

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2018 APR 10 A 9:22

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 26, 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, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Tristan Grieve.

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:

Warrants:

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

- March 12, 2018 \$299,900.52

Student Representative Update:

- Down Syndrome awareness day
- Autism acceptance day
- Unified track and field event
- Student Council sponsored a non-political walk out in support of students
- Pennies for Patients raised \$690 for cancer patients
- AP information night at NHS

Dr. Baeta voiced his support for the great work the students are involved in.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2018 Open and Executive Sessions:

Mrs. Stern wished to amend the minutes to indicate the vote to approve the February 26th Open Meeting Minutes was 4 yes, 1 abstain.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Executive Session

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2018 Open Meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries as amended

Winter Athletics Update – Mr. Ted Currle:

Athletic Director Mr. Currle reviewed the list of accomplishments and awards for each of the winter sports: Cheerleading, Wrestling, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Swim Team, Gymnastics (inaugural season), Boys & Girls Indoor Track. It was noted that Wrestling Coach, Pat Coleman, was inducted into the New England Wrestling Hall of Fame. Approximately 300 student athletes are set to start spring sports.

Recognition of DECA Students – Ms. Rachel Pilotte:

DECA shared a recap of their most successful year yet.

Advisors: Heather Albritton, Aaron Sumner, Rachel Pilotte

Student Officers: Bobby Portway, Bridget Carr, Colleen Murphy, Tony Cerce, Josh Leafer, Maura O'Brien, Catie Moniz

Districts: January 2018 – Falmouth, MA

Over 80 NHS students attended.; approximately 40% qualified for States (compared to 20% last year) 9 students from NHS STEP program attended to compete in Life Skills Competition.

States: March 2018 – Boston, MA

26 NHS students attended, joining almost 3,000 other MA students; 6 placed in the top 10 in their categories and 3 qualified for the international conference.

Nationals: April 2018 – Atlanta, GA

6 NHS students will attend along with 19,000 other members from around the world; 3 will be competing and 3 will attend leadership academies.

They thanked the district, the School Committee, and parents for supporting DECA. These initiatives allow the students to learn leadership skills while gaining first-hand insight into the business world.

Recognition of Destination Imagination Students – Dr. Baeta:

"Destination Procrastination" competed in the regional Destination Imagination competition on March 10th and placed 2nd. They were also recognized with a "Spirit of DI" award for having to rebuild half of their props the week before the competition due to basement flooding. Team members are Samantha Graves, Lily Mackay, Ann Marie Franceschelli, and Sean Graham, all NMS 8th graders.

Proposed NHS Science MCAS Changes – Ms. Lauren Bukowski:

Ms. Bukowski reviewed the science courses available, and provided rationale for a change in the NHS Science MCAS exam which will impact students in Grades 9 and 10. Currently all students take the Biology MCAS, whether they take Biology in their freshman or sophomore year, or later in cases of transfer students or those who are retaking the exam. The proposal is for all freshman students to take the Science MCAS. This will result in some taking the Biology

version, while others take the Physics MCAS, which corresponds to the introductory Physics course that most freshmen are enrolled in. Ms. Bukowski reviewed the benefits of this change.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the NHS Science MCAS change as recommended Ms. Bukowski

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes

Coordinated Program Review – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed the results of the District’s Coordinated Program Review and the actions to be taken as a result of the final report.

Vote on Organization of Athletic Boosters – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the final options for boosters reorganization for implementation in July, 2018. The reason for the discussion is to determine how funds are raised and expended. All groups need to be registered as Not-for-Profit by July 1, 2018. The purpose is to have equity and access to all students. After a lengthy discussion the consensus was for Option 2 as follows:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas for Option 2 with the following additions:

- No mandated “fee” to the large boosters
- All money raised by the small boosters stays as line items to the individual sports
- All boosters can or will be under one tax ID number

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes motion carries

Pre-School Update – Mrs. Kristine Kefor:

The Little Lancers Preschool is in the process of restructuring, and Mrs. Kefor presented the three-part proposal for the 2018-2019 school year. She reviewed the proposed options for the program and the request for an additional preschool classroom. This would require an additional teacher and paraprofessional to accommodate the projected increase in enrollment. Expenses will be covered by tuition.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the organizational changes to Little Lancers Preschool as recommended by Mrs. Kefor

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes

Second Reading and Vote on Policy Manual Sections E and F Updates and First Reading of Sections G and H – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill reported that all required changes had been made to Sections E and F.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept Policy Manual Sections E and F as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The Committee reviewed Sections G and H which pertain to Personnel and Negotiations. Changes were suggested and the Committee will take a final vote at the next meeting.

Discussion on School Closure by Board of Selectmen – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta stated that a school closing was off the table at this time. Selectmen will look at other options. Mr. Savas stated that a school closing study was done a year ago and it does not work.

Other:

- Dr. Baeta reviewed the process that will be used to find a replacement for the athletic director. He is hoping to finalize the selection by May 21st.
- Tuition charge from Bristol County Agricultural School.
- Dr. Baeta reviewed several options which will be discussed in the future to possibly reduce the \$2,181,994 budget shortfall. They include personnel, programs, and services. There will be meetings at each building after April vacation as more information is available.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Coordinated Program Review Documents
- Preschool proposals
- Proposed NHS MCAS changes

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 9, 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