

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, January 11, 2010

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Thomas Golota, Vice Chairman Andrew Mackie, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and student representative Aaron Ledwith were also present.

Call to Order: Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Mackie made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 14th meeting, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Approval of Budget Transfers:

The Committee reviewed two budget transfers recommended by the Superintendent. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the Committee unanimously approved the transfers.

Norton Middle School MCAS Results – Principal Christopher Baratta:

Principal Baratta informed the Committee that the middle school achieved Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) last year. If AYP is met this year the middle school will be removed from the watch list. Strengths and weaknesses were reviewed as were the methods to address the weaknesses. The Committee discussed the results and thanked Mr. Baratta for his presentation.

Vote to Approve Article for Annual Town Meeting:

With the approval of the Committee, an article will be submitted for the Annual Town Meeting to establish a revolving account for non-resident tuition. This will enable the school department to receive a few special education students from other area districts to fill open spots in programs and classes Norton runs. Norton would receive tuition funds for such students from the sending district. It was noted that Norton has programs that enable Norton students to be educated in-house, as opposed to sending them out of district. Dr. Ansay also informed the Committee that there is a place holder for an article regarding the Norton High School building project. More work with the School Building Association is needed to define the project. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the

article establishing a revolving account for the purpose of accepting non-resident student tuition. The motion was seconded by Mrs. McManus. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Vote to Sign “Race to the Top” Memorandum of Agreement:

Dr. Ansay informed the Committee that January 13th is the deadline to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the Federal Stimulus Grant. The money is coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). As a result, school districts are urged to sign up for this grant application because the funding for additional monies to Massachusetts could be up to \$250,000,000. Norton is expected to receive approximately \$40,000 over four years. The purpose of the grant is to instill change in the way education operates in the Commonwealth. The chairman of the School Committee, the Superintendent and the President of the Teachers’ Association must all sign the Memorandum of Understanding. If the district does not sign the memorandum by January 13th, it will not be considered for any grant money. Due to the vagueness of the information at hand and the possibility that the district will be required to continue these initiatives long after the grant has ended, the Chairman asked for a motion and a roll call vote. Mr. Mackie made a motion to direct the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding, seconded by Mrs. McManus. Mr. Mackie and Mr. Golota voted in the affirmative, and Mrs. Werner, Mrs. McManus, and Mr. Savas voted no. The motion failed due to the uncertainty of the ability to withdraw after initial approval of the MOU.

Vote to Approve High School Biotechnology Textbook Adoption:

This agenda item was postponed to a later date.

Vote to Sign Massachusetts School Building Association Contract with the Norton Public Schools:

A vote is required to direct the Chairman to sign the Massachusetts School Building Association Initial Compliance Certification Document. The document is required to proceed with Norton High School’s Feasibility Study, Project Scope and Budget Conference. On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the Committee vote 5-0 in the affirmative.

Personnel:

Mr. Mackie read the personnel changes.

Appointments:

Mrs. Kendra Francis, JCS Long-term Kindergarten Substitute Teacher, effective December 22, 2009

Ms. Linda Newman, JCS Long-term Substitute Art Teacher (.7) effective January 4, 2010

Other:

Mr. Golota announced that NHS senior Aaron Ledwith won at the Southeastern Massachusetts district level speech competition and will move to the state competition in

April.

At the recent DECA Competition, Norton students won many trophies and medals. Twenty-one of the forty-eight students will compete in the state competition.

Dr. Ansay met with the high school student council and reported that they are still in discussions regarding the drug and alcohol policy and the consequences of violating the rules.

Chairman Golota and Dr. Ansay attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting on January 7th and the board gave its approval of the proposed School Building Committee.

Mr. Mackie provided the Committee with a Stand for Children update.

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. McManus. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Next Meeting Date: January 25, 2010, Norton Middle School

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.
Secretary pro tem
