

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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2021 JAN -4 P 1:17

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 25, 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, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, ***Absent:*** Technology Director Karen Winsper, Director of Counseling and Social Emotional Learning Vincent Cerce, Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

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

Reorganization of Norton School Committee:

Reorganization of the Norton School Committee is required by the School Committee Bylaws at the first meeting following the Annual Town Election. Mrs. Stern turned the meeting over to Dr. Baeta who asked for nominations for the position of Chairman for FY'21. Mr. Savas nominated Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, seconded by Mrs. Stern.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close nominations and a singular vote to appoint Mrs. Gallagher as Chairman for FY'21 School Committee

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

Dr. Baeta, acting as chairman pro tem, declared Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher as the new Chairman of the Norton School Committee for FY'21.

Chairman Gallagher opened nominations and nominated Mr. Deniz Savas as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Cohen.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close nominations for Vice-Chairman for the School Committee

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Chairman Gallagher asked for a motion to approve Mr. Deniz Savas as Vice-Chairman of the School Committee for FY'21.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve Mr. Savas as Vice-Chairman for the School Committee

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

In accordance with the School Committee Bylaws, Article 1, Section 2, both chairman and vice-chairman hold their respective offices for one year or until their successors are duly elected.

Mr. Savas nominated to re-appoint Mr. Dan Sheedy as Legislative Representative, second by Mrs. Cohen.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to close nominations for Legislative Representative

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

Chairman Gallagher asked for a motion to approve Mr. Dan Sheedy as Legislative Representative of the School Committee for FY'21.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to re-appoint Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Employee Negotiations Representatives, Capital Improvements Committee Representative, and SPED PAC Representative are required. The Committee discussed and everyone was willing to remain in their current position as noted:

Employee Negotiations Representative: Mr. Deniz Savas and Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher

Capital Improvement Committee Representative: Mrs. Sheri Cohen

SPED PAC Representative: Mrs. Kathleen Stern

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to re-appoint members to their current positions as noted for the record

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

School Liaison Assignments:

In accordance with last year, the Committee has agreed to keep the arrangement as is and that parent board representatives can attend School Committee meetings. No appointments were made.

Vote to Approve Minutes of June 11, 2020 Remote School Committee Open Meetings:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of June 11, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Warrants:

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

- June 18, 2020 \$252,300.64

Mrs. Kathleen Stern addressed the Committee to confirm that Mrs. Sheri Cohen will continue to sign the warrants and she would remain the back-up. The Committee was in agreement.

Vote to Approve Norton Teachers' Association Contract Extension for 2020-2021:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Committee that was ratified by the NTA. There were no public comments.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the MOA to the NTA Contract Extension for 2020-2021

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Vote to Approve Norton Para-Professional/Library Media Tech Employees' Association Contract Extension for 2020-2021:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the Memorandum of Agreement with the Committee. He thanked Sara Horton, Rob McCoy and Diann Crugnale and appreciate all their work. There were no public comments.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the MOA to the Para-Professional/Library Media Tech Employees' Contract Extension for 2020-2021

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

Vote to Approve School Committee Meetings Dates for 2020-2021:

Mr. Savas noted that the schedule indicated a date of September 25th which is a Friday, and it should be Thursday, September 24th. Dr. Baeta will make the correction as noted. Mr. Sheedy questioned that if we are still in a remote session do we have to change that on the announcements. Dr. Baeta confirmed that the dates are set and the 48-hour notice will indicate the change if necessary.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2020-2021 with the correction as noted

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

Personnel Update:

Dr. Baeta referred to the list of staff changes the Committee received and thanked everyone for many years of service to the district. He hopes to continue to work on traditional formal recognitions.

Mrs. Gallagher questioned if the amount of retirees and staff changes is related to Norton not getting hit as hard financially compared to other towns is due to the current COVID-19 situation. Dr. Baeta noted that he has communicated with the Board of Selectman, Finance Committee, Mike Yunits and the School Committee and they feel comfortable with the numbers going forward which are different from the original proposals. He also discussed other situations that involved Chapter 70, the current announcement regarding school openings and possible other funding from the State that may affect our staff.

Mrs. Gallagher thanked everyone who is leaving us and wished them all the best. She especially wanted to thank Dr. Baeta and Mr. Wells for navigating and collaborating with the Town and all the work they have accomplished to work with the budget.

Announcement of Coordinator of Special Education:

Dr. Baeta introduced Cassandra Russo as the new Coordinator of Special Education, effective July 1st. She will be leaving her position as the Team Chair at LGN. Ms. Russo addressed the Committee and stated that she was excited to take on this new position. She thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Vote on FY'20 End of Year Financials:

Mr. Wells reviewed with the Committee the reductions to the FY'21 budget to allow for the 2.5% increase compared to the original request. He also reviewed the estimated Covid-19 saving. He also explained journal entries required to move expenses to appropriations in order to increase funds in the revolving accounts for FY'21. Mr. Wells indicated this leaves an estimated \$225,000 of funding from the FY'20 budget that can be returned to the Town and would require a vote.

Mr. Savas wanted to clarify that if there is no fee base for transportation due to social distancing and an estimated \$175,000 of funding is needed, the possibility of using \$75,000 from School Choice would not be following DESE guidelines that School Choice funds are not to be utilized for general operating expenses. Discussion followed about different methods to obtain the additional funding that may be needed for transportation. Dr. Baeta commented that by removing transportation and staff articles from the agenda at the Town meeting and returning the estimated \$225,000 to the Town, we could then address articles towards funding at the Fall Town Meeting or from COVID funding. There were no public comments.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to return an estimated \$225,000 from the FY'20 budget to the Town as presented by Mr. Wells

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

Vote on FY'20 Summer Transfers:

Dr. Baeta explained a vote is required to approve transferring of funds that may be required over the summer to close the FY'20 budget.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve transfers to close out FY'20 budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Superintendent's Evaluation:

The Committee will submit their comments to Mrs. Gallagher. Mrs. Gallagher and the Committee set a timeline for mid-July for completion.

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta proposed to the Committee the following dates for potential remote meetings: July 23rd or 30th, and August 13th or 20th.
- Champions will resume opening at the HAY school tentatively on July 13th. This will be an opportunity to explore what is successful and what needs to be adjusted for a school opening.
- Dr. Baeta sent an email to staff and families with the DESE report about school openings. The subcommittee selections will be finalized and the three tentative plans for the opening of schools will be put together. He also noted that there will be some future communication that will include family surveys and virtual town meetings.
- The Student Representatives reported that the Norton Middle School had a parade drive-by and it was a lot of fun.
- A question from the audience regarding COVID-19 funds and what percentage was allocated to the schools and the impact on job security. Dr. Baeta discussed different funding from the CARES Act and explained some of the guidelines for the use of these funds.

Mrs. O'Neill reported our submission of \$185,000 to the CARES Act: Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund is as follows and noted we will work with our private school partner Legacy Christian Academy who will receive a portion of this based on their enrollment.

\$100,000 – SLPAs and COTAs

\$ 50,000 – testing and evaluations, Kindergarten screening

\$ 25,000 - curriculum and professional development for staff

\$ 11,000 - instructional software

- Dr. Baeta thanked Jeanne Sullivan, who will be leaving us for the position of Director of BICO, for all she has done for us through her leadership, guidance, support, her fight for the students, how she cares about her staff and for being a friend. The School Committee also expressed their appreciation for all the fantastic things she has done and wished her all the best. Mrs. Sullivan thanked everyone and commented how Norton will always hold a special place in her heart.
- Mrs. Gallagher addressed Mr. Lizotte about how the planning and preparation for the Town Meeting was going and how that planning will help us prepare for graduation. Mr. Lizotte commented he has been working with the Town and the Board of Health and it has been good and they feel prepared. He feels graduation will be special and what the team has put together will be great.
- Mrs. Gallagher wanted to officially thank the lunch crew and Mike Vaccaro for all they have done during this time and what an amazing asset they are and please share with them our level of appreciation.
- Dr. Baeta announced the Town Meeting is set for Saturday, June 27, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the High School football field and all are encouraged to attend.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

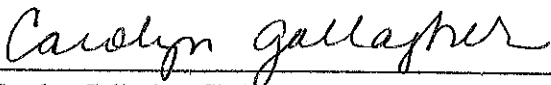
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Saturday, June 27th at 8:30 am prior to Town Meeting at NHS football field

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting

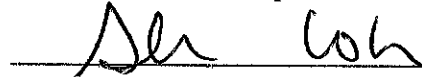
- MOA of Norton Teachers' Association
- MOA of Para-Professional/Library Media Tech Employees Association
- School Committee Meeting Dates FY'21
- Updated Staff Changes
- Spreadsheet – FY'21 Support through FY'20 Savings; FY'21 Budget
- Memo regarding End of Year Transfers

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

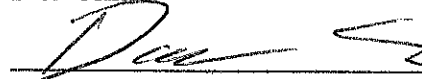


Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

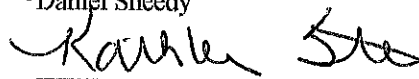
Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Daniel Sheedy



Kathleen Stern

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