

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

2023 SEP 18 AM 9:24

Date of Meeting: Monday, June 12, 2023

Location: Norton Middle School Cafeteria

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Cohen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

FY24 Budget:

Dr. Baeta stated that there was no new information regarding the budget.

- There was a resignation from a LGN staff member and the resignation of a part-time employee was expected.
- There is a possible special education out of district situation at a cost of \$150K.
- The State budget has not come forward but the max amount is \$60 per student.
- Currently a hold on new K teacher, but depends on enrollment.
- We lose students over the summer but in the fall some return from Bristol Aggie, etc.
- Personnel changes occur over the summer with teachers coming in at higher salaries. The best applicants earn higher rates. Some could come in at lower salaries as well.
- Town Free Cash is a significant number. Health insurance premiums were not paid for two pay periods. This money should become Free Cash. Free Cash is when money comes back into the general fund or is returned to departments.
- Have not appointed Academic Coordinators; need to look at negative impact. Tried to stay away from K to 5 layoffs. Layoffs had nothing to do with performance.
- Class schedules not done yet. Will be done asap.
- Priorities and discussions to be had on music programs, band, world language; academic coordinators and NMS administrative assistant.
- Did not raise fees except for PreK. Added late fee for transportation.
- Moved funds into facilities; Champions money went into custodial budget.

The floor was opened to the audience for questions and answers. Topics discussed included priorities, the future of the NPS band program, and how budgetary issues are statewide and are the result of a faulty system. Regarding shortfalls, clarification made that “we” means the entire town and not just the schools. “Finding a way” means cutting elsewhere as we have to stay within the budget. It was stressed that people need to stay informed and get involved by attending School Committee meetings as well as Town Meetings. It was estimated that it would take approximately \$180K to restore cut positions/programs. Parents should ask legislators about the \$30 per student reimbursement as well as mere \$5K per School Choice student. The Town budget is 70% schools and 30% rest of the budget. Free cash is used to fund police and fire OT, etc.

Dr. O’Neill stressed that people should come to the source rather than social media with questions so to receive accurate, open and clear communication.

Shannon Taylor, NTA President, stated that even though her tenure was ending, she encouraged parents to work together with the NTA as together there is strength. She also thanked the School Committee for their time and commitment.

Vote to Approve Revisions to Norton Teachers Association Contract:

Major change to current NTA contract is the addition of the SLPAs and COTAs along with their new salary schedule. Other corrections to the contract are the additions voted on as brought forward by the Labor Management Committee. The addition of the SLPAs and COTAs are for the remaining two years of the contract. Previously these positions were under independent contracts.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve revisions to Norton Teachers Association Contract

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Custodial Memorandum of Understanding:

The Custodial Memorandum of Understanding is in regard to the athletic fields custodial duties as well as security rate of pay and job description.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve custodial memorandum of understanding

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Appoint Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Baeta requested that the Committee appoint Brian Ackerman to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning.

Dr. O'Neill stated that there were 52 applicants for the position and 12 were interviewed. There were 3 finalists and Dr. Ackerman rose to the top. Dr. Ackerman was introduced to the Committee. He stated that he enjoyed the process and meeting everyone, and was thankful for the opportunity.

Mr. Schleicher noted that there were 13 members on the search committee for the position which consisted of himself, teacher, students, parents, etc.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Dr. Brian Ackerman to the position of Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

5 – 0 Motion Carries

Other:

- Mrs. Cohen thanked Dr. Baeta for all he has done for the district, noting that she considers him as a good friend.
- Dr. Baeta stated that leaving Norton was a very hard decision but said that the district is in great hands with Dr. O'Neill and he thanked his administrative team. He said it was hard leaving on a low note with pink slips and that he takes it personally. He stated that Norton is a great noting that his daughter is a student and that his family is a part of the community. He said that he considered the members of the School Committee. He expressed his thanks to Norton.
- Mr. Schleicher stated that the Kent Taylor track dedication was unbelievable and that the students that spoke did a great job. He said that Dr. Baeta has built this great community.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

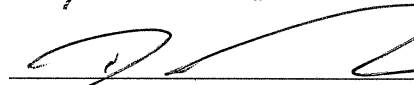
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

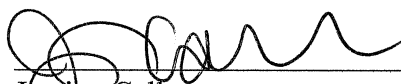
- Revised NTA Contract
- Custodial Memorandum of Understanding


Respectfully Submitted,


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



Sheri Cohen, Chairperson

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson

Justine Callanan

Nick Schleicher

Dan Sheedy

tlr