

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts
NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2021 JAN -4 P 1:18

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen and Mr. Dan Sheedy. **Absent:** Mrs. Kathleen Stern; **Also present:** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce and Coordinator of Special Education Cassandra Russo

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

Discussion on the Model for Teaching and Learning for September 2020:

Dr. Baeta began the Powerpoint presentation entitled Norton Public Schools Return to School Planning Overview 2020-2021, noting that over 40 educators / parents / students were involved in committees regarding the models for the fall.

It is a DESE regulation that School Committees make the decision regarding the model that will be followed, and Dr. Baeta stated that he believes that it should be a State decision.

Dr. Baeta also noted that following the presentation there would be a Question and Answer session on the three models: Return to School, Hybrid, and Remote.

Dr. Baeta, as well as NPS Administrators Jennifer O'Neill, Karen Winsper, Matthew Wells, Vincent Cerce, and Cassandra Russo participated in the presentation, covering the following areas:

- DESE Return to School Guidance
- Initial Survey Results
- Return to School Model
- Hybrid Learning
- Remote Learning for All
- Parent Selected Remote Learning
- Special Education Services
- Technology

Following the slide presentation, Mr. Lizotte updated the Committee on the types and quantities of supplies purchased and or ordered including: masks, gloves, face shields, soap, hand sanitizer, paper robes/gowns, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, trash liners, various cleaning supplies, BETCO Fight Bac RTU, Victory electrostatic backpack sprayers, Victory electrostatic handheld sprayers, outdoor tents, acrylic sneeze guards, acrylic partitions, and new bathroom faucets. Mr. Lizotte also noted that

all HVAC units have been serviced, including appropriate filters. He stated that all cleaning protocol information would be available on the District website.

Dr. Baeta indicated that a food services plan was being worked on. He said that over 60,000 meals have been served since March 16, 2020. He also noted that we were looking to hire a Digital Learning Specialist as well as a COVID19 Response School Nurse and that decisions being made are based on local COVID19 data as of August 3rd: One active case; 171 cases that are out of isolation, and one death.

Dr. Baeta said that having students sit behind a computer for seven hours a day of direct instruction is not comparable to how a classroom is run. In a typical classroom, 24 students are not all doing the same thing. Rarely are classrooms in rows; students utilize rugs and flex seating.

Mrs. Gallagher stated that a lot of information was presented and that the School Committee has actively participated in the different committees. She said that there was a Google doc available for entering questions and that people should also use the Let's Talk platform to get answers.

The meeting was opened up for questions and answers. Mrs. O'Neill facilitated this portion of the meeting.

Mr. Savas, in answer to a question put forward regarding the appearance that a decision had already been made, stated that a decision had not yet been made.

Mrs. Gallagher said that there isn't a final decision yet on the model, per se, and that the questions and presentation have been very helpful. She thanked the staff and noted that there were very specific guidelines to follow. Plans are still drafts and everyone's patience is appreciated.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

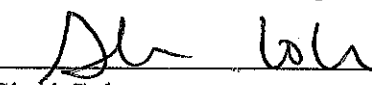
The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

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

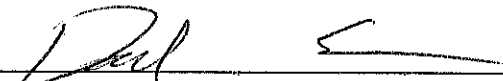


Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

Deniz Savas , Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Daniel Sheedy

Kathleen Stern

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