

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

2018 DEC 18 A 11: 18

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 29, 2018

Location: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Dan Sheedy

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Technology Director Karen Winsper,

Student Representatives Cooper Smith ***Absent:*** Vice-Chairman Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mr. Deniz Savas, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill

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 Chairman Cohen to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mr. Sheedy reported that Mrs. Stern reviewed and approved the following warrants, to be entered into the public record:

- October 25, 2018 - \$483,860.37
- November 13, 2018 - \$388,590.39

Student Representative Update:

L.G. Nourse

- Breakfast with Santa will be held December 1, 2018

Norton Middle School

- Updated Sports

High School

- Halloween Teacher Costume Contest – English Department won, and they all dressed as Grammar Police
- Junior/Senior Semi-formal
- Honor Society Induction
- Spirit Week – Seniors won hallway decorating contest with Emerald City
- Thanksgiving assembly

- Update on Unified Basketball
- Update on Sports
- Snowball Dance for Freshmen/Sophomore

Opening of School Report H.A. Yelle – Mr. Martin Geoghegan:

Mr. Geoghegan, Principal reported it was an amazing opening and thanked everyone for welcoming him. He has enjoyed getting to know the students, staff and community and he appreciates everyone.

He presented the website for HAY with great pictures of the students and the newsletter, “Something to Yelle About.” This technology can provide parents communication at home with their children about the things going on at school. The newsletter will also provide information about upcoming events.

Mrs. Cohen expressed how nice it is to see what is going. Dr. Baeta also shared with school committee how Mr. Geoghegan shares information with his staff each week.

Recognition of the NHS Boys Soccer Team by Friends of the Norton Senior Center – Mr. Bill Byrnes

Mr. Byrnes, President of the Friends of the Norton Senior Center, thanked Dr. Baeta for the invite to present the NHS Boys Soccer team with a plaque to recognize the great community service the soccer team provided at their recent annual fundraiser dinner. The boys served over 140 people. Several of the team members were present to accept the plaque.

Mrs. Cohen thanked the soccer team for what they did and are very proud of them. Dr. Baeta expressed there is more outreach and interaction with the high school and senior citizens and thanked everyone.

Dr. Baeta also congratulated Coach Eric Greene for being the TVL Boys Soccer Coach of the Year.

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Baeta

MICHELLE GAO received the Academic Growth and Student Leadership Award (and semifinalist for the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program

JONAHAN CARLSON received the Superintendent’s Award for Excellence

SARAH KUBINSKI received the Academic Growth and Student Leadership Award

ERIC SULLIVAN received the MA Association of School Superintendents’ Academic Excellence Award

Dr. Baeta recognized and presented these awards and read bios of each student as provided by the NHS Guidance Office. These four students are the top 4 of the Class of 2019. Ms. Giuliano and staff of NHS recommend the students and Dr. Baeta enjoyed meeting with the students. Dr. Baeta also thanked the pre-K to 12 teachers and staff along parents and families for getting these students to this accomplishment. Mrs. Cohen expressed how they are great leaders for other students in our district and it is very impressive.

Global Leadership Conference Presentations – Mrs. Karen Winsper and Students

Dr. Todd Kefor travelled to the Dominican Republic with students for a Global Service Learning program for one week. Several students presented a tri-fold poster board they had also presented at the MASSCUE conference with pictures and discussed their adventures. This community service was with a girls' foundation which helps the girls to develop their individuality. NHS students participated in activities with these girls. During the week programs included team building activities, attending their classes, helping in the garden and helping build a 10-foot block wall for security. The students commented on how the language was not a barrier and even the NHS French students were able to communicate.

Mrs. Karen Winsper attended the Global Student Leadership Summit trip to Italy and Germany with NHS students. The students enjoyed working and getting to know students from other areas of the world. Mrs. Winsper shared a video of their experiences at the summit where they had to produce a product to solve a problem to tie into technology. The students explained they were paired with students from other countries and one invention they developed was an ear piece to deal with depression and anxiety by sending signals to the brain to help it relax. Another invention was a design of a helmet to allow a person to continue playing soccer if they had previous concussions.

Mrs. Cohen commented on how this was a great experience for them and we have some great kids in our town. Dr. Baeta thanked the parents who allowed and funded for their children to attend.

Mr. Sheedy asked what the criteria to participate was. Dr. Baeta answered that the criteria for a student to attend is a pre-application, recommendation from a teacher, grades, attendance, discipline and interest on why you want to go that is reviewed at the Superintendent's office.

Personnel – Dr. Baeta

Samantha Bumila, Financial Analyst/Transportation Coordinator
Karina Sallaway, Communications and Media Coordinator

Awarding of N.E.E.D. Grant

Dr. Baeta introduced the NEED organization and formally wanted to thank them and acknowledge them as a working group with administration and fundraising and appreciates all the little things they do for Norton Schools.

Members of the NEED Board updated with fundraising progress.

Fundraising efforts included:

- Square 1 Art (which was split profits 50-50 with the JCS/Yelle/LGN Art department)
- Thank-A-Teacher
- Two Savers clothing drive
- An Apparel fundraiser
- Night of raffles and dining at Homeplate in Norton
- Received very generous donation from both Horizon Beverage and Live Nation/Xfinity Center

NEED awarded a total of \$17,506.00. NEED extended a very special and grateful Thank You to the JCS, LGN, Yelle and Middle School parent boards for their generosity in helping fund these innovative and creative grant requests.

This year's Grant recipient:

L.G. Nourse

1. Jen Carlson, Grade 1, who will be receiving a Maker Space Mobile Project Cart allowing for Hands-On learning for STEAM.
2. Elizabeth Falvey and Kirsten Sedell, Kindergarten, will be receiving an Osmos Creative Board Kit. The kit will allow students to work independently and at a developmentally appropriate level while increasing student confidence and academic progress.
3. Julie Durmis, Library/Media Specialist, will be receiving a 3D Doodler. This project enables the students to engage in project-based learning that is motivating and fun to support their academic learning.
4. Carol Clarke, Speech/Language Pathologist, will be receiving Model Me Social Communication Skills videos. These videos demonstrate social skills by modeling peer behavior in various settings at the elementary level. This program will benefit students with Autism who receive speech/language services.

J.C. Solmonese

Amy Weber, Grade 3, will be receiving 5 iPad minis which will allow for user-friendly engagement, especially for students with special needs. iPads will be used for projects/applications not available on the Chromebooks. This set of five iPads will complement the current set of nine, for a total of 14. This makes it possible for both halves of the class to share and also will be available to all of the third grade classes.

H.A. Yelle

Dianne Bruno, 5th grade math, science and social studies, will be receiving IXL and Flocabulary subscriptions to complete the school year.

Middle School

1. Kyla Couture, Music Teacher, will be receiving an Electric Piano and Bench. This piano will help make concerts and rehearsals sound fuller and more refined.
2. Cheryl Mulligan and Christina Scilingo, Grade 6 science and social studies, will be receiving 4 extra Virtual Reality goggles and iPods, to add to their current set, for interactive learning experiences, bringing social studies to life. These 4 items will compliment their current set to create a set that would be available for half of the class to share with the other half.

3. Kristine Gonet, 7 white social studies, will be receiving a subscription to a Current Events Curriculum from Junior Scholastic for the 2019-2020 school year.

High School

1. Jennifer Young, Library Media Specialist, will be receiving Rubik's Cube Mosaics – a learning system that encourages fun ways to use logic, promotes team work, and sparks creativity.
2. Jenifer Skowronek, TV/Media, will be receiving materials for Broadcasting. This equipment will help make better quality videos through portable lighting, a large monitor and a reflector kit.
3. Robert McCoy and Kayla Sweed will be receiving 25 Google Cardboards for Virtual Reality interactive learning. VR goggles will provide an immersive, multi-sensory approach to education-bringing history to life.
4. Jessica Iozzi and Heidi Loring from the GRIT program will be taking their group on a field trip for team building to Tree Top Adventure in Canton, MA. This field trip embodies the acronym "Growth, Resilience, Integrity and Teamwork."
5. Matthew Knipple, Music, will be receiving 25 iRig KeysPro Keyboards. These keyboards will allow students to play music through their Chromebooks, phones or other devices, bringing NHS toward 21st Century music and recording. It will also benefit the student's skill set and musical knowledge.

The President and Vice President of the Tri-M Music Honor society extend their appreciation and how these keyboards are a major upgrade for high school music department.

Mrs. Cohen thanked the NEED organization for all they do and it does make a difference for our teachers and children.

Dr. Baeta sincerely thanked the NEED organization. Their support will enhance our curriculum in the classroom and through the parent boards and town meeting we are able to support these requests.

Announcement of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship:

These students are all able to receive from the Commonwealth of MA tuition funds. There was a formal breakfast celebration at the high school but still wanted to recognize these students for their hard work. They are in the top 25 % of their class and have received proficient and advanced on the state assessment requirements. Congratulations to the recipients and families.

**John and Abigail Adams Scholarship
Recipients Class of 2019**

Matthew John Anderson	Colten Nolan Hughes
Kalman Joseph Baker	Christopher Matt Junkins
Rhenna Caitlynn Barry	Hannah Christin Kubinski
Colin Glidden Beyna	Sarah James Kubinski
Javik Harrison Blake	Ryan James LaFrancois
Aliyah Tarin Bruno	Ryan Cashel Long
Jonathan David Carlson	Timothy William Morel
Austin James Carroll	Elise Lily Morley
Rebecca Rose Carroll	John William Morrison
Chloe Elizabeth Cegelka	Jacob Alan Peers
Jessica Marie Cicerone	Christina Ann Phillips
Lucas Daniel Combs	Ashley Elizabeth Polk
Hannah Mary Delea	Jane Teada Richardson
Nicholas Scott Denham	Amanda Michelle Romaine
Alison Morgan Dion	Cameron Raymon Rouillard
Tyler Dion Elliott	Emma Sandra Shanley
Michelle Tianci Gao	Alexa Lee Sousa-Shumusic
Kyle James Gauvin	Zachary Thomas Steele
Jeffrey Thomas Golota	Cameron Jason Stolpner
Nicole Marie Grainger	Eric Patrick Sullivan
Morgan Eliza Grant	Emily Rose Tatarczuk
Nicholas Todd Habib	Emma Joy Viglas
Hayley Rose Hathaway	Casey Ann Wood
Lily Grace Holloway	

FY '19 Update – Mr. Matthew Wells:

Mr. Wells presented a financial report for this point in time in the areas of regular education, special education, operations, administration and transportation. The budget will continue to be monitored and will be reported quarterly.

Transportation Update – Mr. Matthew Wells:

Most of the routes are running well with a few issues at JCS. The fees have been addressed and payment plans have been arranged. Dr. Baeta addressed that it was important to note that the free and reduced Mass Health form changed without no previous notification. This affected the free transportation expense for families.

Vote to Approve Disposal of Surplus Supplies: Piano – Mr. Matthew Wells:

Committee vote is required to allow for the disposal of a previously donated piano at the high school that is outside of useful life. The current value of the item is \$0 as the cost of the repairs exceeds the estimated market value.

A vote to approve the disposal of the piano:

MOTION: by Chairman Cohen

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Substitute Nurse Pay Rate – Dr. Baeta

The current daily rate for a substitute nurse is \$100. There is a need to increase the rate to \$125 per day. This increase can allow us to be more competitive and can recruit qualified candidates.

Vote for the increase in substitute nurse pay to \$125:

MOTION: by Chairman Cohen

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Other Business:

Three middle school Boy Scouts with their leader attended the meeting. The boy scouts are earning their Merit Badge – Citizenship in the Community.

Motion to Adjourn:

- MOTION: by Chairman Cohen
- SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy
- VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- FY 2019 Year to Date Financial Report, dated November 1, 2018

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm

Next Meeting Dates: Thursday, December 13, 2018 at Norton Middle School Library, 6:30 p.m.
and will be a joint meeting with the Board of Selectman.

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



Sheri Cohen, Chairman

Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman



Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas



Dan Sheedy

dmk