

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 28, 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, Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning Vincent Cerce, 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 Approve Minutes of April 9, April 23, and May 7, 2020 Remote School Committee Open Meetings:

Mr. Savas addressed a correction to the April 23, 2020 minutes: Page 1, Update Relative to the COVID-19 National Emergency, third paragraph, third line states "10% deduction", should be "10% reduction."

Mr. Sheedy addressed a correction to the April 23, 2020 minutes: Page 3, Discussion on Director Position Process, Roll Call Vote: Dan Sheedy indicates a "No" vote, should be a "Yes" vote to balance the 5-0 Motion Carries.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of April 9, 2020 Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve the Minutes of April 23, 2020 Meeting as Amended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Approve Minutes of May 7, 2020 Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Warrants:

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

- May 7, 2020 \$89,065.59
- May 14, 2020 \$62,691.88
- May 21, 2020 \$60,237.24

Student Representative Update:

Caroline Daly and Cooper Smith announced they have submitted their last assignments and will be graduating soon. They were excited to pick up their caps and gowns on Friday, which this year they will be able to keep. They are also so excited about all the plans made for the Seniors. Mrs. Stern congratulated them and thanked them for everything they have done and how they always gave so much information about all the schools. Dr. Baeta addressed there is a process that will take place to appoint the next Student Representatives.

Discussion and Vote on Graduation for Class of 2020:

Based on recommendation from the High School administration and student leaders about their desire to have some type of in-face graduation, Dr. Baeta presented to the Committee the following events to be held for the Seniors and this information will be forwarded to all the families and the entire district.

- Class Night will be broadcasted virtually by Norton Cable TV on June 5th at 7:00 p.m.
- A rolling parade will be held on Saturday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m., starting at JCS, proceeding to the High School and onto LGN.
- A live Graduation will be held on Saturday, July 25th at 10 a.m. at the NHS football field, following State guidelines and Board of Health approval. Rain date of Sunday, July 26th at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to change the graduation date to July 25th at 10:00 a.m. with a rain date of July 26th at 10:00 a.m.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Recommendation and Vote on Director of Pupil Personnel Services Position:

After reviewing the current situation, Dr. Baeta presented to the Committee his recommendation to appoint Vincent Cerce, currently the Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning for the district to the position of Director of Pupil Personnel Services, effective July 1, 2020. This will replace Jeanne Sullivan who will become the Executive Director of BICO.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Vincent Cerce as the Director of Pupil Personnel Services

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Discussion and Vote on Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement Between the Norton Teachers' Association and the Norton School Committee Dated April 2, 2020 Regarding Paraprofessionals Responsibilities:

The following information is an amendment to the April 2, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement. An amendment has been agreed upon in regards to section 11 regarding the responsibilities of paraprofessionals.

Paraprofessionals will be available daily to support the classroom through a series of tasks such as attending classroom meetings, providing interventions to students, reading a book, etc. These tasks will be mutually agreed upon with the classroom teacher. Paraprofessionals will complete 1 mandatory professional development training per week as assigned by district administration and will also choose 1 other training per week based on their current position and/or interest. Paraprofessionals will communicate with their supervising teacher at least once per week for the purpose of helping with any student SEL needs and to continue collaboration and to enhance the learning community. Paraprofessionals will be available daily for work emails (e.g. staff members, administration, etc.), communicate with teachers and administrators, as needed.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Discussion and Vote on Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement Between the Norton Teachers' Association and the Norton School Committee Dated April 2, 2020 Regarding Spring Coaches Stipends:

The following information is an amendment to the April 2, 2020 Memorandum of Agreement.

Head coaches for spring sports will receive 10% of their stipend and assistant coaches will receive 5% of their stipends due to the CoVid-19 school closure starting on March 16, 2020.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

FY'21 Budget:

Dr. Baeta is recommending a 2.5% increase of approximately \$748,941 to limit lay-offs and add mandated positions. This will be presented to the Finance Committee on Monday, June 1st. He feels this a reasonable request assuming no cuts to Chapter 70. The Federal Municipal CARES Act funding of \$1.75M will be addressed with the Town to help us towards a working budget and a plan for the future. Also, we do not know what the impact for the restart of a school opening in September will look like. There are committees being formed to discuss different options for a school opening and should be finalized next week. Discussions and concerns were addressed about the financial costs associated with a different school opening and the requirements. Negotiations with the NTA on a contract for FY'21 are still under discussion.

This Budget will still require a limited number of layoffs prior to June 15th. Dr. Baeta plans on notifying the staff the week of June 8th pending review of seniority and licensure. Communication will be from the direct supervisor/principal and a letter from the Superintendent's Office.

At this time, summer programs will be remote.

Mrs. Gallagher wanted to clarify why other towns were doing things differently and not following State requirements, i.e., graduation. Dr. Baeta explained some districts had already made a decision prior to the announcement last week of the State's requirements for graduation. The Commissioner of Education on behalf of those districts with their local Board of Health reviewed their plan and determined it looked good and safe so they could go ahead with their plan, but it was not recommended going forward.

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta announced we received a \$5,000 donation for food service. He will advise who that donation was from at a later date.
- The Committee also expressed many concerns about the mandate from the Feds that they will not be providing funding towards food service that is being provided to the adults and senior citizens after May 26th. Mr. Wells addressed that after May 26th we could get 75% reimbursement from FEMA and possibly the CARES Act may be able to provide the additional 25% funding needed for us to continue to supply food services for senior citizens. If the Committee decides to still provide food service to the senior citizens during the month of June, FEMA does not extend the covered time period. Then the cost will be 100% our responsibility.
Mr. Wells will continue looking at options to provide food service over the summer and what that cost will be and what funding can be provided to us.

The Committee previously requested a joint meeting with the Board of Selectman and Finance Committee to discuss the food services to our community and never heard back. Dr. Baeta and the Committee expressed that Mr. Wells has done a fantastic job addressing this issue and will address it more with the Finance Committee at the Monday meeting. The Committee would like it addressed to the Town Manager, Board of Selectman and Finance Committee for their support towards still providing our community with food service, if funding is not granted. It was stated that we have to get some sign-off for this assistance from Town management. Dr. Baeta will address this issue with Town management.

- Dr. Baeta expressed to the Committee not to support a 1/12 budget at the Town Meeting on June 27th. Discussions and concerns will be addressed at next meeting.
- The schools will start re-opening for the staff to gather materials from their classrooms next week. The students will be able to enter the buildings the week of June 8th to return items and clear their lockers. Administration, Administrative Assistants and Central Office will be open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with no public access, starting

June 1st. Mrs. Winsper advised that chrome books for grades 6, 7, 9, 10, and 11 will not be collected. The elementary grades will be collected. Schedules will be provided to staff and families.

- Mr. Wells addressed the issue that the High School and Middle School Drama Clubs did not get their production. The Middle School Spring Intramurals did not meet their full requirement. Therefore, a recommendation for the club fee of \$50 be refunded to the parents.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to refund parents for their Drama and Intramural Club Fee

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

- Mr. Savas introduced a discussion he had with Laura Parker about considering a special language within the Town Charter that could potentially include the School Department. There are three options within this Charter Commission Proposal: Free Petition, Citizen Participation Initiative and Referendum, which were discussed. Dr. Baeta and Mr. Savas will continue to speak with Ms. Parker concerning the proposal.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting

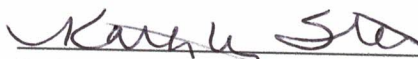
SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. - Virtual

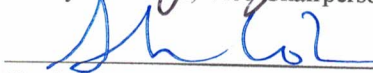
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Kathleen Stern, Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher, Vice Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas

Daniel Sheedy