr. Baeta:

Five NPS students who recently auditioned for the Southeastern Massachusetts School Bandmasters Association (S.E.M.S.B.A) program were recognized for their excellence in music.

They are: Spencer Kitchen (Grade 8), Shane Hill (Grade 7), Jacquelyn Pesa (Grade 9), Ryan Browne (Grade 9), and Kevin Mahoney (Grade 9).

Global Education Tour Proposal Presentation and Vote – Mr. Michael Travers and Ms. Jennifer Tonelli:

The Global Education Club Advisors updated the Committee on the program and presented the student tours planned for 2019 and 2020. The proposed trips will include Italy for the 2019 April vacation and Paris/Barcelona for the 2020 April vacation.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the trips to Italy in 2019 and Barcelona/Paris in 2020

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Pupil Personnel Services Update – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan and Ms. Kayla Sweed:

Mrs. Sullivan presented an update on Pupil Personnel Services. She discussed services provided by school nurses, counselors, therapeutic services, community outreach, and out-of-district placements. Ms. Sweed discussed the Best Buddies program and SEPAC.

NHS Program of Studies and Graduation Rates – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

The NHS English Department has redesigned its 2018-2019 offerings for students. They have created semester courses based on student interest and teacher passion. Mrs. Lafayette and Dr. Kefor reviewed the addition of several new seminars for seniors. All students in Grades 9-12 were surveyed to determine the courses that would be offered.

Graduation rates are improving at NHS. The 2016-2017 drop-out rate was .5% (4 students).

Review and Vote on School Calendars for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Discussion on the school calendars was tabled.

Second Reading and Vote on Policy Manual Sections A and B Updates/First Reading of Sections C and D – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

The Committee reviewed the changes which were requested for Sections A and B.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept Sections A & B second reading

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The first reading of Sections C and D was held. A second reading and vote will be held at the next meeting.

Superintendent's Goals 2017-2018 Mid-Cycle – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee and reported that the goals are progressing according to the timeline.

Vocational Technical Education Chapter 74 New Program Approval for NHS – Dr. Baeta:

The Superintendent received notification that the district's Vocational Technical Education Chapter 74 New Program Approval Part A application for Business Technology at NHS has been accepted. The submission of Part B will take place in April.

Other:

- Tentative meeting with Board of Selectmen on March 8th
- Thanks to the schools and police for the high 5 Monday
- A delay in finalizing the school calendar with respect to voting and building safety
- Possibility of sponsoring a student/community event in light of recent tragic events
- Benefit basketball game to support 9 families dealing with difficult family situations
- Thursday evening – NHS will host an expert on digital safety for families and staff

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Global Education Tour Presentation
- Superintendent's Goals
- Vocational Technical Education Chapter 74 New Program

Next Meeting Dates: Monday, March 12, 2018 at NMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

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

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern