

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

2019 MAY 13 A 9:25

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, April 11, 2019

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairman Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman Kathleen Stern, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Dan Sheedy and Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representative Cooper Smith

***Absent:*** Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Matthew Wells

***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 Minutes of March 21, 2019 Open Session meeting and March 21, 2019 Executive Session meeting***

MOTION: by C. Gallagher to approve the minutes of March 21, 2019 meeting

SECOND: by D. Savas

VOTE: Cohen-yes; Stern-yes; Savas-yes; Gallagher-yes; Sheedy-Abstain  
4 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by C. Gallagher to approve the minutes of March 21, 2019 Executive Session meeting

SECOND: by D. Savas

VOTE: Cohen-yes; Stern-yes; Savas-yes; Gallagher-yes; Sheedy-Abstain  
4 yes Motion Carries

***Warrants***

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

- March 21, 2019 - \$460,559.04
- April 4, 2019 - \$317,639.44

***Student Representative Update:***

***NHS***

- The Debate Club attended the Hockomock Model Senate
- The Clothesline Project, which is a vehicle for women affected by violence, expressed their emotions by decorating t-shirts in the cafeteria

- Chaperones and students left today for the Global Education trip to Italy
- The Art Show will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup>
- The Little Mermaid Musical will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

**NMS**

- The 8<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a mock trial and learning session from Mike Ryan, an official from the Office of Mass Jury Commissioner
- The 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade participated in a Live Stream event with Endeavor, which is an ocean going research facility
- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade had a visit from iRobot
- April Awesomeness Activity Fun Night was held April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Pennies for Patients raised an excess of \$4,000 for Leukemia and Lymphoma
- The Spring Greening clothing drive was held to benefit Cradles to Crayons

**HAY**

- Kindness Matters Challenge finished where students accounted for over 4,000 acts of kindness during a 3-week time frame
- Spirit Week is being held April 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>

**JCS**

- Spirit Week is being held April 8<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup>
- The SPO is holding Boosterthon fundraiser

**LGN**

- Officer Robichaud came and spoke to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class about safety
- The Museum of Science came and gave the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class a STEM workshop

**OVERALL:**

- The Lancer Film Festival, May 7th

***Vote to Approve NHS Senior Class Trip to New Hampshire-NHS Senior Class Advisors***

NHS Senior Class Advisors Rachel Kearney and Michelle Medeiros presented to the school committee requesting approval of the NHS Senior Class trip to Canobie Lake Park in New Hampshire, on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION: by D. Savas to Approve NHS Senior Class Trip to New Hampshire

SECOND: by C. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Vote for Before and After School and Summer Care – Dr. Baeta***

The evaluation of the technical proposals identified Champions as the most advantageous proposal submitted. Champions scored Highly Advantageous in all categories of the evaluation except student to teacher ratio where they scored Advantageous.

The price proposals were opened after the technical evaluation was completed, and Champions scored the most advantageous with a 16% revenue share for both before and after school care as well as summer care. The award in this RFP for a 3-year contract is to Champions.

MOTION: by D. Sheedy to award Champions with a 3-year contract for Before and After School and Summer Care

SECOND: by K. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Vote to appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of READS Collaborative***

As required, all READS Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. Chairman Sheri Cohen read the following statement to be entered into the Minutes:

“Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at READS Collaborative are to be appointed annually.

Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2019/2020 school year.”

MOTION: by D. Savas to appoint Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent, to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative

SECOND: by D. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Vote to appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of BI-COUNTY (BICO) Collaborative***

As required, all BICO Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. Chairman Sheri Cohen read the following statement to be entered into the Minutes:

“Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at BICO Collaborative are to be appointed annually.

Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of BICO Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2019/2020 school year.”

MOTION: by D. Savas to appoint Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent, to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of BICO Collaborative

SECOND: by C. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries



***Review of proposed School Committee meeting dates for 2019-202 – Dr. Baeta***

The School Committee was presented with the calendar of proposed Thursday evening meeting dates for 2019-2020 school year. Members can email Terry Rand with any thoughts and concerns.

***Review of proposed changes to School Committee meeting dates for remainder of 2018-2019 school year – Dr. Baeta***

Following is the current schedule of meetings for the remainder of the school year:

April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday – prior to Town Meeting); May 23<sup>rd</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup> (if needed), June 6<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>

The following changes are proposed:

~~April 25<sup>th</sup>~~, May 9<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday – prior to Town Meeting); ~~May 23<sup>rd</sup>~~, May 30<sup>th</sup>, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and ~~June 20<sup>th</sup>~~

MOTION: by D. Savas to eliminate April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, the remaining dates are tentative

SECOND: by C. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Other Business:***

- Dr. Baeta announced the NHS Principal search has two candidates: Lisa Giuliano and Ethan Dolleman. Parents and staff will be able to meet the candidates on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. Dr. Baeta also mentioned this is the same night as the NHS Art Show.
- **Dr. Baeta discussed the upcoming important dates:**
  - Annual Town Election – April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Baeta has been working with the NHS Principal and Town Clerk to position staff throughout the building for security.
  - Special and Annual Town Meeting – May 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Special Town Meeting – June 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Election – June 18<sup>th</sup>
- Senator Jason Lewis, Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Education and Senator Paul Feeney will be at Norton Middle School Library on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm to discuss school funding.

***Chairman Sheri Cohen called recess at 6:50 pm until after joint meeting with Selectman***

**Joint Meeting with Board of Selectman 6:53 pm:**

**In Attendance:** Mike Yunits Town Manager, James Puello Town Accountant, Selectmen: Robert Kimball, Mike Flaherty, Robert Salvo, Mary Steele

**Municipal Building Project Presentations:** Jim Slattery, Vice Chairman of the Building Committee presented drawings and discussed the need for a new Town Hall and Community Center. He also explained progress to date with the feasibility study and architect proposals. The estimated project cost is \$25,716,000. Concerns were discussed regarding a tax increase for the residents. Chairman Cohen addressed an issue of how the school operating budget can't be met and this is a costly project to the residents. Her suggestion was to include a general override with this debt exclusion. Selectman Kimball expressed his opinion a general override and this project should not be combined. Dr. Baeta clarified with Mr. Yunits the proposed figures for the new project do include projection costs for a two-year out start time.

Dr. Baeta asked to have the Hicks Fund explained and why the funds can't be used for this project. Selectman Kimball explained Mr. Cyrus Hicks and his wife left their initial estate to the Town of Norton which was worth about \$10,000 in the 1800's. Mr. Hicks had it protected with a legislative act and put it in the jurisdiction of the The Selectman and Tax Collector who are the caretakers of the account. The funds can go to the cemeteries. Only 4% of the interest can be expended and the remainder goes back to the principle. The actual balance of the account is public record.

**Vote to appoint member to the Permanent Building Committee:** Selectman Kimball read a letter from Dinah O'Brien expressing her interest and qualification as a permanent member.

MOTION: by D. Savas to appoint Dinah O'Brien as a permanent member

SECOND: by D. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

MOTION: by M. Flaherty to appoint Dinah O'Brien as a permanent member

SECOND: by R. Salvo

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

**Discussion on second entrance/exit at NMS and NHS:**

NHS – the entrance will be reviewed more in the Spring of 2019 in order to work in conjunction with the town sewer line project and other paving projects.

NMS – The Campbell house that was dedicated to the town needs to be torn down and then the school can utilize the grounds. This will be evaluated more after Town Meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Route 123 Sewer Project:** Dr. Baeta sent a letter to DOT requesting the sewer project be performed at night. The concern is for the school drop-off/pick-up times and busses. The sewer project will start at the pump station at Wheaton College to the south bound lane of Route 140 then down the center line of Route 123 to the Housing Authority.

**School Window Project Update:** The goal for completion is September 2019. There is a 16-week delivery time for the windows, but on-going pre-construction will be performed in order to

be ready for the installation. Bi-weekly meetings have been conducted with the architect and OPM contractor.

**FY20 Budget Update:** Mike Yunits, Town Manager explained the town FY20 Estimated Operating Revenues and Expenditures spreadsheet, dated 4/10/19. Mr. Yunits announced a 3.5% increase of \$997,875 to the school budget. Concerns and discussion were addressed that this amount will not cover State Mandated Education (Special Education) requirements, which is 3.7% of the requested 6.57%.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by D. Savas

SECOND: by K. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

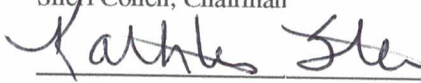
***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

- Norton Public Schools FY20-22 Before and After School Child Care Request for Proposal
- 2019 – 2020 proposed School Committee Meeting Dates
- Update with schedule from ACG regarding the school window and doors project
- FY2020 School Committee Budget, dated March 7, 2019

***Next Meeting Date:*** Thursday, May 9, 2019 at NMS Library, 6:30 p.m.

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

  
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Sheri Cohen, Chairman

  
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Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairman

  
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Carolyn Gallagher

  
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Deniz Savas

  
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Dan Sheedy