

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2022 MAY -4 AM 9:15

Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 24, 2022

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria and Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Deniz Savas (remotely), Vice Chairperson Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher (remotely), and Mrs. Kathleen Stern (remotely). ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, and Director of Technology Karen Winsper. ***Absent:*** Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairperson Sheedy announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked that if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Sheri Cohen to approve the Minutes of the March 5 and March 10 Open Meetings

SECOND: by Carolyn Gallagher

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

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that the following School Expense Warrants and School Payroll Warrants were reviewed and approved and are to be entered into public record:

School Expense Warrants:

- March 17, 2022 \$ 579,130.04

School Payroll Warrants:

- March 10, 2022 \$1,038,444.84

Student Representatives Update: No student update

DECA Presentation:

Mrs. Heather Albritton addressed the Committee saying that they would like to present a recap of what DECA has done this year. She noted that the Action Team and qualifiers for the national conference were present along with Jennifer Skowronek (remotely). She introduced student DECA President, Ted Donahue.

Mr. Donahue introduced himself and also introduced the Action Team members who qualified for the international level of competition. Mr. Donahue stated that DECA stands for Distributive Educational Clubs of America and that the organization prepares emerging entrepreneurs to be college and career ready.

The Norton DECA chapter had 74 students. Five Norton representatives made it to the international level of competition and 11 others placed top 10 in their categories after competing in Boston in March. Next month seven of these students will attend the ICDC international DECA competition and leadership programs in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee congratulated the students and advisors.

Project 351 Student Ambassador – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein and Student

Mr. Goldstein spoke about Project 351 and how it is the largest service organization in the country. The program trains a new generation of service leaders. Mr. Goldstein introduced Benson Chang, the Project 351 Student Ambassador from Norton Middle School. Benson addressed the Committee and talked about his spring clothing drive service project in partnership with the Cradles to Crayons organization. This year the drive would expand to the entire district and not just the Middle School.

Benson was also involved in the Celtics' Playbook Initiative program. The Celtics is one of Project 351's major sponsors. Members in the program take on social sensitive issues and topics and come up with scenarios to teach how to respond, while being mindful of other people's opinions and thoughts.

Benson made a video clip which was chosen to be part of the virtual opening kickoff event. Based on this involvement he was also chosen to be part of the playbook initiative. Of the 400 ambassadors, only 30 or 40 are chosen for the Playbook Initiative.

The Committee noted that they supported the clothing drive and thanked Benson for his efforts.

Vote to Appoint Coordinator of Health Services PreK-12:

Dr. Baeta addressed the Committee regarding the Coordinator of Health Services PreK-12 position. We would be taking one of our current nurses and putting them into this position. The purpose of the position is to coordinate our health initiatives in the District as we are seeing more students with health concerns and issues.

Dr. Baeta introduced Doreen Browne as the candidate for the position, noting that the School Committee must make this appointment. Mrs. Browne has been with the District for 16 years and has been the head nurse.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Appoint Doreen Browne to the Position of Coordinator of Health Services PreK-12

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Vote to Approve Three Year Contract with Administrative Assistants:

Dr. Baeta addressed the Committee stating that the district Administrative Assistants are an association and not a typical union, but that they bargain as a group. The schools that have two administrative assistants, one is the Senior Administrative Assistant and the other is the Administrative Assistant. There are also Guidance Administrative Assistants.

Being put forward is a three-year contract and includes one-time adjustments for the purposes of increasing the work day, moving to a 7-1/2 hour workday in 2024 and 8 hours in 2025. The only major change in terms of the cost is the Senior Administrative Assistants have some additional work days.

Mr. Savas stated that the 2-2-2 contract is exceptionally reasonable and that it is a fair contract for both sides. He thanked Dr. Baeta for his efforts.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Approve Three Year Contract with Administrative Assistants

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Review of School Committee Meeting Dates for 2022-2023 School Year:

Dr. Baeta stated that this was just a first review of meeting dates, noting that he tried to stay consistent with meetings on week 2 and week 4 throughout the entire school year. We try to stick to two meetings a month not including town meetings and budget workshop. Vote to take place at next meeting.

Other: No additional items were discussed.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Adjourn and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions on school safety and contract negotiation with non-union personnel, not to return to Open Session

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.


Following the Executive Session meeting members of the School Committee toured the L. G. Nourse Elementary School. The tour focused on recent projects and facilities upgrades completed and projects in progress. Discussion ensued regarding future updates and projects needed.

Next scheduled meeting date: April 14, 2022 at HAY Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:


- Memorandum of Agreement between School Committee and Norton Administrative Assistants Employees' Association
- Draft version 2022-2023 School Committee Meeting Schedule
- Petition for Certification by Written Majority Authorization (SLPAs and COTAs)

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

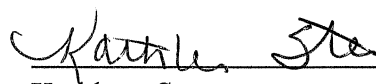


Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Carolyn Gallagher

Kathleen Stern