

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2022 OCT 31 AM 9:50

Date of Meeting: Thursday, October 13, 2022

Location: H. A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mr. Nick Schleicher. **Absent:** Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield, and Student Representative Malia Savas.

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

Upon Mr. Savas' request, the Committee observed a moment of silence in memory of Mrs. Sheri Cohen's dad who had recently passed away.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Minutes of September 22, 2022 Open School Committee Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

4 - 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrants:

- September 22, 2022 \$ 237,583.46
- September 29, 2022 \$ 268,551.03

School Payroll Warrant:

- September 22, 2022 \$1,305,848.66

Student Representatives Update:

Malia Savas updated the Committee on school happenings, as follows:

JCS – Students taking part in competitions centered around turtle eggs and tokens, as well as autumn, harvest and family traditions themed activities. Teachers are looking forward to meeting parents and guardians at upcoming conferences.

LGN – Students filled the purple heart jar and celebrated with a sports day, wearing favorite team jerseys. Grade 3 students are excited for their field trip to Plimouth Patuxet and Mayflower, and K students are gearing up for Pumpkin Day. Boosterthon Fun Run kicking off at the end of the month.

HAY – PTO Trunk Or Treat event happening on October 28th in conjunction with LGN and JCS parent organizations.

NMS – Fall sports season is underway; participating in Unity Day to help stamp out bullying by wearing orange as well as wearing pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Halloween Spirit Days and a Halloween Activity Night are also upcoming this month.

NHS – College Fair took place and PSATs are upcoming. Livestream video announcements began. Best Buddies Club had a tremendous resurgence with more than 30 students joining. Student Council planning annual faculty and student costume contest for Halloween and well as Spirit Week activities in November.

Opening of School Remarks:

Mr. Martin Geoghegan, HAY Principal addressed the Committee and reported that the new school year was off to a tremendous start with new teachers including a former student teacher and long-term substitute. There is a lot of excitement around the new book vending machine purchased by the PTO. The “Good News Calls of the Day” program is continuing. With the Integrated Multi-Tiered System of Support (IMTSS) program students get to see other teachers and staff members and change up their normal routine by spending time with other students at the same level, based on need.

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) Update:

Mr. Matthew Bernstein, Norton SEPAC President, updated the Committee on the work the organization has been doing and activities they have been holding including acquisition of a 503(c) non-profit certificate for fundraising. He expressed that the organization was a fully inclusive group, disability or not. Events include meetings on the first Monday of the month at NHS; meetings at Fiesta Restaurant on the second Tuesday of the month; Penguin Patch Holiday Shop in December at LGN; Spring Fling Social in April; Gnome Surfing for students in Grades PreK – 5; ASD Fit 6-week activity-based program; and Heart of Gold program to recognize the staff in the district as well as scholarship offerings for two graduating seniors.

Mr. Cerce, members of the Committee, and Dr. Baeta thanked the organization for their amazing work. Board members Audrey Moschella and Nicole Hirsch were introduced.

Vote to Approve DECA Trips for 2022-2023 School Year:

DECA Advisor Ms. Heather Albritton introduced student Ted Donahue, DECA President. He discussed his experiences being involved with DECA and introduced Action Team members Brandon Lasker and Bryan Li.

The following DECA activities were presented for the Committee's consideration and vote:

DECA District Conference

Hyannis, Massachusetts

January 2023 (to be determined)

The district conference is to be determined based on if it will be an overnight or a day conference. It is currently being researched and a contract is being negotiated with Hyannis Inn and Conference Center. This is usually a one-night conference. This district conference will be a competition to include online 100 question exams along with two role plays per student. Students will compete with approximately

DECA State Conference

March 19-11, 2023

Boston, Massachusetts

The Massachusetts State Career Development Conference is the pinnacle of the DECA year. Filled with competition and leadership activities, there is also plenty of entertainment which gets planned into this three-day conference, such as keynote speakers and various performances. Participating members will compete in either a series or team decision making events, consisting of an unprepared role-play and a written exam, or a written project that will be 10-20 pages depending on the category.

DECA ICDC International Conference

April 21-25, 2023

Orlando, Florida

The DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) is the highlight of the DECA year. Twenty thousand high school students, advisors, businesspersons and alumni gather for several days of DECA excitement. Most participants at ICDC compete in one of DECA's competitive events. The top competitors in each event are recognized for their outstanding achievements. In addition to the competitive events, many students and advisors participate in a variety of leadership and career advancing academies.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve DECA Trips for 2022-2023 School Year as Presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

4 - 0 Motion Carries

Enrollment Update:

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on October 2022 enrollment figures including Special Education. Comparisons from October 2021 figures were discussed.

Transportation Update:

Mrs. Kristine Hadfield updated the Committee on district transportation noting that approximately 1,470 students were registered to take the bus. To date \$135,000 has been taken in for 552 students owing fee. Bus routes have been ironed out.

Budget Update:

Mrs. Kristine Hadfield updated the Committee on the FY23 budget, noting that large items have been encumbered. The October report shows a balance of \$35,000.

Review and Vote on Substitute Compensation:

Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee approve new rates for substitutes in an attempt to add more people to our list, and without impacting the budget significantly, as follows:

Daily substitute: From \$90 to \$100 per day

Half day substitute: \$50 per 3.5 hours/day (new option)

Hourly substitute: \$14.50 (new option)

Long-Term substitutes: from \$90/\$110 day to \$100/\$120 per day based on length of assignment

Permanent Building Substitutes: from \$100.00/\$125 day to \$110/\$135 per day based on number of days

Retired NPS Educators: \$175 per 7-hour day (new rate)

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve New Substitute Compensation as Presented.

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

4 - 0 Motion Carries

Review and Vote on NPD / NPS Surveillance Camera Memorandum of Understanding:

Dr. Baeta explained that this is an updated Memorandum of Understanding between NPS and NPD regarding surveillance camera use. Clarification regarding the 911 regional system has been added. Surveillance only takes place in public areas and is used for criminal acts.

Second Reading and Vote – Policy BEDH – Public Participation at School Committee Meetings:

Mr. Sheedy updated the Committee on changes to the policy after First Reading. No vote taken due to lack of motion. Current policy to remain in effect.

First Reading of New Policy IJND-A – Cellular Phones and Similar Personal Electronic Devices:

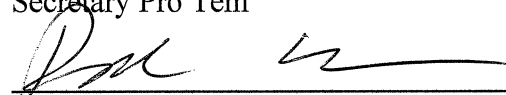
NHS Principal Ethan Dolleman, Assistant Principal Amy Benner, and Norton High School Teachers Rachel Kearney, Lindsay Costa, and Kerri Murphy addressed the Committee in support of a policy regarding cell phone use in the classrooms. It was noted that students are happier, less distracted, and less tense when cell phones are taken out of the picture and that “out of sight / out of mind” just doesn’t work. Office referrals for cell phone use has dropped during September/October compared to March/April 2022. Mrs. Benner stated the root of every discipline matter is technology and vaping, and that it is not often that staff advocates for a policy.

First Reading of Amended Policy JEC – Regulation of School Attendance and First Reading of Amended Policy JH – Student Absences and Excuses:

Mr. Savas noted slight inconsistencies between Policy JEC and NHS Student Handbook. He also said there were places in Policy JH that were missing “or designee” after Principal in a few places.

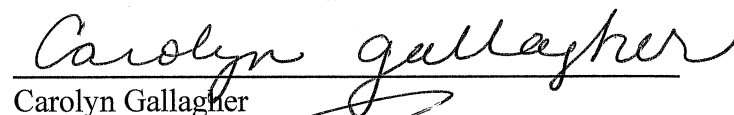
Respectfully Submitted,

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

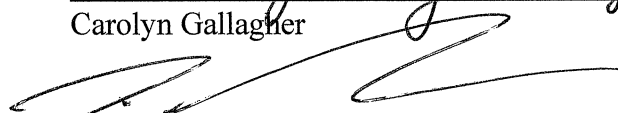


Dan Sheedy, Chairperson

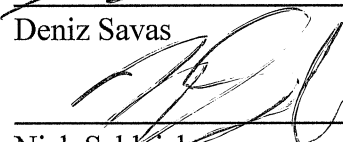
Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas



Nick Schleicher

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