

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, April 7, 2020

**Location:** Remote Participation

**Present:** Committee Members: Chairperson Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairperson 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, and School Business Administrator Matthew Wells

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Stern called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. noting remote participation only and that the meeting and is being taped

**Update on the COVID-19 Response**

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee as follows:

- Remote learning is taking place with positive feedback as well as some criticism, as expected.
- NHS grading practices information has come to Dr. Baeta and is a working plan. Dr. Baeta thanked Mrs. O'Neill, the NHS administration, Academic Coordinators and Shannon Taylor for their efforts. Holding kids harmless is a key component.
- 231 meals served today – 162 NPS students, 47 out of district students, and 22 senior citizens. Mr. Wells spoke with the state and we will be running the Seamless Summer Option program, allowing us, beginning April 20<sup>th</sup>, to serve meals 5 days a week for 7 days a week. Reimbursement available for all students served, not just Free and Reduced. This does not cover the senior citizens. It was asked that the Board of Selectmen and FinCom be kept in the loop regarding this.
- Regarding Comcast issues, an internal process through Central Office will take place and counselors and/or staff will be receiving no service information by name and address. The major area of concern regarding internet is near the Easton line which is also our biggest area of need. Third parties need to help with manpower and hotspot/connection costs. There was a suggestion of setting up a bus in the area with a hotspot. We are very pleased with the percentages of students going online each day. Dr. Baeta taped a show for Norton Media which will be aired soon on cable access and is basically about the student remote plan.
- Mr. Savas asked for clarification on the hold harmless for students. Mrs. O'Neill explained that we did not want a student's grade to decline because we are not in school or due to issues at home such as no internet. We do not want students to be penalized, while still having students being held accountable. The remote plan is a fluid document and is open for tweaking as we look at everything.

All guests unmuted and were told they could ask questions; Peter Wiggins addressed the committee noting that he was washing his hands, etc. and keeping positive.

***Vote on Memorandum of Agreement with the Administrative Assistants' Association:***

Dr. Baeta noted that it is a boilerplate agreement and addresses check-ins, flexibility, and availability for administrators.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Memorandum of Agreement with the Administrative Assistants' Association

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes      5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Other Business: Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance***

- The Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. meeting will include changing the April school calendar.
- Mr. Sheedy asked if remote learning should be put into the handbook in case something like this happens again. Dr. Baeta said the School Committee could put in some type of clarity when things like this take place. Remote learning is not a replacement for teaching and learning. At first it was enrichment for 3 weeks, not work for grading, etc. and then it went to remote learning. Mr. Savas asked if we could have gone right to remote learning if we were prepared. Dr. Baeta noted that he state said don't do anything and then the feds came in saying there should be equity and that we should be trying to do something for all children. Dr. Baeta felt there should have been a state MOU with the Teachers' Association. Mr. Savas suggests having the MOU as part of the contract. Dr. Baeta said it is all about the Governor calling a state of emergency and equity issues. Components of this could be a part of our Crisis Manual and remote learning could come under this. The Crisis Plan is how we deal with a bomb threat, death of a staff member, or a lockdown. Future discussions will be needed on the subject.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallaher to adjourn meeting

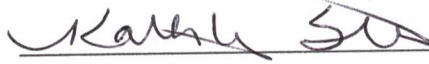
SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

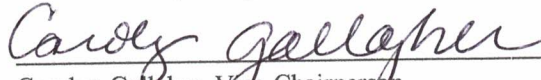
Next meeting date: Thursday, April 9, 2020

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.


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



Kathleen Stern, Chairperson



Carolyn Gallaher, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Sheedy

tlr