

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 7, 2011

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairperson Andrew Mackie, Vice-chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Tom Golota, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and Student Representatives Kady Ferguson and Sara Pishdadian were also present.

Call to Order: Chairperson Mackie called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Mackie announced that the DECA Internship agenda item would be taken up at future meeting.

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:

On a motion by Mrs. McManus, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the minutes of the February 7, February 15, February 17, and February 19, 2011 meetings, both regular and executive sessions, were approved by a 5-0 vote.

Transfers:

The following budget transfers were requested by Dr. Ansay:

- A transfer of funds from the middle school SPED teacher account to the middle school equipment account
- A transfer of funds from the PE teacher salaries account to legal fees
- A transfer of funds from the medical therapeutic account to support office supplies, textbooks, and equipment
- A transfer of funds from the JCS SPED teacher account to HAY substitute teacher account
- A transfer of \$3,097 to the JCS teaching account

Mr. Savas made a motion to approve the transfers as recommended by Dr. Ansay, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Presentation of NHS Student Work – Jason Henry/Students:

Mr. Henry gave an overview of the biotechnology course and equipment made possible by a recent grant. The students demonstrated the preparation of DNA samples using gel electrophoresis. The course is geared toward AP Biology, but all sophomore general biology students are able to use the equipment. New England Biolabs provided DNA for the classes. The course provides hands-on experience for the students. Massachusetts has a great opportunity for entry level positions in the biotechnology field.

Vote to Approve Revisions to Anti-Bullying/Cyber-Bullying Policy:

At the request of a town resident, proposed changes to the current policy have been incorporated to include staff members so as not to pertain to just students. Mr. Savas suggested a minor change that will be included. Results of a recent survey will be discussed at the next meeting. Principals also commented on the effects of the policy in their schools. The policy will be reviewed/revised in the future. On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Vote to Award SPED Transportation Contract to Kiessling Transportation for 2011/2012:

Kiessling Transportation has agreed to keep the rate for 2011/2012 the same as for the current contract year, as they have done in the past. This rate will also be the same for 2012/2013. The amount of the contract is approximately \$425,000 per year. The school department is pleased with the service. On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. Savas, the committee approved signing the contract. The vote was 5-0.

Revised Mission, Vision Core Value Statement 2011-2016:

The Superintendent has been working with administration and site councils on their input. Suggestions from the committee were also incorporated. Discussion took place regarding some of the language in the statement. A motion to accept the statement as written was made by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 4 in favor, one opposed.

Update on Norton High School Building Project – Mr. Golota, Dr. Ansay:

The building committee, along with Dr. Ansay and Mr. Golota, met at the School Building Assistance Office for the Schematic Design kick-off meeting. The MSBA felt there were no major design flaws and the phase could continue to move forward. Informational meetings have been held for the public in various places recently. The architect has been firming up design work and has met with students and staff for suggestions. Plans include a more secure main entrance and also refurbishing of the art rooms and stage area. Mr. Savas stressed that residents should be able to see what impact this project will have on their property taxes.

Personnel:

There were no personnel changes.

Other:

Dr. Ansay informed the Committee that the logo on the mission statement was designed by Katie Durst, a high school junior.

Dr. Ansay also attended the Red Cross Blood Drive at the high school and commented on how the organizers complimented the students for their respectful behavior.

Dr. Ansay is finalizing the budget and will soon present it to the Committee soon.

Chairperson Mackie motioned to enter executive session, not to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Golota. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The regular session adjourned at 8:07 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 21, 2011, at Norton Middle School

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