

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2021 JAN -4 P 1:18

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, August 24, 2020

***Location:*** Remote Participation

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher (logged in at 6:55 pm), Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Kathleen Stern ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce, Coordinator of Special Education Cassandra Russo

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

***Fall Town Meeting Capital Improvement Plan:***

Dr. Baeta reviewed the capital improvement projects being put forward at the Fall Town Meeting which totals \$333,600.00. Mr. Savas asked what will be the timeframe to purchase the used mini-bus for Athletics. Dr. Baeta advised that the purchase will be right away and the savings will be over time.

**MOTION:** by Mrs. Cohen to approve 5-Year Capital Plan for Fall Town Meeting

**SECOND:** by Mrs. Stern

**VOTE:** Roll Call: Sheri Cohen-yes; Kathleen Stern-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-absent 4-0 Motion Carries

***Fall Town Meeting Articles:***

Dr. Baeta discussed the memo sent to the Town Manager, Select Board, and Finance Committee dated August 19, 2020.

He explained the increase of costs totaling \$775,775 are due to Covid-19 and are above and beyond Federal funding. At present, there are 23 leave of absence requests so we may need to hire personnel to cover these absences. Hiring staff to support remote and hybrid learning totaling \$227,500 could be subject to change if we go full remote.

The increase expense of \$405,025 to transportation is related to COVID-19 safety guidelines. This increase cannot be supported by any Grant. The funding requested for this increase is also due to the potential reduction in bus fees.

Dr. Baeta clarified that the Cares Act funds we receive are only effective until 12-30-2020. We would then have to support any funding for staff, transportation and other related expenses due to Covid-19 from January thru June.

Mrs. Cohen questioned if the Town Manager is aware of our figures. Dr. Baeta informed the committee he is attending a meeting tomorrow with Town Administration to discuss our requests and where we are at with the Cares Act funds and expenditures.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to approve Fall Town Meeting Articles be added to the FY2021 School Budget, not to exceed \$775,775

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: Roll Call: Dan Sheedy-yes; Kathleen Stern-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Deniz Savas-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-absent 4-0 Motion Carries

***First Reading School Committee Policies:***

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed the ACAB Harassment policy which are necessary due to Federal requirement of the Office of Civil Rights under Title IX. This is a first read of the new policy. We will also need to designate a coordinator and building representatives. After final approval, the policy will be published with staff, parents and everyone.

Mrs. Stern suggested the Face Covering policy be revised to eliminate the wording "COVID-19" pandemic so the policy can apply to any pandemic. Dr. Baeta advised the policy can be changed to reference any pandemic. The Committee can re-write it at a later date. Mrs. Savas suggested to leave the policy as is because we will want to eventually eliminate this policy.

Dr. Baeta will reach out to the Board of Health and other officials to define and clarify what is an acceptable face covering. This needs to be specific.

***Vice-Chairperson Savas turned the meeting over to Chairperson Gallagher***

***Discussion on Fees:***

For information purposes at this time, Dr. Baeta discussed and expressed concerns regarding fees:

- A. Transportation – Recommend to reduce the fee to \$133 since we will only be providing transportation two times a week.
- B. Athletic – No recommendation at this time.
- C. Little Lancer Preschool – There is a significant drop in enrollment but we still need to provide services.

If the process changes and we go full remote, we would like to avoid refunds. Mr. Savas also commented, if we go back to school full-time, requesting more for a fee would be difficult. No vote required at this time and more info will be provided at next meeting for a vote.

***Motion to Adjourn Open Session and enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussion and update on Contract Negotiations not to return to Open Session:***

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Thursday, August 27, 2020 remote

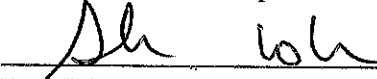
***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

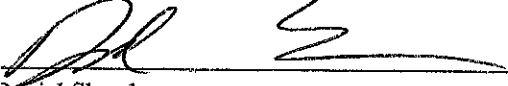
- NPS 5-year Capital Plan FY2021 - FY2025
- Memo dated August 19, 2020; Subject: 2021 October Town Meeting School Department Article 1
- ACAB – Harassment policy
- Face Coverings policy

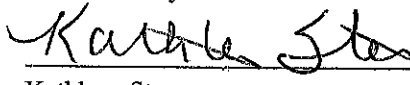
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem

  
Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson

  
Sheri Cohen

  
Daniel Sheedy

  
Kathleen Stern