

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2019 MAR 22 A 10:08

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, February 28, 2019

***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 Matthew Wells, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Caroline Daly and Cooper Smith.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 January 3, 2019 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

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

- January 24, 2019 \$262,007.87
- February 7, 2019 \$485,137.83

***Student Representative Update:***

Cooper Smith and Caroline Daly addressed the Committee regarding school events:

- NMS – Citizen of the Semester; Black Light Activity Night; and Baseball and Softball Tryouts
- JCS – Before and After School Enrichment program and Ready to Read Program

- LGN – Winter Carnival
- HAY – Kindness Challenge (5,000 acts of kindness in 2 weeks); PTO Family Fun Trampoline Night; and dodgeball game with Principal Geoghegan
- NHS – Date Safe presentation; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade course selection; AP courses info night; ITAC/Kathy Bailey Basketball Game; John Trautwein presentation; Mr. NHS competition; girls self-defense program; and talent show.
- Update on winter athletics

***Recognition of Norton Black Knights Cheer State Champions and Super Bowl Champions Football Team – Dr. Baeta:***

Members of the Norton Black Knights 12 U Cheer Squad and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Football team were present at the meeting and were recognized by Dr. Baeta for their recent successes. The cheer squad was the state champions and the football team was the Dual County Tri Valley Super Bowl champions. Certificates of recognition were presented to both teams. Dr. Baeta made the announcement that the Black Knights and Pop Warner would be joining forces to create one football/cheer organization in town.

***Recognition of NMS Student Project 351 Participant – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:***

Mr. Goldstein introduced 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Chloe Shelton, the NMS Ambassador for the Project 351 program day of volunteering held during the Martin Luther King Day holiday weekend in Boston. Chloe shared information about her experiences including her volunteering at the Pine Street Inn. There are over 400 Ambassadors from throughout the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts. Former NPS Student Ambassador, Bobby Portway, flew in for the event. Current School Committee Student Rep, Cooper Smith, also represented Norton as a NMS student.

Project 351 is a not for profit organization that has been around for nine years, and their chief mission is to train and inspire a new generation of young service oriented leaders across the Commonwealth. Each year the goal is to have all 351 communities from across Massachusetts send a representative 8th grader to the annual service launch day which takes place on Martin Luther King weekend.

Dr. Baeta presented Chloe with a certificate of recognition for her participation.

***Recognition of NHS Student for Excellence at Annual Lions Club Speech Competition – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta introduced NHS Junior, Caroline Daly, a participant in the Annual Lions Club Speech Competition (a statewide speech competition). This year's topic is "Integrity: What does it look like?"

Caroline already won the club, zone, & regional levels and won \$350 in total. Recently at Hotel 1620 in Plymouth, she won the District Level of the Competition and won \$1,000 and a plaque, bringing her yearly earnings up to \$1,350. She is guaranteed at least another \$250 for attending and participating in the State Finals/State Championship this coming May 4th in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.

The speeches are required to be between 5 minutes minimum and 8 minutes maximum. Each level of the competition gets subsequently harder. It starts with a full manuscript and then goes to three index cards, and then one. For this past competition, Caroline had her entire speech memorized.

Caroline won \$1,600 last year as she was the state runner-up at the state championship (Topic: "The Effects of Volunteerism"). She came in second overall in the entire state of Massachusetts, being the youngest competitor in the field.

Dr. Baeta presented Caroline with a certificate of excellence.

***Review and Vote on Little Lancers Price Adjustment – Mr. Matthew Wells:***

Mr. Wells discussed a proposed 5% increase in Little Lancers tuition for FY20, noting it has been five years since last increase. Information was shared regarding current revenue and projected revenue for the preschool program including the increase.

Dr. Baeta noted comparison information put together by Kris Kefor. Financially it is a good program versus the competition but it is time to have a financial plan. Dr. Baeta recommended the tuition increases as forwarded.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve the price adjustment as recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta recognized the teachers and support staff in the program. He noted that we are trying to make Little Lancers a universal preschool program and that we are recognizing all types of students including those that we are legally bound to work with as well as providing families the opportunity to be a part of us.

***Unified Boosters Update – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on the Unified Boosters organization and introduced Sandy Ollerhead, the Treasurer of the Executive Board. Via email Mrs. Ollerhead expressed her concerns over making sure everything was in order. She offered a recommendation of hiring a CPA and/or attorney for guidance.

Mrs. Ollerhead addressed the School Committee regarding meetings held and how she didn't feel she had the expertise to answer questions posed, only having a math teacher background. School Committee suggested trying to find a volunteer attorney/cpa so that the organization is set up properly and procedures put in place. Mrs. Ollerhead was given kudos for doing a great job. It was suggested that someone reach out to Hull for guidance. Dr. Baeta said he would reach out to Mrs. Ollerhead regarding an attorney lead who may be available to help. The organization has no budget to start with. Fundraising was suggested or borrowing from other boosters. It is very difficult when there is a huge turnover of booster representatives from year to year. Dr. Baeta told the Committee he would send the most recent list of groups that had representation.

***Vote to Approve School Choice Funds Expenditure for Transportation Consultant – Mr. Matthew Wells:***

Mr. Wells addressed the School Committee regarding using School Choice funds for a one-time expenditure not to exceed \$9,995 to hire a transportation consultant. NPS is in the final year of a three year busing contract. The consultant would analyze current transportation, make recommendations for efficiency, and administer the bidding process. The consultant would check efficiency of routes and the current system and would bring more bidders to the table. Dr. Baeta said we would also inquire about privatization.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve School Choice Funds Expenditure for Transportation Consultant

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Initial Review of FY20 Budget – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta stated that this year we were taking a different approach with the budget: mandates vs. non-mandates. He said at this time this was just a budget request, not a recommendation. The FinCom meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> is for School Department only.

Dr. Baeta questioned where the State budget would land. We received Chapter 70 money Dept. of Revenue numbers and it looks positive for Sending Out School Choice and that vocational looked flat. Dr. Baeta stated he was concerned about costs associated with the Aggie new \$1M facility. The biggest issue for Norton is the four State formulas. In two of the formulas we get \$25 per student or \$50,000. In the two other formulas we get in the vicinity of \$600,000.

Dr. Baeta focusing on bringing forth a budget:

- With level services with mandates
- Reinstated Health/Wellness programs in 6-12
- Growth in Fine Arts
- Contracts settled for next year but legal money needed for negotiations, etc., and adding Para-Professionals to Unit A contract
- Study being proposed to see where transportation lands

A budget will be put forth with the understanding that we will go after money in the Fall to avoid layoffs. Currently budget is split: Regular Education and Special Education. Discussions needed on how to utilize School Choice funds. Dr. Baeta stressed the need for preventative maintenance is important.

Principals would have more control of Professional Development in cooperation with Central Office and involvement in District goals and the Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Cohen noted that it is like a political standoff with the Town over School Choice money and that we need positive momentum and to keep Norton competitive.

Mr. Savas stated that once you get into the operational budget and School Choice funds it is tricky and that we should be cautious because School Choice funds could go down.

***Superintendent's Goals Update – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on his goals for 2018-2019.

He noted that Norton was chosen by AASA as one of 40 Districts, and the only one from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to take part in a best practices research study. The first meeting is in March.

***Other Business:***

- Review of Child Care RFP's – Mr. Sheedy volunteered to help on selection committee
- March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at NHS Board of Selectmen holding a meeting on Town Hall Feasibility Study
- Upcoming Negotiation Dates for Mr. Sheedy and Mrs. Gallagher: April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>. It was discussed that the Ground Rules be presented before a School Committee meeting at 6 p.m. with the School Committee meeting to begin at 7 p.m.
- Mrs. Cohen talked about the upcoming ITAC/Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game being held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The webpage has a link to get tickets. Donations being accepted. Organization offers help to families dealing with serious illness or the loss of a loved one.

***Motion to Adjourn Open Session and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on Litigation not to return to Open Session:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Cohen – yes; Stern – yes; Savas – yes; Gallagher – yes; Sheedy – yes  
5 yes Motion Carries

**The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.**

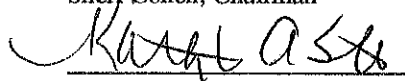
***Documents and other exhibits used at meeting:***


- School Expenses Summary sheet from January 24, 2019 and February 7, 2019
- Norton Black Knights Press Release – 12U Cheer Squad Wins the Massachusetts State Champions
- Norton Black Knights Press Release – The Norton Black Knights Win the Dual County Tri Valley Super Bowl with a 24-6 win over Waltham
- Little Lancers Tuition Proposed Increases FY2020, FY2021 Worksheet
- Little Lancers FY2019 vs. FY2020 Spreadsheet
- E-mail regarding Unified Boosters
- Memo regarding FY19 School Choice Funds Expenditure Request
- Superintendent's Goals: 2018-2019


**Next Meeting Date:** Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 9:30 a.m. at H. A. Yelle School Library

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

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Sheedy

tlr