

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2018 SEP 10 P 12:06

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 18, 2018

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Daniel Sheedy. ***Absent:*** Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas. ***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 and Cooper Smith.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Stern 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. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Stern reported that warrants had been signed and would be entered into the public record at the next School Committee meeting.

Student Representative Update:

- NMS Field Trips to Six Flags and Capron Park
- Lancer Film Festival
- Pre-school graduation, Class of 2031
- Sports Season wrap-up
- School visits
- Special Olympics
- Final exams
- NMS Grade 8 Lancer Luau

Vote to Approve Girl Scout Project at JCS – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta received a letter from Samantha Ward, the daughter of a staff member, who is working on a Gold Award for Girl Scouts. She has recently completed an internship with READS Collaborative at JCS. She feels that if mainstream classes had easier access to learning American Sign Language they would be able to use those skills to communicate with READS

students. She is proposing a sign with the ASL alphabet to be installed at the JCS playground to encourage integration between the deaf/hard of hearing students and mainstream students at JCS.

Dr. Baeta thanked Samantha for her initiative.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve the project as proposed by Samantha Ward

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Kindergarten Age Requirement – Mr. and Mrs. Geoff Raby:

Mr. and Mrs. Raby contacted Dr. Baeta to request addressing the School Committee regarding their daughter who turns 5 one day after the required cut-off day for entrance to Kindergarten. The current policy states that children who turn 5 on or before August 31 will be eligible to enter Kindergarten in September. The Committee and Administrators discussed this request and offered a new proposal. Children who will be 5 years old between August 31st and the first day of school, at the request of the parents, would be screened by the staff. Their decision is final. After this year the deadline for requests will be June 1st. Dr. Baeta said they would have to publicize the change for this year, extending the cut off date to early July.

Proposed Policy statement:

Students that are born after August 31st but before the first day of school for Norton Public Schools may be screened, at the request of their parent, to determine their readiness for Kindergarten. In order to be considered for early admission, parents must request a screening from the Office of Teaching and Learning no later than June 1st. The screening team will make a recommendation and that recommendation will be final. The Committee will officially update Policy JEB.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve the change to the entrance age policy as recommended.
For FY'19 only, the deadline to request a screening is changed from June 1st to July 13th

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Spring Sports Update – Mr. Ted Currle:

Athletic Director Ted Currle reported on the Spring Sports activity. Many of teams had great success and won many titles, both as teams and individuals. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as AD and teacher over the past 11 years. The Committee wished him luck in his new position.

Vote to Approve NHS Handbook Changes – Ms. Lisa Guiliano:

Ms. Guiliano reviewed proposed changes to the handbook for 2018/2019, which include the following:

- Tech Language - Parents who wish to prevent their children from being photographed, interviewed or recorded should notify Norton High School in writing by October 1, 2018.

- Elevator Language – Prohibits students from using the elevator without written permission from staff. Disciplinary action will result in unauthorized use.
- Smoking and Tobacco Use – Redefines smoking and tobacco use to include smokeless tobacco/vaping, and e-cigarettes and consequences for use in the school building and grounds.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve NHS Handbook changes as presented by Ms. Galliano

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve NMS Handbook Changes – Mr. Vincent Hayward:

Principal Hayward updated a current policy as following:

It is the policy of the Norton Public Schools to provide a learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. All students, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs including athletics and other extracurricular activities.

Also, any necessary changes to dates and times, etc.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve the NHS Handbook changes as presented by Mr. Hayward

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Second Reading and Vote to Approve Policy IGB; Vote to Approve Sections K and L; Vote to Adopt the Entire Policy Manual Policy – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Policy IGB

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Sections K and L

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

All policies have been updated and the Committee is required to vote to adopt the entire policy manual.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adopt the Policy Manual as previously approved in form, and rescind all previous versions of the policy manual published prior to today's date.

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Transfers – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Approval is requested for any transfers made between the date of the final School Committee Meeting (June 18th) and July 13th, which is the final day to encumber funds for expenses. At this

time, no transfers are needed but as July 13th approaches, transfers will be needed to close out Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Per state regulations a vote to approve transfers is needed when a transfer is needed to move funds from salaries to expenses or vice versa.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve transfers

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Update Statement of Non-Discrimination – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

The Committee is required to vote on the updated non-discrimination statement as follows:

It is the policy of the Norton Public Schools to provide a learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. All students, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, limited English proficiency, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or housing status, have equal access to all programs including athletics and other extracurricular activities.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the updated Statement of Non-Discrimination

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Strategic Plan Update – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed the final updates to the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. Most objectives have been completed. The administration is in the process of creating a new plan that will cover 2018-2021. Mrs. Gallagher is the SC Representative on the Strategic Plan committee.

NHS Boosters Update – Dr. Baeta:

An Executive Board was elected by representatives of the various athletic teams that were in attendance at a meeting on June 7th. The board is currently working to address the non-for-profit status. Dr. Baeta had a positive meeting with the organization members.

Vote to Approve Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Norton Paraprofessional Contract for 2018-2019 – Dr. Baeta:

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with the Norton Paraprofessionals for 2018-2019

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Chapter 70 Funding Formula Resolution – Dr. Baeta:

**Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review
Commission’s Recommendations**

Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers."

Therefore Be It Resolved that the **Norton School of Committee of Norton, MA** calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendation of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to support The Chapter 70 Funding Formula Resolution

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of PCC for the 2018-2019 School Year:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors of Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. are to be appointed annually.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve the following appointment:

Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public School Representative on the Board of Directors of Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2018-2019 school year

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Appointment of School Business Manager – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta introduced Mr. Matthew Wells, his recommendation for School Business Manager. Mr. Wells will replace Mr. Lincoln Lynch who has taken a position in another district.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the appointment of Matthew Wells as School Business Manager beginning July 2, 2018

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Other:

- Report on the honors earned by the National History Day students
- NHS resignations and postings
- Pro-rating transportation fees – will be discussed at budget time
- Dr. Baeta thanked Mr. Lynch for his years of service and wished him luck

- *Relay for Life* coordinators thanked NHS for providing the event and thanked the several students who also helped

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

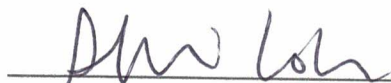
The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:


- NHS & NMS Handbooks
- Strategic Plan

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 6, 2018

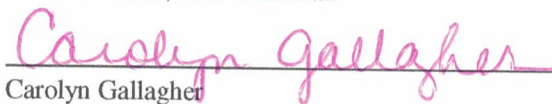
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Sheri Cohen, Chairman



Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman



Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas



Daniel Sheedy