

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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2022 MAY 31 AM 10:01

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 14, 2022

Location: Norton HAY School Library and Remote Participation

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Savas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded and asked that if anybody else is recording to please let the Committee know.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vote to Approve Minutes of March 24, 2022 Open and Executive Session Meetings:

Chairperson Savas noted a duplicate statement to be deleted on Page 3 of the Open Session Meeting.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve Minutes of March 24, 2022 Open and Executive Session Meetings with the deletion of the duplicate statement.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Warrants Information:

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 31, 2022 \$ 299,091.69

School Payroll Warrants:

- March 24, 2022 \$1,060,549.01

Bristol County Sheriff's Office COVID Dogs Presentation:

Dr. Baeta introduced Sheriff Tom Hodgson and Captain Paul Douglas of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office who explained the process and training of the COVID dogs Duke and Huntah. The dogs were donated by a dental doctor and his wife, so there were no costs to the taxpayers. They presently work with 28 schools in five districts and Norton was one of the first schools to reach out.

They thanked Dr. Baeta, the Committee, staff and students for the opportunity to serve Norton. They stated that it is a great experience to see the positive interaction from the students.

Student Representative Updates:

JCS

- Boosterthon Fun Run will be this week. All Together Now has raised over \$25,000 towards enrichment, arts, and community activities. 85% of the students registered, bringing in funds from 28 states and 3 countries. Pre-K ran today (April 14) and K-3 is running tomorrow (April 15).
- Getting ready for their first ever Sea Turtle Day after vacation. At the big event, students will celebrate the history of JCS, play some fun games, and learn about the 18 sea turtles they have been able to adopt as a school!

LGN

- Finished Grade 3 ELA MCAS this week. The children did an amazing job taking their time and working hard.
- Kindergarten enjoyed Rainforest Reptiles, and an in-school field trip. Thank you to the LGN PTC for funding this event!
- Grade 2 has been busy writing poetry. Grade 2 classrooms conducted Poetry Slams for their peers.

HAY

- Completed the ELA portion of the MCAS. Students did a tremendous job taking their time and doing their best.
- This week, they did another round of HAY PTO Week Before Vacation Bingo. Mr. Geoghegan called the numbers over the loudspeaker and they were able to give out prizes to two students, per homeroom for each of the two games that were played. Students loved playing, picking out their prizes, and they had some great fun before the break. Thank you again to the HAY PTO for organizing and sponsoring.
- For the last few weeks, our Yelle Library has been getting a major facelift. Mrs. Durmis, the Librarian, the Yelle PTO volunteers, Wade Lizotte, and the HAY custodial staff have really done an amazing job of making the Library an incredible place for the students to go.

NMS

- Huge thanks and congratulations to the entire NMS Community for having a very successful Parent Board Fundraiser.
- Congratulations to our NMS Unified Basketball team on the successful completion of their inaugural season.
- Bullying against students with special needs has been more prevalent in the schools. Dr. Baeta held the Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting with student representatives from grades 6-12 in order to discuss this and other topics.
- NMS successfully completed their first round of MCAS testing having completed the ELA MCAS for all grade levels.
- Congratulations to their Project 351 Ambassador Benson Chang on the successful completion of his Spring Service Project. Over 50 bags of clothes were donated.

NHS

- Discussions on vaping and fights in the bathrooms have been happening throughout the school. Students no longer go to the bathroom because of a fear of being accused of vaping because there are kids in there who are constantly vaping.
- Prom on 4/8/22 was very successful and a fun night for all of the 317 students who attended. There was lots of dancing, a buffet, and a sundae bar. Great get together for the students.
- On April 29th the Best Buddies Prom will be held at Pembroke High School.
- NHS has had several future planning and college exploration activities over the last couple of weeks. On April 5th and 13th students had the opportunity to travel to UMASS Amherst and Assumption College, respectively. On April 6th Bristol County Community College was at NHS all day for an on-the-spot admission event for any Senior. On April 13th the NHS Guidance Department hosted a virtual College and Career Planning night for Juniors and parents. On April 14th NHS hosted 25 schools, employers and the military for a futures fair. All juniors attended the fair as well as sophomores and seniors who signed up.
- Mock Crash will be held tomorrow, April 15th.

Recognition of NHS Track Athletes:

Coaches Alex Evans, Ricky Williams, and Gretchen Stalters informed the Committee about the accomplishments of four NHS track athletes. The Norton girls indoor track team had four athletes who qualified and ran at the New Balance Nationals Track and Field meet in New York City last month.

Juniors Shea Podbelski and Ali Murphy capped off their regular season at the New England's meet where they both finished in 4th place and each broke a school record at the meet to represent Norton.

Ali raced the 300 meters and Shea the 1000 meter. Ali also placed 9th in the 55 meter in the entire New England region.

They joined Jillian Strynar and Shaylee Owens and formed a sprint medley relay which qualified them to run in New York City in the "Rising Stars" division where they finished in 5th place. Ali and Jillian also qualified to race in the 55m, Shaylee in the high jump and Shea in the 1000 and mile. It was a great experience.

Dr. Baeta congratulated the NHS track athletes and presented them with certificates. The Committee congratulated the girls for their accomplishments and representing Norton.

Introduction of the New L.G. Nourse Elementary School Principal:

Dr. Baeta introduced Mr. Thomas Higgins as the incoming LGN Elementary School Principal, effective July 1st. Mrs. O'Neill coordinated with NESDEC and formed a committee for the search and received 19 applicants. Mr. Higgins thanked the Committee and staff for this wonderful opportunity. His passion is elementary age and everyone involved in the process has been very welcoming. He is looking forward to joining the team. The Committee welcomed Mr. Higgins and his family to Lancer Nation.

Vote on School Committee Meeting Dates for 2022-2023:

Vote to approve School Committee meeting dates for 2022-2023 as reviewed at last

meeting. Meetings are generally scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month as well as meetings before Town Meetings and the Saturday budget workshop.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve School Committee Meeting Dates for 2022-2023 as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of Reads Collaborative for the 2022-2023 School Year:

As required, all READS Collaborative Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. Dr. Baeta read the following statement to be entered into public record:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at READS Collaborative are to be appointed annually. Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Appoint Joseph Baeta to serve as Representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative for the 2022-2023 School Year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of BI-County Collaborative for the 2022-2023 School Year:

As required, all Bi-County Board members need to be appointed annually to the Collaborative Board of Directors by the School Committee. Dr. Baeta read the following statement to be entered into public record:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors at Bi-County Collaborative are to be appointed annually. Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2022-2023 school year.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Appoint Joseph Baeta to serve as Representative on the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative for the 2022-2023 School Year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Superintendent Conflict of Interest Disclosure for Extended School Year Program:

Dr. Baeta provided the Committee with a memorandum regarding his daughter, Margaret Baeta, who will be working with the ESY program as a Student Assistant. This will be her second year

working with the program. A School Committee vote is required under the Conflict of Interest Law, MA G.L. c268A.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Accept the Conflict of Interest Disclosure as Presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Vote to Recognize Speech Language Pathology Assistants and Certified Occupational Therapist Assistants Unionization and to Enter into Contract Negotiations:

As discussed in Executive Sessions, a public vote must take place pertaining to this request by the two parties regarding unionization.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Recognize Speech Language Pathology Assistants and Certified Occupational Therapist Assistants Unionization and to Enter in Contract Negotiations

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta advised the Committee that the Water Department has reached out for us to perform an Infiltration and Inflow Study on the HAY building because of its age. He provided Mr. Yunits, Town Manager, with an ARPA Funds Request list. This will be further discussed while the Committee and staff are conducting a walk through and facility update of the building.
- Mrs. Stern thanked the Committee and staff for all their support to her and family during this past year.
- It Takes a Community annual basketball game will be held on May 6th at 7:00 p.m., at NHS. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Adjourn and take part in a building walk through and facilities update, not to return to open session.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, April 28th, at the JCS Library at 6:00 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- School Committee Meeting Schedule 2022-2023
- Memorandum of Conflict of Interest and Disclosure
- ARPA Funds Request

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

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Deniz Savas, written over a horizontal line.

Deniz Savas, Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Daniel Sheedy, written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Carolyn Gallagher, written over a horizontal line.

Carolyn Gallagher

dmk