

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2023

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mr. Dan Sheedy, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Nick Schleicher. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield, 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 by Norton Cable and asked if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of January 5, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that she reviewed and approved the following School Expense Warrant to be entered into the public record:

- January 5, 2023 \$313,698.07

Student Representative Update:

Malia Savas and Antonio Romano updated the Committee on school happenings as follows:

JCS – They are on Day 2 of the Elective Programs. There are over 400 students taking 39 different courses being taught by teachers, staff, parents and volunteers, including Dr. Baeta. They are hoping to have a big sharing assembly after electives are over so the students can see what their friends did in other courses.

Artist in Residence, Jess Tracey, will begin next week working with students on re-imagining the lobby and main stairwell.

HAY – Had their kick-off assembly presentation for the annual Boosterthon Fun Run. They hope to raise \$20,000 for a new playground.

NHS – The Student versus Teacher Talent Show will be this Friday night. February will consist of field trips, activities, guest speakers, and the Science Honor Society will be going to the elementary schools for Science Days.

Recognition of All New England Band Festival Participants from NHS – Dr. Baeta:

Three NHS student musicians, Maggie Baeta, Emilie Barrick, and Aeris Knouse, were recognized for their participation in the All New England Band Festival. The students traveled to Plymouth State University in New Hampshire on November 21st to participate in this festival. They were presented with certificates from Dr. Baeta. They have plans to attend other festivals.

NHS Sculpture Class Presentation – Dr. Todd Kefor:

Students (in Grades 10-12) from Todd Kefor's Sculpture course completed proposals and designs for a Project-Based Learning Unit entitled "Public Sculpture & Civic Responsibility." The project required the design and development of a scale-model sculpture for the Norton Town Common. The standards demanded a sculpture that taps into a sense of communal pride and unity. Community members from pertinent organizations, committees, and offices were recruited to visit NHS and provide feedback for student proposals and sculptures. An essential component of PBL is making students accountable to real-world stakeholders and amplifying project visibility, student accountability, and a sense of responsibility to their community. Mr. Paulus, History Teacher, collaborated with the class to share some history of Norton.

Three students displayed their sculpture and shared the history behind their design. The students will display their work in the Norton Public Library. The students are currently collaborating to develop a year-long sculptural installation for the Attleboro Art Museum's High Art competition and gallery exhibition in the spring.

The Committee congratulated the students on their talent. The members who attended the exhibit commented how this was only a subset of the sculptures displayed and they were all amazing.

Presentation and Vote On Service Learning Trip to Thailand in 2024 - Dr. Todd Kefor:

Dr. Kefor presented information on a proposed service learning trip to Thailand in April 2024 for NHS students. The trip will be 10 days and will coincide with April vacation week. He explained how data was gathered from Grades 8-11 to reach the conclusion for this trip and how we can further address to students and parents what service learning is all about.

The Committee advised students can use the trip to get their required community services hours. Dr. Baeta recommend this trip as presented.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve NHS Service Learning Trip to Thailand in April 2024

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

Norton Parks & Recreation – Mr. Frank Durant:

Mr. Frank Durant, current Director of Parks & Recreation, addressed the Committee regarding holding Founder's Day, on June 24th at the Norton Middle School. Previously, it was held at HAY. The Committee discussed and expressed their concerns on some logistics regarding fireworks, parking, liability insurance, financials, accountability from the Town, property damage and repair, and how the use of the grounds will affect the rental contract with Norton Youth Soccer.

It was determined more discussion and clarification is needed and should be addressed with all the departments and organizations that will be involved.

NHS Track Dedication Proposal – Mr. Aaron Sumner:

Mr. Sumner and NHS student Jake Antosca presented a proposal to name the new NHS track in honor of Mr. Kent Taylor. Jake presented the Committee with a statement in recognition of Mr. Taylor's dedication as a coach and teacher, and his accomplishments and inspiration.

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee that the proposal has undergone a formal process and received unanimous approval at the November 16, 2022 NHS Site Council meeting. The Committee and Dr. Baeta recognized how unique and special it is that Jake, as a student, has recommended this dedication and how he has been fully committed to honoring Mr. Taylor.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Dedication of the new NHS Track in honor of Mr. Kent Taylor as proposed

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

TRANE Project Update:

Representatives from TRANE presented the Committee with a slide presentation on the updates and progress of the project. They recapped the process that began in 2020 and discussed the benefits, energy savings, and the ongoing support they will continue to provide the Norton Public Schools.

The Committee, Dr. Baeta, and the Director of Facilities, Wade Lizotte, addressed questions and thanked TRANE for all their efforts and support.

Review and Vote on Capital Improvement Plan and Town Meeting Articles – Mrs. Kristine Hadfield:

Mrs. Hadfield presented the Committee with a Five Year Capital Improvement Plan to be submitted for the Spring FY23 Town Meeting. The Committee discussed and reviewed the recommended capital improvements. The Committee advised the capital improvement delegated for FY 2025 for district wide Wifi replacement be considered in the FY 2024 improvements.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee addressed and discussed three articles to be presented at Special and Annual Town Meetings: FY23 Supplemental Budget, Debt Exclusion, and Special Education Stabilization Funds.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Capital Improvement Plan, as amended, and the Town Articles as presented.

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Review and Vote on Calendar Change for Norton Middle School – Dr. Baeta:

The Middle School is requesting the Committee consider removing the scheduled early release day on March 23, 2023. This was previously scheduled for spring parent conferences, which has overall been a very low attended event. The Middle School revised their parent conference model this fall to allow for additional virtual conference hours per team and staff member. This change was made to accommodate the number of students and our belief that communication and connection between parents and teachers is more effective and impactful when it occurs earlier in the school year.

The Committee discussed the purpose and meaning parent teacher conferences in the future and how technology has permitted easy access for parents and teachers to communicate. Dr. Baeta will put together a working group to further address this issue.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve removal of NMS scheduled March 23, 2023 Early Release Day

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4 – 1 Motion Carries

Other Business:

- Mr. Ethan Dolleman and Dr. Jennifer O'Neill received an Innovation Pathways Planning Grant in the amount of \$24,491.
- Dr. Baeta will submit to the Committee joint meeting dates.
- There are over 1,000 bills at the State House involving education.
- Mr. Gary Cameron, member of the VFW, will be forthcoming to the Committee with a proposal to host a carnival at HAY, June 12th and 13th.

Motion to Adjourn Open Session to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions on personnel and non-union negotiations and not to return to open session.

MOTION: by Mrs. Sheri Cohen to adjourn Open Session to enter into Executive Session

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Mr. Sheedy-yes; Mrs. Cohen-yes; Mr. Savas-yes; Mrs. Gallagher-yes;
Mr. Schleicher-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

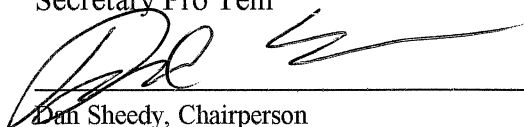
The Open Session meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m., at the NMS Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

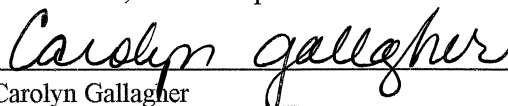
- Information regarding the Service Learning Trip to Thailand in April 2024
- TRANE project presentation
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan
- Town Meeting Articles

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

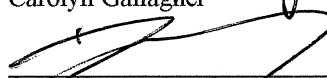


Dan Sheedy, Chairperson

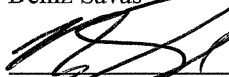
Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas



Nick Schleicher

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