

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Monday, February 8, 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 was also present.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:**

Mr. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Werner, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2010 meeting. The vote was 3 in favor, with Mrs. McManus and Mr. Golota abstaining.

Mrs. Werner made a motion, seconded by Mrs. McManus, to approve the January 12, 2010 emergency meeting. The vote was 3 in favor, with Mr. Mackie and Mr. Savas abstaining.

**Approval of Budget Transfer:**

Dr. Ansay requested a transfer of funds to the high school science textbook account in the amount of \$6,350. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. Werner the vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Vote to Approve Adoption of High School Probability & Statistics Textbook:**

Mrs. Mary Taylor, Mathematics Academic Coordinator, was present to make this request of the Committee. The text would be used for an AP statistics class. It is anticipated that 30 students will elect to take this course. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the adoption of the textbook, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Vote to Approve Adoption of High School Psychology and Civics Textbooks:**

Mr. Paul Duff, Social Studies Academic Coordinator, reviewed the textbooks he is recommending. The current civics textbooks are fifteen years old and there are no supplementary materials. He plans to purchase 35 copies to accommodate 28-32 students per half-year course. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Duff also requested that the Committee adopt a new textbook for the psychology course. The current texts are approximately twelve years old and in very poor condition.

An estimated 120 students will use the new textbooks. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Vote to Approve Adoption of High School Journalism II Course:**

Principal Raymond Dewar requested that the Committee approve a Journalism II course. Journalism is a popular English elective and an additional course would help students stay involved and interested in writing and the school newspaper. No textbooks are needed. On a motion by Mrs. McManus, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the Committee approved the adoption of the Journalism II course by a vote of 5-0.

**National DECA Leadership Conference/Competition – Vote:**

The DECA Leadership Conference is scheduled for March 4-6 in Boston. Dr. Ansay has reviewed and approved the plans for the students to attend. She urged the Committee to approve this activity. Students raise the funds needed to attend. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

**Policy Revision – Substance Abuse Outside of School Policy:**

Dr. Ansay recommended a change in the current policy in regard to the consequences for a first time violation. Students may choose the option of the 30-day suspension from extra-curricular activities or attendance in a substance abuse program offered by a local hospital or the District Attorney's Office. The students felt it was more beneficial for violators to attend a program in person as opposed to an on-line program. A second offense would automatically be a 30-day suspension from extra-curricular activities. Mr. Mackie made a motion to revise the current policy, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

**FY'11 Budget:**

The Committee met on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> for a budget workshop. Dr. Ansay recommended that the Committee not vote this evening on the final budget due to the fact that the state does not have a final budget yet. If a vote is taken at this time, the budget can only be amended down, not up. In the event that the Finance Committee invites the Committee to present its budget prior to the next School Committee meeting in March, the Committee will call a meeting to vote a budget figure. It was noted that the FY'11 budget is approximately \$40,000-\$50,000 less than the 2005-2006 budget.

**Personnel:**

Mr. Mackie read the personnel changes.

**Retirement:**

- Mrs. Elaine McLaughlin-Sheppard, NHS Guidance Counselor, effective June 30 after 15 years of service

**Appointment:**

- Mrs. Germaine Milo, appointed as NHS Head Cook, effective January 27<sup>th</sup>

Transfer:

- Mrs. Lori Nagle, from NHS Head Cook to HAY Cafeteria Assistant, effective January 27<sup>th</sup>

**Other:**

Dr. Ansay reviewed the Capital Improvement items for the next five years. Mrs. Werner is the representative to the Capital Improvement Committee and will attend the meeting.

Dr. Ansay also stated that the Wrestling Team is still going strong and hopefully on its way to the state championship in March.

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 P.M.

**Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2010, Norton Middle School**

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

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