

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, March 21, 2019

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern (6:40 p.m.), Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, and Mr. Deniz Savas. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Caroline Daly and Cooper Smith. ***Absent:*** Mr. Daniel Sheedy; School Business Administrator Matthew Wells; and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:36 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: February 28, March 2, and March 7, 2019 Open Meetings and February 28, 2019 Executive Session Meeting***

MOTION: by C. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 meeting

SECOND: by D. Savas

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by D. Savas to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2019 meeting

SECOND: by C. Gallagher

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by C. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019 meeting

SECOND: by D. Savas

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by C. Gallagher to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2019 Executive Session meeting

SECOND: by D. Savas

VOTE: 3 yes Motion Carries

***Student Representative Update:***

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

- NHS – John Trautwein Not Me presentation on suicide; National Honor Society Senior/Senior prom; Senior class hosted Mr. NHS competition; Pennies for Patients; talent show; class ring ordering night; Debate Team field trip; Lancer Film Festival;; update on spring sports (tryouts)
- NMS – Baseball/Softball underway; Pennies for Patients; Wheaton College visited students to talk about kindness, centered around anti-bullying;
- JCS – Visit by the Ecotarium; Fun Family Night; ice cream social
- LGN – Winter carnival; Expert Fair
- HAY – Shadow a student day; parent conferences
- Successful Kathy Bailey/ITAC Basketball Game; All schools took part in crazy sock day for Down Syndrome Awareness Day; April vacation three weeks away

***Warrants:***

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

- March 7, 2019                      \$106,382.58

***Recognition of NHS Track Athletes for Competing at New Balance national Meet – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta recognized NHS track athletes for competing at the New Balance National Meet held in New York on March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

The boys 55 meter shuttle hurdle relay of Corey Stalters, James Partridge, Peter Rivard and Paul Wisnaskas placed 22nd in the Championship event. They narrowly missed the school record etched in 2012 when four NHS boys made it to Nationals for the first time.

The Sprint Medley team of Julia Newell, Kirsten Loring, Kylie Dion and Bella Pietrasiewicz placed 38th in the "Emerging Elite" race.

Coaches Alex Evans, Bekah Sargent, Ricky Williams and Gretchen Stalters traveled with the athletes and were also recognized.

Certificates were awarded to the student athletes.

***NHS Fine Arts Department Presentation – Ms. Robin Lewicki:***

Ms. Lewicki and NHS shared a presentation with the Committee regarding the NHS Fine Arts Department. Students were present to show artwork and to talk about the different music/band groups and activities, including:

- Acapella group performed at Wheaton College

- Student played taps at Veteran's Day Parade
- Department received a new Yamaha piano
- Winter concert consisted of performances by the percussion group, chorus and band
- Pep band
- Students participating in SEMBSA
- NHS and NMS chorus groups united for a performance
- National Art Honor Society very active group with several community service hours
- Painted pumpkins fundraiser
- Patriot Place art show
- Scholastic Art Awards
- Art Show to be held at NHS on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

***Panorama survey Data Presentation – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:***

Mrs. O'Neill updated the Committee on the status of the District's partnership with Panorama Education, including recent survey results and the implementation of the Student Success Platform. Student climate surveys as well as a parent survey were given. This year surveys were extended to athletes and are given at the end of each season. SEL surveys were also given to students. Information will be shared with SEL committee to look at ways to build programming for students. We are looking at individual student growth over time. In the Fall a staff climate survey was given at the building level and central office. The next thing we will be doing in partnership with Panorama is the Student Success Platform, which is a way for us to manage our own internal data and help us look at the whole child. A short video was shown explaining the Student Success Platform. Discussion ensued about how the data would be used.

***Norton High School Principal Search Update – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on the NHS Principal search. Thirty two candidates applied. Thirteen candidates were screened out. Eight were asked to interview and seven accepted. After the first round of interviews four finalists were named: Ethan Dolleman, Paul Funk, Lisa Giuliano and Bryan Lombardi. The four candidates will visit NHS and meet over four separate days with staff and students, as well as NPS Administrators and Dr. Baeta. Families will be invited to meet one evening with candidates when the pool is down to two. It is estimated that a new Principal will be named the week after April vacation. Dr. Baeta gave thanks to Dr. Martes who headed the search.

***Vision2022 and Portrait of a Graduate Drafts – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta presented the draft Vision2022 strategic plan to the Committee which is available for public commentary. He thanked all those who spent an entire day at NMS for the process of creating the plan. We are waiting for the 2018 transparency center data on student demographics before publishing. Three Goals were established as part of a whole child initiative. Goal 1: Social Emotional Learning and College, Career and Life Ready; Goal 2: Climate and Culture; and Goal 3: Enhance community relationships to include branding. Meeting with administrators and forming a Prek-5 Group, 6-12 Group, and Prek-12 Group to figure out the best approach to prioritize these initiatives.



Portrait of a Norton Graduate: Dr. Baeta noted the idea that students are more than just a score. We have come up with six areas for every student in Norton, not to be graded on, but to be given feedback on with a goal of bringing the information to staff members. The goal is to have the skill sets for each of our grades.

***Other Business:***

- West Main Street sewer extension project from Wheaton College to the Housing Authority. Will take about 4 -5 months from June – October 2020 along Rt. 123/Rt. 140. Looking at night work and not during the day. Dr. Baeta stressed busing issues at recent meeting.
- Solar Project update – Planning Board meeting on March 26th
- FinCom meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> – budget discussion
- Mrs. Stern noted that two contacts for solar projects – one dealing with cranberry bog is not very receptive; representative for LGN project is more receptive/supportive
- School Choice – applications available starting March 18<sup>th</sup>

***Motion to Adjourn Open Session and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion on Contract Negotiations for Non-Union Personnel and Preparation for Union Negotiations not to return to Open Session:***

MOTION: by D. Savas

SECOND: by K. Stern

VOTE: Cohen – yes; Stern – yes; Gallagher – yes; Savas – yes;  
4 yes Motion Carries

**The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.**

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

- School Expenses Summary sheet from March 7, 2019
- NHS Fine Arts Department slide presentation
- Panorama informational flyer
- Memo from Jennifer O'Neill to Dr. Baeta and School Committee re Panorama Surveys and Continued Partnership
- Draft Vision2022 Strategic Plan
- Portrait of a Norton Graduate

***Next Meeting Date:*** Thursday, April 11, 2019 – 6:30 p.m. at Norton Middle School Library

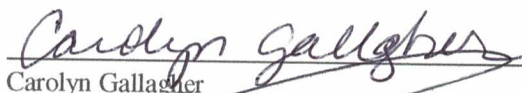
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem



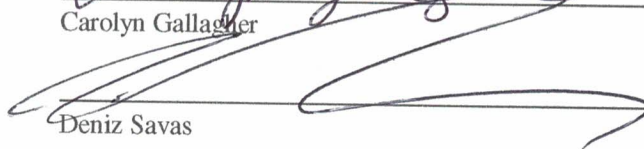
Shari Cohen, Chairman



Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy

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