

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2020 JUL -1 A 10:19

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 9, 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.

Vote to Change 2019-2020 School Calendar (April Vacation) – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta is recommending eliminating April vacation. Therefore, school will be remotely in session from Tuesday, April 22nd thru Friday, April 24th, acknowledging Monday, April 21st is a State holiday. The last day of school would then be Monday, June 15th. This is in standards with the Commissioner not go past 185 school days. Ninety percent of Teachers who responded to a survey noted to continue remote learning.

Discussion was held that flexibility and adaptability should be taken into consideration in regards to assignments and/or tests in case some families still have commitments. Caroline Daly stated that remote learning has just started and taking a week off so soon may be harder for students to get back into it. Cooper Smith commented that since we have been out of school for so long it makes sense and acknowledged some families may have plans.

The meeting was open for any participant that may have a question or concern. Shannon Taylor mentioned this has already been discussed with the grading committee and they are in favor of flexibility regarding assignments/tests.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to adjust the calendar to continue on-line learning from Tuesday, April 22nd thru Friday, April 24th for a new last of school to be Monday, June 15th

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta is tentatively keeping the next School Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 16th, but subject to change. The Tuesday, April 14th meeting is not being posted.
- Dr. Baeta updated the Committee that today was a double pick-up for food service. We will continue the same schedule next week. The week starting Monday, April 20th (holiday) will be for five (5) days and verified with Matthew Wells food services will be providing meals on the Monday holiday. Saturday and Sunday meals will be prepared as needed. Discussion was held about product, budgeting and meal planning, including the weekends. Matthew Wells addressed that the crisis management plan keeps sufficient amounts of product to provide the citizens in the Town 3 meals for 3 days.

Dr. Baeta advised the Committee that Mike Vaccaro, Food Services Director, reported today that there were 342 pick-ups, times that by 4 for today's double pick-up, with a total of 1,368 meals that were distributed. This includes: 270 Norton students, 53 out-of-district, and 19 senior citizen residents. Mr. Wells has been in contact with Norton Housing Authority to keep us advised of anyone needing assistance.

- Dr. Baeta and the Committee expressed their condolences for the Blakely family. Beth Blakely lost her life to cancer and will be sorely missed. She contributed much to the NEED organization and always available to help the schools. He thanked Vincent Cerce and staff who helped prepare a mock graduation ceremony for her daughter.
- Kathleen Stern and Committee thanked the paraprofessionals for sending a video to the Committee thanking them for all they have done. It means the world to the Committee to get a thank you from the staff.
- Kathleen Stern questioned the status of scholarships for our graduating seniors. Since we are not sure of Class Night or Grad Night, we still want students to receive their scholarships, even if everything is shut down. Dr. Baeta advised there is a process and he will provide an update. Dr. Baeta also mentioned that at this time he doesn't want to cancel regular annual events and give the wrong impression. There may be flexibility to change dates and events and this will need to be re-addressed.
- Carolyn Gallagher acknowledged SRO Jake Dennett and Marc Robichaud who personally delivered school supplies to families. Jennifer O'Neill and her staff reached out to students and prepared backpacks for those students who may be in need of school supplies at home, i.e., paper, pencils, crayons, scissors, etc. The Tiger Woods Foundation previously donated backpacks filled with supplies and our Resource Officers delivered 24 backpacks. There are still some backpacks with supplies, so please let us know if anyone needs anything. Mrs. Gallagher acknowledge this is great collaboration with the Town in support of each other. Mrs. O'Neill also stated that a \$1,000 grant is available for the purchase of more supplies.
- Carolyn Gallagher mentioned a coordinated meeting that was previously discussed to be held with the Selectman, Finance Committee, and Senator Feeney. Dr. Baeta will send an email to reach out for a virtual meeting.

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

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallaher to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

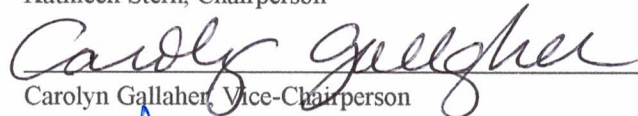
The meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Next Meeting Dates: Thursday, April 16, 2020 - Virtual

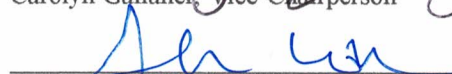
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Kathleen Stern, Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy

dmk