

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2020 FEB -7 A 10:30

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, January 23, 2020

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

***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 Representative Cooper Smith.

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

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Vote to Approve Minutes of January 9, 2020 Open Meeting:***

MOTION: by Carolyn Gallagher to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Sheri Cohen

VOTE: 3 yes 2 abstain Motion Carries

***Vote to Approve Minutes of January 9, 2020 Joint Meeting with Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee:***

MOTION: by Carolyn Gallagher to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2020 Joint Meeting

SECOND: by Sheri Cohen

VOTE: 3 yes 2 abstain Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

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

- January 9, 2020 \$1,052,708.00

***Student Representative Update:***

Cooper Smith was present at the meeting. He updated the Committee on the following happenings at the schools:

***NHS:***

- Mid-year exams were last week; yoga on Wednesday. Kindness Club helped with stress in the mornings with pictures of Ms. Fay's dog, "Bubble Wednesday", "EncourageMINT Thursday", and luck erasers on Friday.
- Rho Kappa Honor Society showed MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech during lunches on January 14<sup>th</sup>
- Parent conferences next Thursday
- Coffee House hosted by Tri-M is next Friday
- DECA was successful again: 26 students qualified for States and 41 placed in the top 10

***NMS:***

- Held winter basketball dance on January 10<sup>th</sup>; GeoBee tomorrow; midyear social next Friday

***HAY:***

Boosterthon FunRun fundraiser being held; Mr. Geoghegan was taped to the cafeteria wall and was "pied" in the face by a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student during the two lunches last week when students reached an incentive. Mr. Bielawa and Mr. Geoghegan will both kiss a pig since the \$15,000 goal was reached as of today.

***LGN:***

- Movie night tonight
- Literacy Night next Thursday
- Students recently earned music during lunch
- Staff has been working to implement the Writer's Workshop model and received further training in January.

***JCS:***

- Held Winter Wonderland Curriculum Night on the 15<sup>th</sup>
- Holding ongoing yoga classes
- Preschool Open House for new families is next Wednesday

***Announcement of Class of 2020 Adams Scholarship Recipients – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta reported that 52 students from the Class of 2020 qualified for the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship, including School Committee Student Representatives Cooper Smith and Carolyn Daly. Dr. Baeta stated that it was important to recognize these students for this achievement.

***Review and Vote to Approve 2020-2021 School Calendar and Review of 2021-2022 School Calendar – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:***

After much discussion on starting school prior to Labor Day due to the lateness of the holiday (September 7, 2020) as well as the State Primary and Presidential election, a vote was taken to choose between one of two options. 2021-2022 calendar to be discussed/voted on at a later meeting.

Roll Call Vote taken to Approve 2020-2021 School Calendar:

Version 1 (Pre-Labor Day start):

Dan Sheedy – Yes

Deniz Savas – Yes

Version 2 (Post-Labor Day start):

Carolyn Gallagher – Yes

Kathleen Stern – Yes

Sheri Cohen – Yes

Approved: Calendar Version 2 as written

***First Reading of Vaping Detector Draft Policy – Mr. Ethan Dolleman:***

Agenda item tabled.

***Review and Vote on New Norton High School Course Offerings – Mr. Ethan Dolleman:***

Mr. Dolleman presented to the Committee with new course proposals for NHS. These course proposals were submitted by teachers, reviewed and approved by the Academic Coordinators as well as the NHS Site Council. Courses proposed are:

- English 4 – Restoration
- The Reader’s Journey
- TV/Video 3
- Business Law II
- American Sign Language

MOTION: by Deniz Savas to Approve New Norton High School Course Offerings

SECOND: by Carolyn Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***FY20 Financials – Mr. Matthew Wells:***

Mr. Wells referred to the YTD FY 20 financials that were furnished to the School Committee members. He noted that he was watching the substitute teacher line which is currently running at around \$250K. He is also watching utilities numbers and looking for improvements with the new windows in the elementary schools.



The Committee asked for an update on the window project. Mr. Wells reported that the last of the windows were being installed in the next few weeks. Over 90% of the punch list completed. Today's "drop dead" date not met. Members of the Committee noted that they had been receiving good comments about the look of the new windows.

***FY21 Budget Review – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta noted that the annual Budget Workshop meeting would be held on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. in Central Office. He also updated the Committee on the "Student Opportunities Act" and that \$72K would be received by Norton, and that he found it troublesome that 85% of the \$300M is going to 35% of districts. Dr. Baeta believes that Norton will get left behind completely with long term implications. The Legislature tied Chapter 70 money to an accountability line. Circuit Breaker Special Ed maintained at 75%; adding Circuit Breaker for Special Ed transportation at 25% reimbursement. Charter School reimbursement going up; Title I potentially going down.

***Vote to Appoint 2 or 3 School Committee Members to Sub-Committee – Dr. Baeta:***

As discussed at the Joint Meeting of January 9<sup>th</sup>, two or three School Committee members are needed to serve on a sub-committee for the purpose of presenting to the Finance Committee a detailed overview of the FY21 budget request. An evening meeting would take place in early March. Carolyn Gallagher and Deniz Savas volunteered to be a part of the sub-committee and Kathleen Stern volunteered to be an alternate member.

MOTION: by Sheri Cohen to appoint Carolyn Gallagher and Deniz Savas to Budget Sub-Committee and Kathleen Stern as Alternate

SECOND: by Dan Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

***Superintendent's Evaluation Process – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta talked about there being a sub-committee to take the lead on the evaluation process, which would include more in-depth discussions. More dialogue will take place before the evaluation as well as a vote.

***NESDEC Enrollment Figures vs. Actual and Projected – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta shared NPS enrollment figures from January 2019 and January 2020 as well as figures from NESDEC's December 2019 enrollment reports. Dr. Baeta also discussed an informational sheet from the Pupil Personnel Services office which included Specialized Programs by School, and a NPS Cost Cheat Sheet. He noted that the specialized programs are keeping our students in district, while saving tuition and transportation costs. Need to reach out to other district to share costs/programs. Discussions needed regarding mental health as most of our students going out of district have such issues.

***School Space Assessment – Dr. Baeta:***

Agenda item tabled.

***Other Business:***

No further updates.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Deniz Savas

SECOND: by Sheri Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

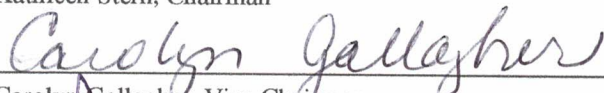
The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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

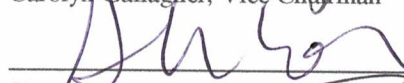
- School Expenses Summary sheets for January 9, 2020
- 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Draft School Calendars
- ~~Vaping Detector Draft Policy~~
- NHS New Course Proposals 2020-2021
- YTD Revolving Fund Report
- NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report
- NPS Enrollment Figures (January 2019 and January 2020)
- NPS Pupil Personnel Services Specialized Programs by School
- NPS Cost Cheat Sheet

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

Kathleen Stern, Chairman



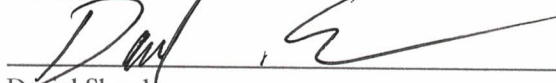
Carolyn Gallagher, Vice Chairman



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas



Daniel Sheedy