

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2023 DEC 19 AM 9:27

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 16, 2023

Location: J.C. Solmonese School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Vice Chairperson Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Justine Callanan, and Mr. Dan Sheedy ***Not present:*** Mr. Nick Schleicher ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Jennifer O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Brian Ackerman, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield and Student Representative Antonio Romano.

Call to Order: Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen called the meeting to order at 6:01 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

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Jennifer O'Neill

Dr. Dolleman recommended students to the Superintendent for these awards. Dr. O'Neill presented certificates to the students, along with their families, and read their biographies. Recipients of the awards are:

- MA Association of School Superintendents Certificate of Academic Excellence – Karalyn Powers

As the educational leader in each community, the MA Association of School Superintendents has designed an award for academic excellence. This award will be given to high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers, based on the following: Three (3) year cumulative average; Rank in Class; and Selection by the Superintendent.

- National School Development Council Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning Awards (2) - Mattia McIntyre and Calvin Borgida

The NSDC award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort, and who have also served as positive role models for the student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment.

- Superintendent's Award of Excellence - Madalyn Dumont

Given to a high school student who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career.

MassCue Pathfinders Award – Dr. Jennifer O’Neill

MassCue’s Pathfinders Award is presented to a Massachusetts Educator and leader whose efforts have enhanced the field of educational technology. At this year’s conference in October at Gillette Stadium, our Digital Learning Specialists Christina Scilingo and Ryan Robidoux were recognized for this award. They are the first recipients recognized as a team. We are better as a district with them and are proud of our amazing tech department.

Vote to Approve Minutes of October 23, 2023 Open Session Meeting:

It was noted on Page 1, Call to Order, replace Mr. Sheedy with Mr. Savas, “called the meeting to order.” Replace Mr. Sheedy with Mr. Savas, “turned the meeting over to Chairperson Cohen”

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of October 23, 2023 Open Session Meeting with changes as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Minutes of October 26, 2023 Open Session Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of October 26, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 – 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrant:

October 26, 2023 \$ 373,900.69

School Payroll Warrant:

October 19, 2023 \$1,165,194.85

Student Representative Update:

NHS - On Monday night, classes will face off in the Powder Puff football tournament. In school on Wednesday will be the hallway decorating contest followed by the pep rally. Classes will compete in various competitions during the pep rally. The Friday after Thanksgiving is the annual Junior/Senior Semi-formal.

HAY - Students have done a great job with PBIS earning hashtags galore. We have already handed out over 150 books. Students handing in 50 hashtags receive a coin to select a book from the vending machine. Some students have earned their second "sitting anywhere in the cafeteria" for their excellent behaviors. We have done close to 150 Good News Calls of the Day.

Our LLT (Lancer Learning Time) RTI (Response to Intervention) Block for our IMTSS has been running smoothly since the start of the year. Students are getting the academic support they need each day as they rotate through different standards and groupings. One facet of our IMTSS Tier

2 interventions for students has been very successful this year with our Check-In and Check-Out system of points. The students on the CI-CO system have been doing incredibly well.

Next Wednesday, prior to the Thanksgiving break, the HAY PTO will be hosting "Anything But a Backpack Day" which was so creative and fun last year.

NMS - All this week, the students have been engaged in World Kindness Week. We have encouraged students to send kindness cards to one another during lunch and are asking students to wear yellow tomorrow as the designated color for kindness.

The students and staff are gearing up for the Annual Turkey Carnival, which has been a tradition at NMS for more than 30 years. The Turkey Carnival is a fun event designed to raise funds and donations of canned goods, which are then distributed to local food pantries and other charitable institutions. Last year we raised close to \$2,000 and are hoping to exceed that this year!

A select group of students recently traveled with Officer Robichaud and Mr. Kramer to film a PSA and learn about emergency services at SEMREC in Foxboro. Students were able to speak with dispatchers and learn about what is involved with responding to emergency calls, and how cell phone technology can be used to assist those in need of help.

Opening of School Remarks - Dr. John Marcus:

The theme this year is Year of Celebrations, both local and worldwide. He discussed the fun activities and events the team and the SPO have been planning. He invited families and friends to Starry Night where everyone will gather in the fields and view stars through a telescope.

This year's art project will be focused in the library. A colorful reading and literacy mosaic art display will be painted by Joshua Wiener. This will represent who we are as a school and a community. Thank you to NEED, SPO, and Mass Cultural Council for the funds for this amazing project.

Sarah's Village Presentation - Mr. Vincent Cerce:

Sarah's Village Foundation is a Massachusetts-based non-profit organization with the mission to "Be kind and help others" by promoting wellness and eliminating the stigma associated with mental illness, while reducing the rate of suicide of 13 to 24-year-old people in our communities across Massachusetts and the United States. Mr. Cerce introduced retired NPS Teacher, Cynthia Bresnahan, along with her husband, Mark, who gave a presentation about Sarah's Village. They have enjoyed collaborating with Norton and other organizations to fundraise and be able to give back to the community to support mental health. An upcoming event will be a presentation from Ivy Watts at the middle school on 1/25/24, and she will discuss her history and struggles. Mr. Cerce also noted that a staff member wearing a purple wrist band is a member of the Active Minds Club. This will identify for a student to recognize who they can go to for help. If anyone would like to help, please visit the website www.sarahsvillage.org.

Dr. O'Neill and the Committee thanked everyone involved in Sarah's Village for all the time and work put in for our students.

MCAS Overview – Dr. Brian Ackerman:

Dr. Ackerman reviewed the Spring 2023 MCAS Results. He presented a power point outlining curriculum, I-MTSS, and trends and patterns. He informed the Committee MCAS has new grading and testing assessments so results may seem lower. The Committee expressed concern that we are systematically not looking at the results the right way. The Committee requested information be presented to compare our district over time compared to the state, not by cohorts. The Committee and administration discussed issues relating to how this test is not “be all - end all,” and does not define us. There are many measures of a series of data. It was recommended to in order to relieve pressure from students, we could start promoting that the MCAS is simply a test to review how we are doing as a district. Let the students know to just do their best and help us grow as a district.

FY 2025 BUDGET Process Timeline Overview – Mrs. Kristine Hadfield:

Mrs. Hadfield presented the Committee with projected dates for the FY25 budget timeline. The memo and chart was also distributed to all principals and office administrators. The Committee briefly discussed ways to present the budget to town officials and the public.

Virtual Meeting Options – Mrs. Karen Winsper:

Mrs. Winsper informed the Committee we can do virtual meetings. More information and verification will be gathered regarding open meeting laws and regulations, audience participation with Q & A, ASL interpreter, access for families requiring accommodations, etc. This agenda item was tabled.

Other Business:

Ms. Justine Callanan announced SEPAC will be hosting Penguin Patch at the LGN on 12-16-23 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. This will allow for children to purchase trinkets for the holiday. Donations of wrapping paper and tape are always welcome. For more information contact SEPAC at www.nortonsepac.com or email at nortonsepac@gmail.com.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in the NMS Library

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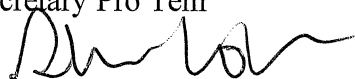
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Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

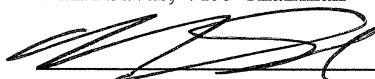
- Sarah's Village Foundation
- 2023 MCAS Results
- FY 2025 Budget Process Timeline Chart and Memorandum

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer O'Neill, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Sheri Cohen, Chairperson

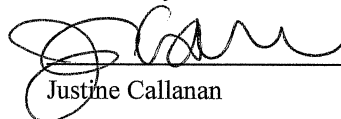
Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman



Nick Schleicher



Dan Sheedy



Justine Callanan