

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2019 FEB 29 A 11:03

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, January 3, 2019

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Student Representatives Caroline Daly.

***Absent:*** Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Technology Director Karen Winsper

***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 December 13, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Deniz Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Chairman Cohen to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2018 Executive Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Dan Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Warrants:*** Mrs. Stern reported that she reviewed and approved the following warrants to be entered into the public record:

- December 13, 2018 \$617,589.55

***Student Representative Update:***

Caroline Daly addressed the Committee regarding school events:

- HAY – selected students of the Month for December and working hard to create a positive school environment
- NMS – will be announcing their citizen of the month; auditions will be held next week for the play which is Peter Pan
- NHS – mid terms in two weeks; Rubik's Cube Club won 1<sup>st</sup> place for Mookie Betts Mosiac

***Recognition of NHS Student for Swimming Title – Dr. Baeta:***

Elise Morely, a 12<sup>th</sup> Grade student at NHS participated in the U.S. Paralympics Swimming Nationals in Tucson in early December. According to her mom, "...despite some of the coldest weather in Tucson and not conducive to swimming outdoors, Elise won the U.S. Paralympic National Title for the 400 Individual Medley. She came in 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 100 Freestyle and the 50 Freestyle." Dr. Baeta congratulated Elise and presented her with a certificate.

***Vote to Approve Grade 8 New York City Trip – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:***

Mr. Goldstein presented to the Committee details for the proposed New York City field trip for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade on Friday, May 31, 2019. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year for this field trip. They will take a bus to New Haven, CT, then take the commuter rail into the city. Mr. Goldstein has been coordinating with metro north to make arrangements for two empty cars for the students. The cost of the trip will be \$150.00 and leave at approximately 5:30 a.m. and return (based on last year return) at approximately 1:00 a.m. Mrs. Cohen commented she chaperoned last year and it was a great day and everyone had fun.

MOTION: by Chairman Cohen to approve the New York City field trip

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***NHS Business Technology Department Presentation – Mrs. Heather Albritton:***

Mrs. Albritton and Mrs. Rachel Pilotte presented the Committee with an update about DECA and information on the Vocational Technical Education Chapter 74 program. DECA membership for 2018-2019 has 98 students and 86 of the students will be attending the District 8 Conference at the Cape Cod Resort on January 10-11, 2019. An award ceremony will be held on Friday, January 11, 2019 and all are invited. Our Life Skill Students will also be attending. Mrs. Albritton will forward the times to the Committee. Qualified students will then attend the State Career Development Conference held at the Marriott Copley Hotel in Boston on March 7-9, 2019. The DECA International Conference will then be held in Orlando, Florida at the Hilton Hotel in Disney Springs.

Mrs. Albritton and Mrs. Pilotte also provided a hand out about the College, Career & Technical Education (CCTE) – Business Technology Program. Discussion was held regarding this new Chapter 74 Program and the 3 career pathways students can select for vocational curriculum and certifications they can receive. Dr. Baeta addressed that there will be funding for this new vocational program and we should get the funding amount in a few weeks. It was a 2-year process to meet the requirements needed to offer this opportunity to the students. The committee thanked Mrs. Albritton and Mrs. Pilotte for the time and effort that they put forth and in getting their certifications for this new program.

***Little Lancers Update – Mrs. Kristine Kefor:***

Mrs. Kefor presented on the Little Lancers Preschool Program. Currently, the preschool program has an enrollment of 103 students, which is an increase of about 40+ students from this time last year. Mrs. Kefor and the Committee discussed current changes that were introduced this year, the outcome of surveys that were conducted from families, and staff recommendations with proposals and tuition rates for the 2019-2020 school year. The enrollment for next year has begun, so more exploring will be conducted regarding any upcoming changes and the Committee will continue to be advised for final votes and recommendations. Dr. Baeta supports this program and will provide the Committee with a tuition recommendation.

***Naming of Facilities Process – Dr. Baeta:***

Prior communication was sent to the entire School Committee from Michael Atwood about honoring his father, John Atwood. Mr. Atwood was a 3-term Norton School Committee member and Director of Guidance and Special Needs. Dr. Baeta referred to the email and the Naming Facilities policy as information purposes at this time. Upon recommendation, this consideration should be turned over to the Site Council for that building, then forwarded to the Superintendent with final presentation to the School Committee.

***Update on MASC/MASS Annual Conference – Mrs. Kathleen Stern:***

Mrs. Stern attended the MASC 2018 Conference on November 7-10, 2019. She provided the Committee with a handout of the seminar. Previous seminars attended by Mrs. Stern addressed topics of social and emotional learning. This seminar addressed, “How do we get there and what are we doing?” Mrs. Stern commented that she felt good about what we are doing and how we are already doing a lot of the recommendations that were provided at the seminar.

Mrs. Stern has also been in contact with Ashley Olsen who developed a program of short little videos or questionnaires about different social and emotional developments entitled, “Let’s Talk About It. These videos/questionnaires can coincide with our Health & Wellness classes. She recommends we look further into this.

***Agenda Items for January 10, 2019 Joint Meeting with Board of Selectman – Dr. Baeta:***

Consideration of potential agenda items for the meeting:

- Shared positions
- Bring up demographic changes
- Emphasize social and emotional learning; Special Education
- Transportation
- Substitute pay line item

Security and education are important to our town, so emails with suggestions can be forwarded to Dr. Baeta to finalize the agenda.



***Other Business:***

Dr. Baeta provided a hand out for proposed changes to the School Committee Meeting Schedule. No meeting on January 17, 2019, instead it will be held on January 24, 2019. This is due to the scheduling of the Selectman Joint Meeting and Town Meeting. No meeting on February 14, 2019, due to preparation on the 2019-2020 Budget. Additional Meeting March 7, 2019.

MOTION: by Chairman Cohen to change the school committee meetings as suggested

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta read a letter from the Town of Andover and recognized Sara Horton for all her efforts in coordinating a fundraiser for the victims of the gas explosion in the Andover, Lawrence area.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

- MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen
- SECOND: by Mr. Savas
- VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.***


***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

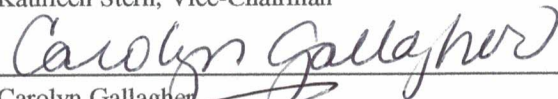
- PowerPoint presentation on DECA and Vocational Technical Education Program
- Handout re College, Career & Technical Education (CCTE) – Business Technology Program
- PowerPoint presentation on Little Lancer Preschool and Proposal FY 2019-2020
- Email from Michael Atwood and Naming Facilities policy

***Next Meeting Date:*** Thursday, January 10, 2019 with Board of Selectman, at Norton Middle School Library at 7:00 p.m.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Cohen, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Carolyn Gallagher

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deniz Savas

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Sheedy

dmk