

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

2020 JUL -1 A 10:19

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 2, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Dan Sheedy ***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, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Student Representatives Cooper Smith and Caroline Daly

Call to Order: Chairperson Stern called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded.

Items Related to the COVID-19 National Emergency That Require a Vote – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta clarified the requirements when there is a need for a motion, vote with a roll call and there needs to be time to allow for public comments before a vote.

Matthew Wells updated that food service is providing meals to 300 people a day. This includes senior citizens and families that our emergency crew delivers. Contact has been made with Beth Rossi for anyone who needs assistance.

Dr. Baeta advised of the release for Norton Public Schools Remote Plan and guidance for staff. A cover letter has been drafted by the Teachers' Association and administration to address our remote plan. It is recommended that the Committee sign this cover letter to introduce the remote plan.

Dr. Baeta met with High School administration and 16 high school students. A concern was that some areas of town are having a difficult time accessing internet. Dr. Baeta will work on this issue. It was also mentioned that students should not be penalized if they are having issues with internet. Flexibility and adaptability are important during these times.

Dr. Baeta had a conference call with Mike Yunits and Town Hall department heads to prioritize and establish a protocol. Through the school custodian staff, they provided the Police and Fire Departments with the electricostatic machine and chemicals to sterilize the cars and trucks.

Kathleen Stern acknowledged the LGN and all who participated in recording a video and sharing it with NPS. It was good and nice to see everyone and greatly appreciated.

The meeting was open for any participant that may have a question or concern. No response.

Carolyn Gallagher discussed how she was on a virtual workshop and provided information that the Sesame Street website is streamlining videos regarding COVID-19, i.e., washing your hands, academics and social emotional learning. She wanted to thank NPS for already being a leader for social and emotional learning and offering support. Jennifer O'Neil addressed different ways we are reaching out to families, i.e., emails to parents, mailing grade level handouts, offering school supplies, and doing whatever is needed to support learning.

Vote on Memorandum of Understanding with the Norton Teachers' Association

Vote on Memorandum of Understanding with NTA Paraprofessionals – Dr. Baeta

Dr. Baeta is combining Agenda Items 2 and 3 since paraprofessionals are under NTA contract. We have prepared a 19 item MOU that is fully and solely for this pandemic response and is based upon by the Government State of Emergency that clearly outlines expectations for staff and ourselves. We are going to continue to have our labor management working group as the core leader group for interpretation, issues, inconsistencies and expectations. This MOU is particular to this epidemic and becomes null and void when school goes back in to regular session.

The meeting was open to any participant that may have questions or concerns. Shannon Taylor expressed how good we are doing and handling things in Norton. Mr. Savas also thanked Shannon Taylor and the NTA for the quick response time to produce the MOU.

Dr. Baeta addressed for public record that a positive vote would allow for him to sign the MOU on behalf of the School Committee.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Vote to approve the MOU for Norton Teachers and Paraprofessionals

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Roll Call: Kathleen Stern – yes; Carolyn Gallagher – yes; Sheri Cohen – yes; Deniz Savas – yes; Dan Sheedy - yes; 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta announced the document has been signed.

Vote on Memorandum of Understanding with the Administrative Assistants' Association – Dr. Baeta

This agenda item has been postponed.

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta thanked the entire custodial staff for all they do and for the Light It Up Blue in all the buildings for Autism Awareness.
- Dr. Baeta announced that Jeanne Sullivan has accepted the offer to become the Executive Director of BICO, pending negotiations.
- To continue to post for Tuesday and Thursday meetings at 6:30 p.m.
- Kathleen Stern thanked the staff for everything they are doing and really appreciate it. Sheri Cohen also thanked the administration team. Coordination with the Town and the amazing outreach that has been happening to unite our community is what makes Norton.
- Caroline Daly and Cooper Smith commented that students seem happy to be doing something and getting back into a routine.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallaher to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Roll Call: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallaher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes;
Deniz Savas-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting Dates: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 - Virtual

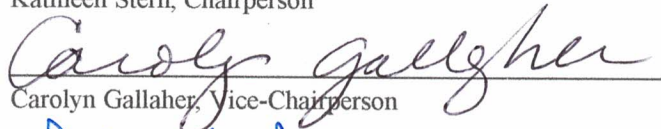
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Memorandum of Understanding with the Norton Teachers' Association
- Memorandum of Understanding with NTA Paraprofessionals

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



Kathleen Stern, Chairperson



Carolyn Gallaher, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy

dmk