

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

2019 NOV 18 A 10: 21

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, October 17, 2019

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Carolyn Gallagher arrived 6:35 pm, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Absent:*** Chairman Kathleen Stern. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representative Cooper Smith.

***Call to Order:*** Mrs. 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 Mr. Savas to approve the Minutes of the October 3, 2019 Open Meeting.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes

***Warrants:***

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

- October 3, 2019 \$187,886.50

***Tabled Agenda Items:***

Dr. Baeta announced the sprinkler system and fire pump testing was being performed at the Middle School at approximately 7:30 pm and alarms would be signaled. This is regulated and he was just informed today that the testing was taking place. The Committee agreed to table some agenda items until the Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

Agenda items to be tabled:

10. FY'19 and FY'20 Financial Updates – Mr. Matthew Wells
11. October 21<sup>st</sup> Town Meeting Priorities – Dr. Baeta
12. Superintendent Evaluation Process – Dr. Baeta
13. District Goals – Dr. Baeta

***Student Representative Update:***

***NHS:***

- Coffee House this Friday
- Everyone has returned from the delegation trip from China
- Girls Volleyball had Senior Night last night
- Powderpuff Game coming up
- College/Career Planning Night and Financial Aid Seminar for Juniors on October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Open House is on October 30<sup>th</sup>
- Sophomores and a few Juniors took the PSAT's on Wednesday
- STEM Week is next week. As part of STEM Week, the "Women in STEM Club" are collaborating with a HAY classroom to perform a DNA activity using strawberries
- Deaf Kids Code organization is coming for a day long experience, collaborating with our READs program to learn about robots, circuits and apps
- Field Trips: Math trip to Fenway Park, Business Department trips to Steel Art in Norwood and Amazon offices in Fall River
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, former NHL All-Star Kevin Stevens will speak at NHS about his battle with addiction. Thank you to Norton Opioid Prevention and Education and Chief Clark
- Honor Societies have all accepted applications and new members are being selected for Tapping Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> as well as the Induction Ceremony on November 26<sup>th</sup>

***NMS:***

- Dr. Cyr and some of her students from Stonehill College came and visited a 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and helped with neurobiology
- Update on Soccer teams
- The first school dance of the year is next Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

***HAY:***

- Yelle Hoops for Heart/Kids Heart Challenge started this past week in PE/Health with Miss Crane. They are hoping to raise \$1,500 for this worthy cause of the American Heart Association. The challenge will end with a Student vs. Faculty basketball game on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

***JCS:***

- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade held Family Fun Night on October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Had visitors from Kazakhstan on October 10<sup>th</sup> to learn about US Schools and the teacher evaluation system

***LGN:***

- Had the Fun Run last week and surpassed their goal of \$15, 000

***Opening of School Report Henri A. Yelle – Mr. Martin Geoghegan, Principal:***

Mr. Geoghegan reported that it has been an incredibly smooth opening for the kids. Faculty and Staff have been amazing by helping and being supportive during the asbestos situation. He presented a slide show and discussed how the staff took to heart the recommendation from Dr. Baeta about "Going Outside the Box" and making it interesting for the kids. He mentioned how

the students are prioritized and administration and staff are sharing offices and space, proving that we are more than just a building.

One of the goals is to continue with PBIS and modeling positive behavior. The Kindness Challenge was able to get started early this year. The PTO is continuing to help the teachers with stipends which is a great community support. A positive this year with the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade being so close together is that it allows the teachers to work together and do different things. He discussed with children and parents how to make this a memorable school experience.

Dr. Baeta thanked Mr. Geoghegan on how well he kept things positive through the changes. Dr. Baeta also announced as of today we are asbestos clean. Staff will be invited to visit the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor during the next few days to view the progress.

Mrs. Gallagher passed along a message to Mr. Geoghegan from Mrs. Kathleen Stern about how she was approached by a parent who expressed how supportive she felt from him during a conversation with regards to her child. She thanked him for being a nice role model for his staff and our district. Mrs. Gallagher wanted to mention that we can make it work for a short term, and we want to get children back into their classrooms.

***Vote to Approve DECA Trips for 2019-2020 School Year – Mrs. Heather Albritton:***

Mrs. Albritton and Allison Janineh, President of DECA, discussed the upcoming DECA conferences and the student involvement. These out-of-state trips need approval from the School Committee. See the attached list of the dates and destinations.

Mrs. Albritton also mentioned they are looking for judges at the DECA District Conference held in Hyannis on January 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> if anyone is interested.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve out-of-state DECA conferences in Washington DC and Nashville, TN

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

***Vote to Approve Music Department Trip to New York City – Mrs. Doreen Browne:***

Mrs. Browne, representative for the Norton Music Parents, is seeking approval for a one-day field trip to New York City in April 2020 to see the musical “West Side Story.” The event will also be open to the Drama Club to aim for 50 students to attend. This will be the fifth year for this event.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Music Department trip to New York City

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

***Global Education Update and Vote to Approve 2021 and 2022 Tours – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill, Ms. Jennifer Tonelli and Dr. Todd Kefor and students:***

Mrs. O’Neill turned the floor over to Dr. Kefor and a group students. They presented a slide show of past trip experiences. The students discussed how the experiences impacted them and



opened their eyes to places they have never been before. The students also talked about how the tours gained them independence, responsibility, how they communicated with other students who they may not have met and have now formed great friendships, and the culture experience of another country. They also discussed how they felt they impacted other girls by letting them know what they can achieve and empower. The students also commented on how wonderful the advisors were. The students also mentioned even though they may not have had the advisors directly as a teacher, they have formed a bond and these advisors are now writing recommendations for their college applications.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee thanked the students for being exemplary students and great leaders. The Committee mentioned how nice it is when they can come back and tell us about their wonderful experiences. Going out of the country is a great lesson and the students and parents have been wonderful and positive. It was addressed that the tours will be during February and April vacation, so less time is missed from school, but may overlap 1-3 days. There is an application process for the students and the advisors put a lot of thought and seriousness into this process.

The committee was presented information and asked to vote on tour options for 2021-2022, which include a Thailand service trip, Panama STEM trip, and trips to Australia/New Zealand, and the Dominican Republic.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve 2021 and 2022 Global Educational Tours

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

***School Parent Organization Updates:***

Mrs. Gallagher noted that Kathleen Stern will be the liaison and asked for a schedule of their meetings for her to try to attend and to keep the committee updated. The School Committee is always available by email for continued support.

Representatives from each Parent Organization attended:

- Sky Lawlor – LGN
- Daniela Bouley – JCS
- Jill Goldstein - HAY
- Melanie Barrick - NMS
- Linda Whiteside – NHS

Each representative talked about their organization's events and fundraisers. They discussed how funds are utilized to assist teachers with supplies and materials; sponsor appreciation and recognition events, i.e., breakfasts; host college fair and graduation night; provide fun events, i.e., carnivals, family fun night, festivals; field trips; yearbooks; holiday shops; organize participation in the upcoming Town Halloween parade, and much more.

Mrs. Gallagher thanked everyone for their hard work. So much happens behind the scenes that people don't realize or understand. Money is great, but time is wonderful too. Parents volunteering their time would be greatly appreciated.

***Vote to Approve Updates to NPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:***

It was addressed that the resources for the plan are developed by DESE. The updates were brought to the attention of the Committee. A discussion of the definition of “bullying” was determined to be, “more than once repeated.” This can be found on Page 17 of the plan under definitions. Dr. Baeta explained the determination of bullying is made by the Principal and is not appealable. This determination will follow from school to school. Mr. Sheedy questioned the numbers we have filed and Dr. Baeta stated that reports are filed every year and he will follow up. Mr. Savas had some questions regarding the updates to the plan. Staff will make the necessary adjustments/typos. After the adjustments are made, the Committee will discuss and vote the approval of the updates during another meeting. The plan will then be submitted to DESE for approval of those updates.

Mr. Savas questioned what the process is to report an incident on an administrator or central office staff. This will need to be researched.

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

- School Expense Summary dated 10/3/19
- Norton High School DECA Events for 2019 – 2020
- Educational Tours
- NPS Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Sheri Cohen

SECOND: by Mr. Deniz Savas

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm

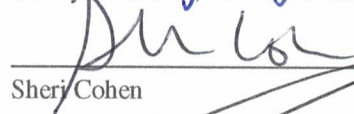
***Next Meeting Date:*** October 21, 2019 – Norton High School Teachers Lunch Room – Prior to Town Meeting

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

Kathleen Stern, Chairman



Carolyn Gallaher, Vice-Chairman



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas



Dan Sheedy

dmk