

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2019 MAR 27 A 9:21

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2019

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Student Representatives Caroline Daly and Cooper Smith

Absent: Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher (arrived 6:35 pm)

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:

Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice Program for the 2019-2020 School Year:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to open the public hearing on the School Choice program

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

The School Choice Program requires a public hearing and then a vote by the School Committee on whether or not to participate for the following school year. The current climate of school competition, need for revenue, and the opportunity to provide 21st century learning opportunities for all students clearly allows for us to have a School Choice program for the 2019-2020 school year with a closing date of September 1, 2019. Further, the School Committee will consider class size issues in K-5 as part of this initiative to include the potential to add staff. A vote and a letter to DESE must be completed by June 1st of each year.

Looking at enrollment projections for the 2019-2020 school year it is recommended that applications be accepted as follows: Kindergarten – Grade 5 – (10) seats; and Grades 6– 10 no cap.

As of March 4, 2019, enrolled in the School Choice program are 110 students as follows: Kindergarten (10); Grade 1 (13); Grade 2 (7); Grade 3 (12); Grade 4 (12); Grade 5 (11); Grade 6 (12); Grade 7 (8); Grade 8 (7); Grade 9 (4); Grade 10 (8) and Grade 11 (4); and Grade 12 (2). Please see enclosed School Choice Recommendation sheet and newspaper notice of hearing for School Choice and School Budget.

Open Enrollment is two weeks after the date of vote, which will be March 18, 2019. Karina Sallaway Communications and Media Coordinator, is preparing outreach for the School Choice Program.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close the public hearing on the School Choice program

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept the Superintendent's recommendations on the School Choice program for the 2019-2020 school year

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Public Hearing on FY 2020 School Budget:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to open the public hearing on the FY 2020 School Budget

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta reviewed the Superintendent's recommended FY '20 school budget. He discussed increases in Mandated Special Education and General Education. He also discussed other revenue sources by using \$717,000 of School Choice funds and the Circuit Breaker reimbursement. He also reviewed personnel, contractual obligations, revolving accounts and grants. This budget reflects a 6.57% increase for a total amount of \$30,382,991.00, the lowest percentage increase in 6 years.

The FY'20 school budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on March 18, 2019 at the meeting at Town Hall, at 7:00 pm.

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Notice of Public Hearing was published in the *Sun Chronicle*.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close the public hearing on the FY 2020 School Budget

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mr. Sheedy reported into public record that the following warrant was reviewed and approved:

- February 28, 2019 \$743,032.46

Student Representative Update:

NHS

- Visited Sturdy Memorial Hospital for Future Nursing Day
- Date Safe Presentation to Juniors and Seniors
- Kathy Bailey Memorial Basket Game will be held on March 8th
- DECA will be attending States on March 8th and 9th
- National Honor Society will be hosting Senior-Senior Hawaii Prom
- Mr. NHS to be held on March 13th
- Talent Show to be held March 29th

LGN

- Winter Carnival has been postponed until March 9, 2019, due to weather.

HAY

- The Act of Kindness Challenge has one week left
- Book Fair

JCS

- Book Fair

Naming of the NHS Student Support Center – Dr. Baeta:

As discussed at the January 3, 2019 School Committee meeting, policy regarding the name of facilities has been followed and the NHS Site Council voted unanimously to name the NHS Student Support Center the “John B. Atwood Student Support Center”. A ceremony will take place in early May on a School Committee meeting night.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to rename the Student Support Center

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Chinese/Norton Public Schools Agreement – Dr. Baeta:

NPS is formalizing an international Chinese student agreement with Boston Wise. The tentative start date is April of 2019 with a planned trip to China by NHS representatives Vinny Cerce and Melissa Thomson. The Superintendent will be participating in the international conference in China and will visit our Chinese partner schools in October 2019. All expenses incurred will be via the international tuition line item. Please see attached memo and agreement.

Dr. Baeta discussed the International Educational Diploma Program for Grade 12 students and how the program will provide college and career counseling to meet all requirements for receipt of a diploma. He also discussed the Exchange Program for Grades 9-12. Dr. Baeta addressed the goal of providing professional development with our curriculum to International Teachers to prepare Chinese students to attend NHS.

Comments were well received about how we have hosted exchange students and currently have exchange students in Grades 4-12. Great friendships have been made and continued well after the students have gone.

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta attended the Planning Board meeting on March 5th. He discussed with the school committee concerns and issues regarding the Solar Panel Facility to be located at 54 Pine Street, Norton, which abuts the LG Nourse School.
- Chairman Cohen announced the town is looking for volunteers for the Community Preservation Committee and you can contact Mr. Bob Kimball at Town Hall.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries


The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

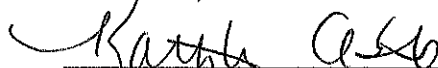
- School Choice FY'20 Recommendation Chart
- The Sun Chronicle advertisements for public hearing on School Choice and the Proposed FY'20 Operating Budget
- Memo dated March 4, 2019 regarding International Education Diploma Program and International Cultural Exchange Program
- Sister School Agreement between Norton Public School and Edsence International Children's College (EICC), China, dated January 28, 2019
- Memo dated March 4, 2019 regarding FY'20 Budget and a letter addressed to families, employees and the community
- Documentation with spreadsheets for the FY 2020 School Committee Budget, dated March 7, 2019

Next Meeting Dates: Monday, March 21, 2019 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

Dan Sheedy