



TOWN OF NORTON  
SELECT BOARD  
MUNICIPAL CENTER  
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Select Board  
Minutes of Joint Meeting  
October 15, 2020

I. Call to Order by Chairman

The October 15, 2020 joint meeting of the Norton Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee was held remotely (Webinar:  
<https://zoom.us/j/98251501528?pwd=Vmo5S2lCNUNoOHJ2QXJ4eWY3S0lvZz09>  
; Phone: +1 646 558 8656; Webinar ID: 982 5150 1528; Passcode: 371485, and was called to order at 6:34 P.M., by Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Chair of the School Committee.

Member(s) present:

**Select Board:** Mr. John Conway, Ms. Renee Deley, Mr. Michael Toole, Mr. Bradford K. Bramwell, and Ms. Megan Artz. Also in attendance: Mr. Michael D. Yunits, Town Manager.

**School Committee:** Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Ms. Sheri Cohen, and Mr. Daniel Sheedy. Also in attendance: Dr. Joseph Baeta, Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Matthew Wells, the School Business Manager.

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Stephen Evans, Ms. Bonnie Yezukevich, Ms. Paula Daniels, Mr. Aaron Smith, Mr. Peter Carignan, Mr. Zack Tsilis, and Mr. Kevin Snyder.

1. Discussion on FY21 Town Meeting.

Mr. Yunits asked Dr. Baeta if he would like to meet with him Saturday at 10:00 A.M. to get things setup for town meeting and advised that it looked like the rain was going to stop earlier in the day.

Dr. Baeta gave an update specifically about the government supplementals. He stated that the Governor's Office is pretty much making a cut to the \$72,000, which was the SOA (Student Opportunity Act) that they anticipated receiving and is now only for \$62,000. He explained that there was some flexibility in the charter school payments, but he doesn't know what the Southeastern Regional payments came in as. Dr. Baeta advised that the big question mark is what is going to happen with the federal government. He informed the Select Board and Finance Committee that their budget has been suspended for 3 weeks in result of this and all expenditures are required to come through his office and Mr. Wells' office.

Dr. Baeta moved on to discuss another big concern pertaining to the filling and back-filling of teacher positions due to the Family Medical Leave Act [FMLA] and maternal/paternal leaves. He explained that he believes there is going to be an increase in paternal leaves because COVID-19 can be a situation where doctors are signing-off for young children, more specifically those just born, with the reasoning that their lungs are not fully matured yet. He

stated that doctors are signing off consistently with spiking COVID-19 numbers and in result these requests are going to be coming in more often. Dr. Baeta explained that with FMLA, employees will go out with their sick bank, but have the right to continue to use their sick bank and after they have used up their sick bank, they can then apply for the employee sick bank. The School Superintendent emphasized that they could have a constant potential for employees doing this where they could be out from September through June 30<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Baeta stated that remote learning could save the schools money, but hybrid learning will not. Dr. Baeta mentioned that all federal funding ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> [of December], which includes the PPE and the \$225 per student; so, the big question as far as payment is what happens from January to June.

Dr. Baeta said the social/emotional needs is going to increase because of COVID-19 as well as special education. Lastly, he advised that he is trying to find solutions to issues regarding transportation and commented that they are using Bloom transportation for getting food out to people.

Mr. Tsilis asked when they could see numbers on paper. Dr. Baeta stated that they did do a detailed report for the end of the year and the beginning of the year, but he would defer to Mr. Wells. Mr. Wells said he had sent the report of the end of year financials and current status out a few weeks ago to Mr. Evans and Ms. Aimee Sawyer of the Finance Committee, but advised that he would send it out to those who need it. Mr. Evans said he did have that and asked to set a deadline of when they could get the end-of-month reports. Dr. Baeta explained that their goal is to do these at the second School Committee meeting of the month for the prior month's information; so, if they are looking for the month of October, it will be done at the second meeting in November.

## 2. Discussion on Trane Bid.

Mr. Wells advised that the evaluation team is done looking through all the proposals and Trane Commercial Systems submitted the most qualified bid and all 3 evaluators agreed on that. He stated that a written confirmation was sent to Trane to let them know they had been selected and informed them that the next step would be to put together the audit contract. Mr. Wells further stated that this will start moving quickly first with the audit of all the buildings, but they are ready to move forward.

Mr. Evans asked how many bids they received. Mr. Wells stated that they received 3 bids for this project specifically. Mr. Evans clarified that this is an audit of the energy efficiency of the school buildings and Mr. Wells stated that was correct. Mr. Wells explained that the Town would be creating a partnership with a company that looks at your energy services and provides projects that will improve upon those energy services; as part of this, the company guarantees a savings that will be generated from the project and use those future savings to fund the project. The School Business Manager gave a few examples of projects such as HVAC, roof replacements, electrical, and solar where the Town wouldn't have to tax their capital projects and would utilize the savings that are generated. Mr. Wells added that if you hit a year that doesn't hit that savings, they guarantee you the savings and the firm will cut a check that closes the gap on those savings. He emphasized that the Town would be creating a 20-year relationship with this company. Dr. Baeta added for clarification that the bid went out for school and Town buildings.

Mr. Evans asked if they will have an executive summary of the cost benefit analysis over the 20 years of what the Town can expect. Mr. Wells advised that Trane gave a sampling of projects they have done in surrounding towns, such as Dighton Rehoboth, where they did \$12 million worth of projects that generated \$18 million in savings. Mr. Wells said they can't for sure say what they will save because it depends on what projects they move forward with. Mr. Evans asked if it was unusual to do this with one specific company since they will be shopping their own products only and if this will meet all of their needs or future needs. Mr. Wells confirmed that they would be using Trane products, but they usually give a cut in the cost, which helps generate those savings because they know they have guaranteed work with you for at least 20 years. Dr. Baeta explained that there is a cost to Trane for going through the buildings and doing the audit; however, if you move forward with the project, you don't have to pay for the audit.

Mr. Toole asked what he is doing with the municipal side of things [if they would also be going through Mr. Wells] and how do the new buildings come into play. Mr. Wells said they put the new town hall and senior/community on there based on the square footage and layout proposed, so they will be on the bid. He stated that Trane can come in and help the Town with that along with the original buildings because it was on the bid. Mr. Toole asked about rebates and if those would go through Trane. Mr. Wells said they have a division at Trane that looks into what rebates they would qualify for.

Dr. Baeta asked Mr. Wells if the Select Board could have an electronic copy of the audit. Mr. Wells said the scoring would be no problem, but the proposal is a bound copy. Dr. Baeta asked Mr. Wells to have the company get the digital copy to the Select Board and Finance Committee and if they cannot do so, they will pull apart one of the bound books and get it to them.

Mr. Evans asked what the process would be to determine what projects they move forward with. Dr. Baeta said the Select Board and School Committee could prioritize what the project would be along with the Permanent Building Committee (PBC). Mr. Wells further explained that once the audit is complete, they will create a list of projects that would create a high value for the Town.

Mr. Yunits said any large-scale items should go through the PBC and that any information Mr. Wells shares with the Select Board and Finance Committee they should also share with the PBC. The Town Manager added that the PBC should also be involved if an envelope study is done because they have money set aside to do such a study.

Ms. Deley asked if there was a time-frame or a limit as to how many projects the Town has to do, such as 20% of the recommended projects. Mr. Wells responded that he believed that during the audit they will determine how many projects they want to do.

Mr. Evans commented that 20 years is a long time and asked if that is the only option for the term of the relationship. Mr. Wells advised that this is the way the procurement is setup and commented that a 20- year relationship seems like a long time, but pointed out that it is harder where every few years they are going out for a low bidder and they walk away from it at the end of the warranty period, which makes it is really difficult at that point. He lastly stated that it would probably go by very fast.

Mr. Conway asked at the end of the meeting to schedule their next joint meeting and suggested a date of January 14, 2021, which the School Committee, Finance Committee and remaining Select Board members agreed to.

II. **Adjournment**

**MOTION was made by Mr. Savas to adjourn the current joint meeting to return to their in-progress School Committee meeting at 7:10 P.M. Seconded by Ms. Cohen. Vote: Mr. Savas – Yes; Ms. Cohen – Yes; Mr. Sheedy – Yes; and Mrs. Gallagher – Yes. MOTION CARRIES.**

URL Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovxJu-zBRpM>

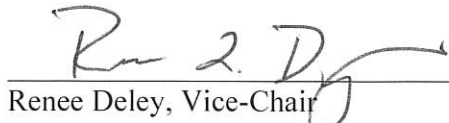
Respectfully Submitted by:



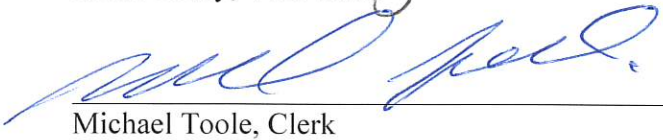
Jennifer Reid, Office Administrator

**SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING  
OCTOBER 15, 2020**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Conway, Chair



Renee Deley, Vice-Chair



Michael Toole, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bradford K. Bramwell



Megan Artz

Minutes Approved by Board on: November 12, 2020