

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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2018 JUN 20 A 10:23

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 4, 2018

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy. ***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 Caroline Daly.

Call to Order: Chairman Cohen 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. Stern to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- May 21, 2018 \$175,193.08

Student Representative Update:

- Senior Class Night and walk-thru at all schools
- Senior Field Trip to Canobie Lake Park
- Graduation on June 1
- NMS play – “Mary Poppins”
- HS students helped with HAY Field Day
- Memorial Day Assemblies throughout the District
- Juniors celebrating becoming seniors
- Fall sports meeting
- NMS trip to New York on June 8
- Lancer Luau for Grade 8
- Lancer Film Festival

Mrs. Stern reported that the all-night grad party went very well.

Recognition of NMS Students for Qualifying for National History Day Finals – Mr. Jack Howley:

Mr. Howley reported that the NMS students had recently qualified for the National History Day national finals. One team consisted of Isabella Dumont and Lily Mackay and a second team of Sophie D'Amore and Ann Catherine Powers. Having won prizes at the District and State level, the four students will be traveling to the University of Maryland on June 10-14 to represent Massachusetts. They will compete against the best students in the nation, as well as students from Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and international schools from China, Korea, and South Asia.

Dr. Baeta presented each student with a Certificate of Achievement.

Discussion and Vote on Distribution of School Choice Funds – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reported the projected in-coming revenue for School Choice students is \$519,000. Proposed expenditures are as follows:

Technology Lease	\$211,622
Textbooks	98,000
Professional Development	25,000
Curriculum Expenses	25,000
Technology Expenses	35,000

TOTAL EXPENDITURES: \$394,622

Mr. Savas requested that the Technology Leases be separate from the other expenditures, therefore requiring two separate votes.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Technology Leases from School Choice Funds in the amount of \$211,622.

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the following expenses from School Choice Funds:

Textbooks	98,000
Professional Development	25,000
Curriculum Expenses	25,000
Technology Expenses	35,000

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes 1 no Motion Carries

Discussion on Class Size Policy – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the language of the current policy and felt it was somewhat vague. The objective is to balance the classes. There is an attempt to keep the class size smaller in the lower grades. He said that depending on enrollment, it may be necessary to eliminate School Choice

spots from some grades next year. The Committee can leave the policy as is and review it at a later date if necessary. There is a possibility of using school choice funds to help the situation. Mr. Savas was reluctant to use School Choice money. He did not want to be restricted by a policy. Dr. Baeta will have a better idea of the enrollment numbers at the end of summer. The Committee agreed to discuss this item at the June 18th meeting.

Vote to Appoint Kathleen Stern to Sign District Warrants:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mrs. Stern to sign District warrants

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Second Reading and Vote on Policy Manual Section J and First Reading of Sections K and L – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill reported under Section I, IDG needed to be revised. First reading and vote needed on Section IDG.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to accept Section IDG as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes 1 no Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept the second reading on Section J as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The Committee reviewed Sections K and L. Mr. Savas had concerns with the language regarding parents visiting random classrooms. Dr. Baeta will check with the legality.

Personnel Updates-FY 19 Staffing – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reported that there have been 10 resignations including the Business Manager and Athletic Director. There are also 5 retirements. He also reviewed layoffs, reduction in force, non-renewals, leaves of absence, appointments, FTE's, and elimination of the Food Service Department. A total of 9.98 educational positions will not be filled, and 19 cafeteria positions eliminated equals a total FTE of 28.98. Dr. Baeta's great concern is the number of positions lost at the high school. Positions for the resignations will be posted internally, and Dr. Baeta will notify the Finance Committee that the postings are to fill resignations.

Other:

Dr. Baeta thanked and praised the middle school staff and students for the amazing presentation of *Mary Poppins*. The main cast will perform for the senior citizens.

Members of the Committee commented on their willingness to work with Selectmen to improve the financial situation. They are doing the best they can with what they are given. Special Education mandates must be met, and fluctuate from year to year. NHS teacher Ms. Lauren Bukowski stated her concern about the effect on her colleagues and NHS. Dr. Baeta hoped people would focus on the good things being accomplished in the district.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Policy Manual

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 18, 2018 at NMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

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

Sheri Cohen, Chairman

Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy