

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON TOWN CLERK
2021 APR 16 AM 10:51

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: December 3, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, 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, Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

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

Vote to Approve Minute Meetings:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Approve Minutes of November 12, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Approve Minutes of November 12, 2020 Executive Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrants:

- November 13, 2020 \$423,957.25
- November 20, 2020 \$214,506.79

School Payroll Warrants:

- November 5, 2020 \$984,947.84
- November 19, 2020 \$971,496.93

Student Representatives Update:

Zoe Duran and Malia Savas updated the Committee with the following events:

LGN

- Santa Parade will be on Saturday, December 5th at noon if weather permits, hosted by PTC and Norton Parks & Recreation Department
- Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences, December 14-16, 2020
- Music Teacher will be hosting a Virtual Sing Along December 21st.

JCS

- Fall and Thanksgiving activities
- Story Walks and enjoy outside Wellness classes
- Lunch provided by the SPO before Thanksgiving

HAY

- Spirit week
- 5th graders were interviewed and they reported they like being in person as well as being home with their own schedule; Remote Mondays they like seeing the whole classroom
- Wish they could share more equipment for music and gym classes

NMS

- Performed two acts of outreach community support with Pink Day for cancer awareness and Thankful Turkey Day

NHS

- Spirit week
- Celebrated Term 1 before Thanksgiving break
- Book Club
- Congratulations to Tri-Valley League All Stars

Mrs. Gallagher commented how everyone has been more creative in order to celebrate traditions.

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented four seniors with excellence awards. He thanked Mr. Dollerman and his staff for their recommendations. Dr. Baeta met with each student virtually and learned more about each of them. He commented how much this generation is about “us” and not “me.” They seem to have a deep commitment to each other.

The families and students were present to accept their awards. Dr. Baeta presented a biography for each student and commented on their commitment and reaching for their college.

The National School Development Council Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning Awards were presented to **Minetsa Cotto Ortiz** and **Caitlyn Bailey**.

The Superintendent’s Award of Excellence was presented to **Madeline Dolack**.

The MA Association of School Superintendents – Certificate of Academic Excellence was presented to **Kevin Mahoney**.

School Committee members commented how excited and impressive this is in the middle of a crisis. They were happy to have students at a meeting to congratulate them for their accomplishments and hard work.

Need Grants Announcements:

Kate Conway from the NEED organization presented the FY 2021 Fall Grant Recipients. There were three recipients for a total of \$12,000.78.

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| 1. ProMATHean Board (Promethean Board) – Middle School | \$3,446.00 |
| 2. StoryWalk Supplies – JCS and LGN | \$5,940.50 |
| 3. Sensory Supports for Inclusion Students – JCS and LGN | \$2,614.28 |

The recipients attended the meeting and each discussed their program with enthusiasm and gratefulness to have received this grant. Mrs. Conway informed everyone another distribution of funds will be coming in January and thanked everyone for continuing to support this program.

Members of the Committee and Dr. Baeta thanked the NEED organization for all they do in support of the students. It is a blessing to have these grants for our teachers. We appreciate the time and approach the teachers have taken to present students with different activities.

Update on MASC Annual Meeting – Mrs. Kathleen Stern:

In place of the annual joint MASS/MASC conference, a virtual conference was held on Saturday, November 7th. Kathleen Stern attended the virtual conference and presented the Committee with a report. Kalise Wornum was the guest speaker and Mrs. Stern presented the Committee with some highlights of the virtual conference.

They discussed equality versus equity and microaggression. The Committee and staff commented on how they feel Norton is already doing a good job addressing these issues. We are moving in the right direction and can learn more.

Mrs. Stern advised everyone of a YouTube available titled: “Teenagers Discuss Microaggressions and Racism #HatchKids”.

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee and the public about the Culture Proficiency Task Force next meeting on Dec 8th, at 6:30 p.m. There is also a parent advisory committee on this topic. The administration team had training this summer and will share information with the staff.

Second Reading and Vote to Approve Revised Policies – Mr. Vincent Cerce:

The first reading of these policies took place at the November 12th meeting. These current policies are mandated changes per DESE.

MOTION: By Mr. Savas to Approve Revised Mandated Policy Change as written: JFABD – Homeless Students; Enrollment Rights and Services

SECOND: By Mrs. Cohen

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

MOTION: By Mr. Savas to Approve Revised Mandated Policy Change as written: JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children

SECOND: By Mrs. Stern

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

MOTION: By Mr. Savas to Approve Revised Mandated Policy Change as written: JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

SECOND: By Mrs. Stern

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

Vote to Approve School Physician Contract for 2021 – Dr. Baeta:

This is an annual School Committee appointment. Dr. Lisa Cannon from the Mansfield office has been very responsive and has provided assistance during the pandemic. The contract is for \$2,000 once a year. Dr. Baeta recommends the re-appointment.

MOTION: By Mr. Savas to Approve the Contract for Dr. Lisa Cannon to Position of School Physician

SECOND: By Mrs. Cohen

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

Other Business:

- Athletic Fees: Winter Sports: Basketball, Swim and Gymnastics to be set at \$200
Hockey to be set at \$350

MOTION: By Mrs. Stern to Approve the reduction in Athletic Fees for the Winter sports as noted

SECOND: By Mr. Savas

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

- Dr. Baeta publicly announced at this time Grade 2 at the JCS will be going remote for the day on Friday, December 4th. A communication will also be sent to all parents. Mr. Savas clarified this is due to a non-positive situation at this time and is a cautionary matter.
- Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on situations regarding COVID-19 at the NMS and NHS. He also enforced that it is a private issue for students and employees. When safety issues are implemented, it is public information. The safety of students and staff are seriously taken into consideration when making decisions. The Committee had discussion regarding protocol and contact tracing. All sources are utilized when making complex decisions. The Committee recognized these are challenging times during a pandemic and how they appreciate always being updated with information.
- Four (4) reports will be filed with DESE.
- There was a question regarding The Dashboard and about when it was going live. There are ongoing discussions with the Wellness, Health and Safety Committee. They are preparing information and contacting other districts about their updates to have concrete information. When activated, the nurses will have contact with the communications office to post the updates.

- Mrs. Cohen and members of the Committee commented on how awesome the teachers are maintaining some sort of normalcy. It was suggested that videos and advertising of positive activities through social media be brought to future meetings. This will share with parents and the public who may not have access to social media. Mrs. Karen Winsper advised the Committee of a pilot communication platform that may be available in January that will pull information together.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

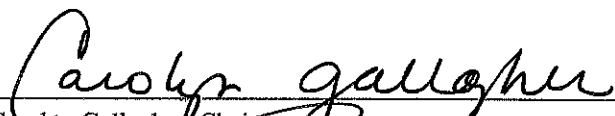
The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.


Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Student Excellence Awards biographies
- MASC 2020 Report from Mrs. Kathleen Stern
- Policy JFABD – Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
- Policy JFABE – Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- Policy JFABF – Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care

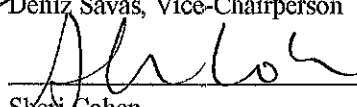
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

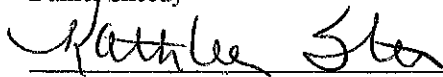


Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Daniel Sheedy



Kathleen Stern