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NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, April 23, 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, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representative 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 Allegience:

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2018 Open Meeting:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2018 Open Meeting
SECOND: by Mr. Savas
VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- April 5, 2018 $386,750.93
- April 9, 2018 $ 66,015.31

Student Representative Update:

- Calculus and pre-calculus classes field trip to Six Flags
- HS Quiz Show team activity
- Student Council sponsoring mental health awareness week

Vote on NHS Field Trip to PawSox in Pawtucket, RI – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Norton High School is requesting School Committee permission to take five students from the STEP OUT program to a PawSox game in Pawtucket, RI on May 24, 2018. This program is for 18-22 year olds and teaches life skills/social skills. As this is an out-of-state field trip, School Committee approval is required.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the field trip to the PawSox game in Pawtucket, RI
SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher
VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Vote on School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018-2019:

Dr. Baeta presented two sets of meeting dates that were previously discussed. The main difference is the day of the week the meetings are held, either the traditional Monday, or Thursday. It was the consensus of the Committee that Thursdays would allow collaboration with the Board of Selectmen meetings if needed. Dr. Baeta recommended that the meeting day be changed to Thursday beginning in September, 2018.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the change of the meeting schedule to Thursdays
SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen
VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Review and Vote on Transportation Options – Dr. Baeta:

Authorization is requested to possibly re-route buses based on K-5 and 6-12. The following is a breakdown of numbers of riders/buses at each school:

NHS – 194 riders on 9 buses
NMS – 387 riders on 15 buses
HAY – 306 riders on 13 buses
JCS – 263 riders on 12 buses
LGN – 166 riders on 6 buses

Different scenarios were discussed. Concerns were raised about the length of time for each run and combining younger students with middle school age students. Elimination of runs would result in savings. Members of the Committee and the audience voiced concern about traffic on Rt. 123 and safety when picking up students from crowded school lots. Another problem is the lack of sidewalks in town. The Committee will present written options for future review.

FY 19 Budget Update – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta will provide different scenarios at upcoming meetings. His main goals include keeping elementary class size under 25, keeping the middle school philosophy, and not return to the 30 plus students in high school classes. Currently the shortfall is $2,181,994 from the School Committee recommended budget. It is necessary to cut 13.8 administrative, teaching, and support staff positions. Fees for building use were reviewed. Dr. Baeta will have more information for the Committee at the May 7th meeting.

Personnel:
Retirements:

Andrea Bonda – NHS Paraprofessional will retire on May 5, 2018 after 21 years with the District
Joan Blais – HAY Paraprofessional will retire on May 18, 2018 after 20 years with the District
Elaine Ardagna – NHS Paraprofessional will retire on September 7, 2018 after 30 years with the District.

Other:

- Finance Committee meeting on Wednesday
- Building Committee meeting
- Town Meeting May 14th

Motion to Adjourn:
MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen
SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher
VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Proposed SC meeting dates calendars

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 7, 2018 at NMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

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

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Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

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Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

_____
Carolyn Gallagher

_____
Deniz Savas

_____
Kathleen Stern