

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2020 JUL -1 A 10:20

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 14, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Kathleen Stern, Vice-Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning PreK-12 Vincent Cerce, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, High School Principal Ethan Dolleman, and Student Representative Caroline Daly. ***Absent:*** Sheri Cohen

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

Introduction of Class of 2020 Salutatorian and Valedictorian:

Dr. Baeta first introduced the class of 2020 Salutatorian, Breelyn Gilbert and then Valedictorian, Vicki Tran. He shared the bios for the students as prepared by the NHS guidance department. Both students were present via the Zoom meeting along with their parents. Mr. Cerce and Mr. Dolleman noted how impressed their teachers and advisors were of their achievements and how well rounded they were. Dr. Baeta expressed that he anticipates a need in the future for highly qualified teachers, saying it was a good career path. Members of the Committee congratulated both students and their families. Certificates were sent to the students' homes noting their Salutatorian and Valedictorian status. Kudos were also given to NHS student, Chris Strynar, who received his diploma from Harvard University.

Vote to Approve Minutes of February 27, 2020 Open Meeting and March 26, April 2, April 7, 2020 Remote Open School Committee Meetings:

Discussion on amending February 27, 2020 Minutes on Page 1, 1st paragraph: change "asked" to "questioned".

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of February 27, 2020 Open Meeting as Amended
SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; 4 – 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of March 26, 2020 Open Meeting
SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; 4 –0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of April 2, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; 4 –0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of April 7, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; 4 –0 Motion Carries

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of READS Collaborative:

As required, all READS Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. The following specific language should be read and entered into the Minutes:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at READS Collaborative are to be appointed annually.

Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of READS Collaborative for the 2020-2021 School Year

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative:

As required, all Bi-County Collaborative Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. The following specific language should be read and entered into the Minutes:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at Bi-County Collaborative are to be appointed annually.

Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2020-2021 school year.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative for the 2020-2021 School Year

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Tech Department Update:

Mrs. Winsper updated the Committee regarding technology, referring to the informational handout she shared with the members. Emphasis was on three themes: Equity, Creativity, and Mastery.

Regarding equity, Chromebooks made a big impact. Unfortunately internet access for some families was inadequate, despite the 10 wifi hotspots. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, this number would have been sufficient. The Tech Department will work with Dr. Baeta to support families in need of internet. Comcast expanded the Internet Essentials program to provide affordable internet to families who qualify.

The creativity aspect has been stressful. Mrs. Winsper stated that we weren't trained in this – sitting behind a screen all day. This could be a struggle for some but staff has gone above and beyond. More work still needs to be done as we work towards greater proficiency.

On the mastery side, Mrs. Winsper shared the following data:

- On March 13th we received 18,623 daily emails
- On April 27th we received 45,852 daily emails
- From March 13th – April 27th we had 29,185 Google Meet video calls and 1,723 Zoom calls

Mrs. Winsper thanked Technology Department members Paul Driscoll, Nick Zelinski, and John Faria. She also thanked the Elementary Technology Teachers Susan Cashton and Lori Andrade, and the Building Teacher Technology Liaisons (TTLs) – Julianne DeWolfe, Colleen Phillips, Jenifer Carline, Christina Scilingo, and Jennifer Young. Thanks were also given to Margo Bridges from NMS who was making face shields from the 3d printers, and Pam Anderson – honorary Tech Department member.

A survey was going out to all students in Grades 3 and up to gather information regarding what is working, etc.

Discussion ensued about collecting devices at the end of the year, cleaning of devices, etc.

Mrs. Gallagher noted that we must be careful putting young children in front of devices. They are hard to navigate even for adults. Families must be mindful while children are in front of a computer. She thanked teachers for their patience while sitting and waiting to join a Zoom meeting and teaching from behind a computer screen.

Dr. Baeta thanked Mrs. Winsper and her department for their efforts.

Pupil Personnel Services Department Update:

Mrs. Sullivan updated the Committee regarding the Pupil Personnel Services Department during the COVID-19 school closure. She shared a memo dated May 11, 2020 addressed to the Superintendent which three phases and concerns going forward.

Mrs. Sullivan stated that we are trying to keep everyone calm and on the same page. Guidance is needed regarding individual remote learning plans and work assignments for students on IEPs, which is an overwhelming task. Mrs. Sullivan said that families needed help understanding what assignments need to be done. Currently 25 learning plans are being mailed out on a bi-weekly basis.

Mrs. Sullivan formed a remote learning working committee focused on special education and is discussing remote learning plans, the Extended School Year program, and progress reports.

There is a list of evaluations that we haven't been able to do because they cannot be done virtually. They will be looked at on a case by case basis.

Out of district students were receiving remote learning plans and students were still being serviced and we were still paying tuition.

Dr. Baeta thanked Mrs. Sullivan noting that resources were needed and how the workload was significant.

Vote on Refunds for Various Fee Line Items:

Discussion and vote on refund of fees, not including clubs and activities, which will be addressed at next meeting.

- Spring sports – 100% refund
- April, May, and June Little Lancers tuition
- Transportation fees for April, May, and June

Meeting was open to public comment at this time. No response.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Refunds for Athletics, Little Lancers, and Transportation
SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes
Dan Sheedy – Yes 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote on Capital Improvement Plan Changes:

This is an opportunity for us to move some things from the Capital Improvement Plan like painting in the gyms as custodial manpower may be needed in other areas. We may need secondary areas for our nurses' offices, and food services.

We will continue 2nd payment for mini bus and make a new payment for new mini bus. Everything else will be moved to the Spring 2021 Town Meeting. We will enter into leases for 1:1 Chromebooks and iPads for Grades K-2.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Approve Capital Improvement Plan Changes

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes
Dan Sheedy – Yes 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Other Business: Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

- No meeting next week
- Virtual Town Hall meeting on Wednesday regarding concerns and issues for the fall
- Will look at schedules after the Governor's announcement regarding reopening
- 246 parents participated in last Town Hall virtual meeting. Parents are frustrated. One third said things were wonderful, one third said we could do better, and the other one third believes we never do enough. Dr. Baeta noted he is proud of what we have done with limited resources. We are continually looking to find ways to improve. Dr. Baeta was pleased with the meeting stating that people were fair. He is worried about equity for students with challenges, noting that we need to do better for kids.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Adjourn and Enter into Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussions on Contract Negotiations

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; 4 – 0 Motion Carries

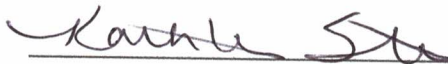
The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, May 28, 2020

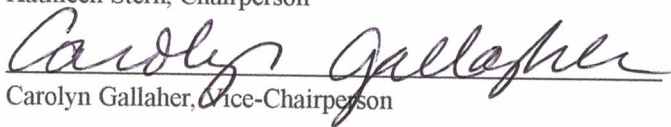
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Technology Update – May 14, 2020 document
- Memo to Superintendent from Mrs. Sullivan regarding PPS Department Activities During COVID-19 School Closure
- Fee Based Event Considerations COVID19 Shutdown Period document
- Norton Public Schools 5 Year Capital Plan: FY2021-FY2025 document

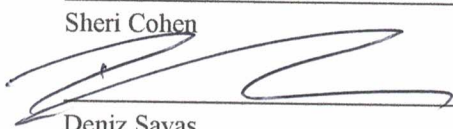
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



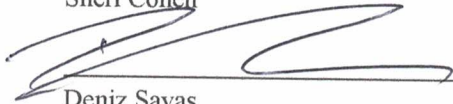
Kathleen Stern, Chairperson




Carolyn Gallaher, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas



Daniel Sheedy

tlr