

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2022 JUN 14 AM 9:52
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022

Location: Norton High School Library and Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Deniz Savas, Vice Chairperson Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, and Mr. Nick Schleicher. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, and Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Savas announced that agenda Item #2 would be first as people were still arriving for the first agenda item.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Carolyn Gallagher to approve the Minutes of the April 28, 2022 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Deniz Savas

VOTE: 2 – 0 – 2 Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrants:

- April 28, 2022 \$ 322,476.42

School Payroll Warrants:

- April 7, 2022 \$1,096,923.64

Student Representatives Update:

Zoe and Malia updated the Committee on end of year activities to take place including book fairs, Memorial Day programs, field days, and field trips for elementary students. H. A. Yelle PTO planning special events for 5th Grade students. Norton Middle School will hold in-person band and chorus concerts and production of Legally Blonde. The annual 8th Grade dinner dance / luau will take place.

High School events include an ice cream social, Senior Spirit Week, and music students are to attend the Great East Music Festival.

Dr. Baeta stated that this was probably Zoe's last meeting as a School Committee Student Representative, noting that both reps were wonderful student leaders and fantastic young women. Dr. Baeta gave Zoe a small gift for her service, an engraved key ring.

Mr. Savas thanked the students and stated how he liked the different way they presented, sharing more of what people were thinking through polls and such.

Dr. Baeta said that Malia would be staying on and a new rep would be chosen by June or definitely by the fall.

Recognition of Gymnastics Team:

Members of the Norton gymnastics team along with the coaches were present at the meeting and were recognized for their excellence during the 2021-2022 winter season. Dr. Baeta presented certificates to members.

Mr. Savas shared that the gymnastics team was very special to him. In 2016 he reached to then Athletic Director, Ted Currie, about starting a team as there was interest, including his then 7-8 year old daughter. He stated that he got to see the team members practice, struggle with skills and then support each other – a team effort. He told the athletes that he was super proud for the teammates that they were. He noted that he thinks he was more excited than they were at their last meet of the undefeated season.

The team was presented with a second banner to be hung in the gymnastics team's home gym, O'Leary's. Dr. Baeta read stats regarding the athletes and the season. Mr. Savas recognized coaches Deb and Emily, as well as the parents for getting the girls to practices, etc.

Second Reading and Vote to Approve Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policies:

This agenda item was tabled so members had more time to look at the policies and Mrs. Cohen would have the opportunity to vote.

FY23 Budget Update:

Dr. Baeta stated that he wanted to give a general big picture regarding the budget and that he would not be getting into specific line items because there still isn't a final vote. The Town Meeting is a little later this year and it's problematic for the school department.

- Not making direct classroom cuts to teachers, but would be for essential staff.
- Will be zeroing out line items and includes some line items around contract services.
- The recommended 2% increase to the budget does not cover mandates.
- Concerns coming out of COVID, targeting to get students to grade level.
- FinCom votes on budget the first meeting after Town Meeting.
- Discussion on fees will be on the table.

- May 23rd is the Public Hearing on the budget.
- FinCom can change the budget up to it hits Town Meeting floor.
- The Town has the right to pass an unbalanced budget.
- The FinCom budget is a suggestion and can be amended at Town Meeting.

Mr. Sheedy asked if Trane could do an update. Dr. Baeta said that both Trane and Gale will come and do updates.

Other:

Mr. Wells wanted to bring up that at this point in time money has been put into the state legislation to possibly fund another year of free lunch and breakfast for schools. At this time we do not want to move forward with a price increase until we know if the program will continue. However, if it doesn't go through a \$.25 increase on all meals will be recommended. The current price is \$3.25 per meal, and has been this price for three years. The decision on the free lunch program could potentially come as late as July, but prior to the new school year. A meeting may need to be called during the summer. Participation in the lunch program is around 60% in all schools.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Adjourn and enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussions on contract negotiations with various unions, not to return to Open Session

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Nick Schleicher – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes;
Deniz Savas – Yes 4 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Following the Executive Session meeting members of the School Committee toured Norton High School. The tour focused on recent projects and facilities upgrades completed and projects in progress. Discussion ensued regarding future updates and projects needed.

Next scheduled meeting date: May 26, 2022 at the NMS Library and remotely

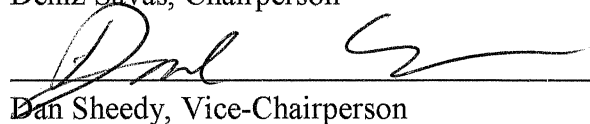
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Policies AC (Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation), ACAB (Sexual Harassment), AC-R (Student Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation) and JICK (Harassment of Students) .

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

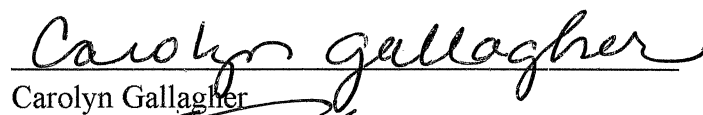


Deniz Savas, Chairperson



Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson

Sheri Cohen



Carolyn Gallagher



Nick Schleicher

tlr