

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2019

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

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

Call to Order: Chairman Stern 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 and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vote to Approve Minutes of October 17, 2019, Open Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Minutes of October 21, 2019, Open Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 yes 1 abstain Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

- October 17, 2019 \$2,988,687.83
- October 31, 2019 \$ 314,319.46

Student Representative Update:

Cooper Smith and Caroline Daly were present at the meeting. They updated the Committee on the following happenings at the schools:

NHS:

- 8th Grade Open House was held on October 30th
- Teacher costume contest on Halloween
- Honor Society Tapping on November 1st and induction ceremony on November 26th
- Former NHL all-star Kevin Stevens presentation
- Junior class Credit for Life Fair
- Music students performed at a Veterans' reception at Wingate
- Spirit week and Thanksgiving assembly coming up
- Semi-Formal for Juniors and Seniors next week
- Powder-Puff football game on November 26th

NMS:

- Trip to Medtronic in Mansfield for STEM experiences
- \$1,500 raised for local shelters and food pantries
- Hidden in Plain Sight presentations

HAY:

- 4th Graders participated in 2nd Annual Quidditch World Cup
- 5th Grade teachers and students started returning to 2nd and 3rd floors

JCS:

- Ms. Taylor's class played games together with the NHS basketball team
- JCS carried a banner in the Chartley Halloween Parade
- 2nd Grade Curriculum Night for families was a big success

Opening of School Report – L. G. Nourse Elementary School – Mrs. Catherine Luke:

Mrs. Luke noted that it was her 9th year as Principal at the L. G. Nourse Elementary School. The year started out with the PTC organization putting positive messages on the blacktop for opening day. School opened with 273 students. The custodians were busy all summer, working around the window project. The office staff was busy with safety being the biggest concern.

Mrs. Luke read the names of new staff members and included a little bit of information on each.

Student Excellence Awards:

Dr. Baeta presented awards to four NHS Seniors as follows:

Declan Diestel: National School Development Council Award

Vicki Tran: Superintendent's Award of Excellence

Breelyn Gilbert: National School Development Council Award

Caroline Daly: MA Association of School Superintendent's Award

Mr. Dolleman recommended these students to Dr. Baeta to receive the awards and provided bios furnished by the Guidance Department. Dr. Baeta met with each of the students and learned a little about each.

Dr. Baeta read the bios on the students and also shared information on the colleges to which they applied as well as majors they were considering. Parents and families of the students were present at the meeting and certificates were distributed by Dr. Baeta.

Athletic Complex Committee Update – Dr. Baeta and Gale Associates:

Dr. Baeta introduced John Perry from Gale Associates Engineering of Weymouth, MA, the company working with NPS on the athletic complex designs. Seven to eight different renditions were prepared. If approved, Gale would take care of design and engineering, surveying, permitting, construction level drawings, going out to bid, etc. The different options were discussed in length. In the process of trying to get down to two options. There was discussion on safety if nothing is done, as well as travel costs to other facilities. Natural fields have bigger costs due to drainage/water issues. Rental income would be helpful. Two community forums being held at NHS for the public to view the options and offer feedback.

Review of Draft 2020-2021 School Calendar – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill shared draft 2020-2021 school year calendars with the Committee.

Option 1: Due to the lateness of Labor Day in 2020 (September 7th), staff would start on August 31st, with no traditional Professional Day before the start of school, but would be on Election Day on November 3rd. Students would start on September 1st and the last day would be June 15th.

Option 2: More traditional calendar with Staff Welcome Back Day and PD being held on September 1st and 2nd, and students would start on September 8th. School would be closed on Election Day for students and staff. Last day of school would be on June 18th.

Discussion ensued about changing school vacations weeks, with remarks that this would impact families and teachers with families and create attendance issues. This would have to be a regional decision.

Mrs. O'Neill asked if the Committee would like two years' worth of school calendar drafts and they affirmed that they would.

MCAS Results Overview – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill provided the Committee with a District MCAS Overview Powerpoint presentation. The Next Generation MCAS achievement levels include: Exceeding Expectations; Meeting Expectations; Partially Meeting Expectations; and Not Meeting Expectations. It was noted that the Yelle School showed significant progress.

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed performance highlights as well as areas of growth for each of the schools. She presented the Committee with an action plan that was developed by the principals, alongside their instructional leadership teams, and will be the area of focus for the year.

Review of Final Changes and Vote to Approve Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:

Mrs. Sullivan presented the updated Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan which included edits as discussed at a previous meeting.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

FY20 Financials – Mr. Matthew Wells:

The Committee was furnished a report of Year to Date Revolving Fund balances. The difference from last month’s report is that the new report is now separated by regular education and special education. Mr. Wells shared a one page report that shows the current balance of revolving accounts with the addition of grants.

Other Business:

- Community Forum on Athletic Complex Study to be held on November 20th at 7 p.m. at NHS. Constructive criticism welcome.
- The Community Yearbook is ready to go to the printer and will be sent to all homes and businesses. The cost is a little over \$6,000 and will come from School Choice funds. The Community Yearbook will tell the story of the NPS.
- Bathroom situation at NHS: Administration and staff are trying to find the best way to deal with the epidemic of vaping. Dr. Baeta recently met with the Student Advisory Committee and discussed the vaping issue. Students don’t want to be accused of vaping just by being in the bathrooms. Two additional bathrooms will be opened with monitors. There will be posters placed at NHS about the dangers of vaping as well as installing vaping detectors. NPS is leading the state in anti-vaping initiatives through a grant. The Committee noted that the safety of the students is our priority and that we are not trying to take away rights. It should be public knowledge that there is a policy. Children must be held accountable. Cooper Smith said that the majority of students aren’t mad at adults. The students will be happy to have more bathrooms opened.

- Mrs. Stern spoke about the NEED Dinner Anywhere in the World fundraiser. The drawing will be held on April 3rd.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

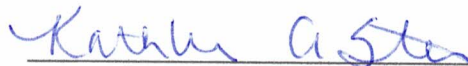
VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- School Expenses Summary sheets for 10/17/19 and 10/31/19
- Athletic Complex Options
- 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar
- MCAS Powerpoint presentation
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
- YTD Revolving Fund Report

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



Kathleen Stern, Chairman



Carolyn Gallagher, Vice Chairman



Sheri Cohen

Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy

tlr