

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2022

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Dan Sheedy, Vice Chairperson Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mr. Nick Schleicher. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield, Director of Technology Karen Winsper and Student Representatives Malia Savas and Antonio Romano

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Minutes of June 8, 2022 Open School Committee Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

5 - 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mr. Sheedy 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:

- June 9, 2022 \$ 36,243.57
- June 16, 2022 \$ 560,030.56
- June 23, 2022 \$ 103,022.18
- July 21, 2022 \$1,789,225.36
- August 3, 2022 \$2,416,956.65
- August 17, 2022 \$1,542,839.85
- August 30, 2022 \$ 412,325.08

School Payroll Warrants:

- June 16, 2022 \$5,388,040.86
- June 30, 2022 \$ 146,320.33

• July 14, 2022	\$ 181,660.63
• July 14, 2022	\$ 22,304.07
• July 28, 2022	\$ 228,989.76
• August 11, 2022	\$ 216,690.25
• August 25, 2022	\$ 178,499.00

Student Representatives Update:

Malia Savas and Antonio Romano updated the Committee on the opening of schools. It will be the “Year of Adventure” at JCS. HAY welcomed back students in red carpet style. Fifth graders have taken over as role models for the 4th graders. At NHS teachers have been working on relationship building and routine setting, including small group activities. The first big event of the year is the Senior Cruise.

Opening of School Remarks – Mr. Thomas Higgins:

Mr. Thomas Higgins, the new LGN Principal addressed the Committee stating how happy he was to be in his new position and how welcoming everyone has been. He said the building was in amazing shape and thanked Head Custodian Mr. Joe and the entire custodial staff. Mr. Higgins read the names of new staff at the LGN. He also mentioned the new technology at LGN – the TV in the lobby which broadcasts NPS news to include Twitter feeds.

Vote to Approve Elementary Handbook Changes:

Dr. Baeta presented the proposed changes to the Elementary Handbook, noting that the changes are not significant and are mostly to add clarity. Discussion ensued regarding the policy about dismissal within ten minutes of the end of the day.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Elementary Handbook changes

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Middle School Handbook Changes:

Dr. Baeta presented a proposed change to the Middle School Handbook – the addition of Saturday School detention be held at NHS. A supervisor will be hired for the program at an annual cost of approximately \$3,500. High School and Middle School students will be kept separate.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Middle School Handbook Change

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Approve High School Handbook Changes:

Dr. Baeta presented the proposed changes to the High School Handbook including Cell Phone Expectations, Attendance Policy, and Student Privileges. The policy updates were created with input from the NHS Site Council, faculty, students, and subcommittees.

The updated cell phone policy would have students place phones in a secured, hanging rack at the beginning of every class but Students would still have access to phones before and after school, in the hallways during passing time, at lunch, when a teacher deems is appropriate during class, or as an incentive.

Attendance policy updates include the addition of Acknowledged Absences, to be used for tracking purposes. An Acknowledged Absence is an unexcused absence with parent notification but without supporting documentation such as a medical note.

After lengthy discussion on the items, Dr. Baeta told the Committee that their questions would be sent to NHS Administration and would be answered prior to the next meeting. Mr. Sheedy would be following up with legal counsel and will report back.

The agenda item was tabled.

Review and Vote on Town Meeting Articles:

Dr. Baeta presented October Town Meeting School Department Articles and NPS Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.

\$707,142 is being sought to support Special Education Out of District mandates transportation rate increase, regular transportation to balance budget, and Special Education tuition increases for public and private placements.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve October Town Meeting School Department Article

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

The Capital Plan includes a used athletic bus as well as partial pavement at JCS.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Five Year Capital Plan

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

5 - 0 Motion Carries

First Reading of Updated Public Participation at School Committee Meetings Policy:

Dr. Baeta stated that updating policies is a two-part process – first reading with changes and then a second reading and vote.

Opinions on the proposed policy changes were shared by the Committee members as well as public comment by Kelly Gallagher, 201 Bay Rd., Chuck Gallagher, 201 Bay Rd., and Clyde Waite, 10 Crane St.

First Reading of Draft Signage Policy:

Discussions ensued regarding the draft Signage Policy including concerns of what defines an approved student group.

It was decided that the Chair would speak directly with legal counsel regarding the policies discussed.

Norton Teachers' Association Contract Ratification:

After three years of work and a number of one-year contracts, a new three-year contract which includes the coming together of Teachers and Paraprofessionals has been completed. The contract includes a Memorandum of Agreement which clarifies some issues which need to be resolved between now and March 1, 2023.

The Committee thanked all involved in working on the contract and expressed their appreciation for the level of professionalism. Shannon Taylor, NTA President, reiterated her appreciation to all who put in the hard work to complete this contract.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept Contract Memorandum of Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept 3-Year Teachers and Paraprofessionals Collective Bargaining Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

Other:

Dr. Baeta reported that he received an email from Ray Cord regarding election day and traffic concerns as there is no secondary exit.

Gina Arvanitidis, 207 Bay Rd., commented on the safety aspect of having elections at NMS while school is in session.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

5 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

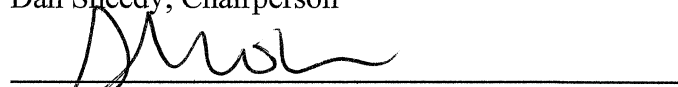
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Document regarding Elementary Handbook changes
- Document regarding Middle School Handbook changes
- Memo regarding High School Handbook changes
- Memo regarding 2023 October Town Meeting School Department Article
- Memo regarding FY23 Fall Town Meeting School Department Capital
- Updated Public Participation at School Committee Meetings Policy
- Draft Signage Policy
- Teachers and Paraprofessionals Collective Bargaining Agreement
- Memorandum of Agreement Norton School Committee and NTA

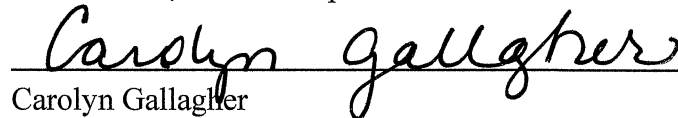
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Dan Sheedy, Chairperson



Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas

Nick Schleicher

tlr