

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

2023 SEP 18 AM 9:24

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 8, 2023

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

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

Chairperson Cohen announced that the meeting was being recorded by Norton Cable and asked if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Cohen informed the audience that a School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12th at 7:00 p.m., in the Middle School Auditorium to allow for audience participation regarding the FY'24 Budget. She stated that the scheduled agenda would be followed and the budget can be discussed at the end of the meeting under "Other."

Recognition of Coach Patrick Coleman:

Dr. Baeta thanked Coach Coleman and presented him with a plaque to commemorate his 18 years of service and commitment to the Norton Public Schools. Dr. Baeta stated that he is proud of Coach Coleman's work in the athletic program and also for his dedication to students and their academics. Coach Coleman gave recognition to all the wrestlers and teams through the years. He thanked and acknowledged his Assistant Coaches for their support as well as the School Committee and Administration.

Vote to Approve Minutes of May 25, 2023 Open Session Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of May 25, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 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 the public record:

School Expense Warrants:

- May 25, 2023 \$ 459,003.33

School Payroll Warrants:

- May 18, 2023 \$1,136,576.17

Student Representative Update:

Antonio Romano updated the Committee on school activities as follows:

HAY – Participated in an anti-bullying assembly with the 5th Grade students presented by Animal Adventures group brought in by the HAY PTO.

The school held Field Day and it was a huge success. The 5th Grade students went to The Hall at Patriots Place for some fun STEAM activities, scavenger hunt, and lunch at Red Robin. On Friday night, the HAY PTO will put on the 5th Grade Celebration Night with fun, games, food, and students will be receiving their yearbook.

NHS – The HS had some wonderful things happening which included Graduation, MCAS for 9th grade students, a joint NMS and NHS Band concert, and the Class of 2025 provided a Magic Show. The HS hosted the 8th grade students for Step Up Day. Student Council volunteers led tours and answered questions on a student panel. The HS will wrap up with a field day run by the Student Council on June 15th.

Dr. Baeta acknowledged Malia Savas for all her accomplishments as Student Representative to the School Committee and how she represented the student body and updated the Committee on school activities. He thanked her for all she has done and wished her all the best at Pitt State.

He introduced the new Student Representative for 2023-2024, Gabriela (Gabby) Kenaan, who is currently in Grade 11 at NHS.

Review and Vote on School Improvement Plans:

Mr. Ethan Dolleman, Principal of the High School presented and reviewed with the Committee the new 3-year School Improvement Plan.

Mr. Vincent Hayward, Principal of the Middle School presented and reviewed with the Committee the new 3-year School Improvement Plan.

Dr. John Marcus Principal of the JCS, Mr. Tom Higgins Principal of the LGN, and Mr. Marty Geoghegan Principal of the HAY, jointly presented and reviewed with the Committee the new 3-year School Improvement Plan.

The Committee discussed that some of the goals presented were not measureable, therefore were not goals. They discussed the issue that if the goal is not measureable, how do we know it has been achieved. Further discussion continued that some goals/achievements are an “Act of Faith.” Consideration was given to tabling the vote until the next meeting for further review of the plans. It was decided to continue with the vote with the understanding of updates, amendments, and some measureable goals will be presented to the Committee at a fall meeting.

The Committee also acknowledged how they appreciated the elementary schools working collaboratively. Dr. Baeta recommended the School Site Councils consider reaching out to the Norton Media to record and broadcast the meetings.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the School Improvement Plans as presented, and request updates, amendments, and measureable goals be presented at a fall meeting.

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Review and Vote on Schools Student/Family Handbook Updates:

Dr. John Marcus Principal of the JCS, Mr. Tom Higgins Principal of the LGN, and Mr. Marty Geoghegan Principal of the HAY, jointly presented the Committee with an updated handbook with no changes due to the revisions over the last year.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the Elementary Student/Family Handbook as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Mr. Vincent Hayward, Principal of NMS, presented the Committee with an updated handbook with the changes highlighted.

MOTION: by Mr. Schleicher to approve the Middle School Student Handbook as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Mr. Ethan Dolleman, Principal of NHS and Mrs. Amy Benner, Assistant Principal of NHS presented the Committee with an updated handbook and provided a detailed memo of the changes.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve the High School Student Handbook as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Callanan

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote on FY'23 Summer Transfers: – Mr. Kristine Hadfield:

Mrs. Hadfield provided the Committee with a memo requesting the end of year transfer of funds be approved to balance the accounts. Per state regulation, a vote is required when a transfer is needed to move funds from salaries to expenses or vice versa. The Committee will be updated with the transfer at a later date.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve the End of Year Transfer of Funds

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Review and Vote on Transportation Timeline and Fees – Mrs. Kristine Hadfield:

Mrs. Hadfield provided the Committee with a memo requesting a Bus Registration Surcharge of \$50 per family for any bus registration received after June 30th. She noted that late registration can cause administration difficulties for the transportation office and bus company as shifting routes last minute is often needed. Mrs. Cohen reported that fees collected for athletics or buses do not cover the bills. Mr. Savas informed everyone to just first register. Information regarding the surcharge will be provided to parents/guardians.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve the Surcharge of \$50 per Family for Bus Registrations received after June 30th.

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

Assistant Superintendent Search Update – Dr. O'Neill:

Dr. O'Neill informed the Committee that Mr. Vincent Cerce and Mrs. Karen Winsper put together a committee of 13-14 people consisting of a School Committee member, staff, students, and parents. They received 52 applications and after 3 days of interviews, they have 3 finalists. The finalists have visited the schools this week and met with staff. After negotiation, the selected candidate may be ready to be recommended to the Committee for a vote at the next meeting on Monday, June 12th.

Discussion on Potential Dates for Next School Committee Meeting:

Due to items that need to be addressed and the anticipated attendance, the Committee decided to hold a meeting on Monday, June 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in the NMS Auditorium. The next scheduled meeting on June 22nd will be cancelled.

Other Business:

- Monday, June 12 at 5 p.m. at Adams Field (NHS) to celebrate the dedication of the Kent A. Taylor Track.
- Tuesday, June 13 at 4 p.m. at the H.A. Yelle Elementary School to celebrate the renaming of the Multipurpose Field in honor of Norton's Veterans.
- American Cancer Society will be hosting their annual Relay for Life on Friday, June 9th at the NHS Track.
- The Committee addressed the audience regarding the \$1.6M budget cut. The interpretation of the phrase "cut" was explained in various versions. Dr. Baeta released a letter today to all staff and parents/guardians regarding the impact these cuts have had on administration, staff, students and parents. Mrs. Cohen reminded everyone to, "please be kind" on social media. Information provided on social media is not always accurate.

Chairperson Cohen opened the floor.

Mr. Bobby Portway, teacher at NHS, addressed the Committee and audience to express how long-term world language has merit. He provided comments from students with examples of how world language has had an effect on their life skills.

Two students from the High School, Benson Chang and Madison Dufresne, addressed the Committee and audience to advocate and support current lay off positions. They presented signed petitions which will be entered into public record.

Two students from the Middle School, Olivia Gustafson and Novah Hefez, addressed the Committee and audience to advocate and support for chorus and band classes at the Middle School. They presented signed petitions which will be entered into public record.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee thanked the students for expressing their opinions and representing their student body.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

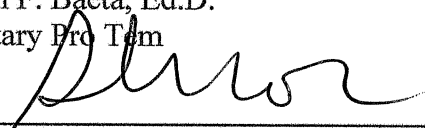
The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 12th at 7:00 p.m., at the NMS Auditorium

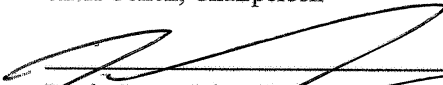
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- NHS School Improvement Plan
- NMS School Improvement Plan
- Elementary School Improvement Plan
- Elementary Student/Family Handbook
- NMS Student/Family Handbook
- NHS Student/Family Handbook
- Memorandum regarding 2023-2024 NHS Handbook Revisions
- Memorandum regarding End of Year Transfers
- Memorandum regarding Bus Registration Surcharge

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



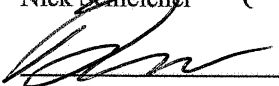
Sheri Cohen, Chairperson



Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman



Nick Schreier



Dan Sheedy



Justine Callanan

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