

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 21, 2011

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

Call to Order: Vice-chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:

Mrs. Werner made a motion, seconded by Mr. Golota, to approve the minutes of the March 7th and March 15th meetings, both regular and executive sessions. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Transfers:

The Superintendent recommended the following transfers of funds:

An amount from the high school teacher salary line to the high school textbook line

An amount from the SPED therapist line to supplement the legal expense line

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. Savas, the recommended budget transfers were approved by a vote of 4-0.

Norton Middle School Solar Panels Data:

Mr. Dana Johnson from Fall River Electric made a presentation to explain energy savings of the solar panel project from September, 2010, to the end of February, 2011. The data may be monitored on the Norton website under Community/Solar Project. The panels should provide a savings of approximately \$6,000 per year, with a life expectancy of 25 years. The panels generate enough power to run 4 houses.

Norton High School Internship Program, DECA – Mrs. Heather Albritton:

Mrs. Albritton was present to explain the School to Career Internship program. She listed the procedures the students follow. The new component, Advanced School to Career, was explained. She and Lori Ramondi are the coordinating teachers for Norton. Mrs. Albritton listed the programs and activities offered by the program and the components involved in the mandatory portfolio. Students are assessed twice per semester.

Four high school students were present to discuss their recent DECA competition at the state level. All were very successful. They all felt that the DECA program provided a great boost to their self-confidence.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the Committee approved the trip to Boston for the DECA competition by a vote of 4-0.

Explanation of Teacher Evaluation System – Dr. Berdos:

Dr. Berdos was present to comment on the current teacher evaluation instrument which has been in place since 2007. Early in the school year teachers submit measurable goals. Form B is the actual evaluation by principals/supervisors. Form C is the self-assessment, and Form D is the summative. New teachers are evaluated before November 15th, and again before June 15th. Mr. Savas discussed measurable goals. The department of education would like to revamp the evaluation instrument for the state. A state task force is currently revising and proposing changes. After the instrument is voted on it will be subject to public comment.

Update on Norton High School Building Project/CMAR – Mr. Smalley, Mrs. Wood:

Mr. Smalley distributed an updated design for the project. The next step will be the approval of the schematic design by the MSBA. The floor plan of the 1st and 2nd floor addition was discussed, and it was noted that all classrooms will be off a main corridor and have outside windows.

Next was a discussion of the service delivery option which must be voted on by April 4th. The two options are Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) or Design/Bid/Build. The owner's project manager and the architect feel the CMAR is the best option for Norton due to the timing of the project, which will take place while school is in session. The CMAR is involved throughout the planning stages and can eliminate many obstacles that may arise. The MSBA endorses the construction manager at risk method. Mr. Powers, a member of the building committee and a contractor himself, clarified a few points regarding the CMAR. After a lengthy discussion, the Committee stated it would vote for the option at the next meeting.

Approval of Town Meeting Articles:

Articles for the June 6th Special Town Meeting pertaining to the building project, which include funding, the sewer system connection, and repair of the high school track were discussed. The sewer project and track repair are not reimbursable, but the sewer tie-in is necessary for the project to move forward. Mr. O'Neil, speaking on behalf of the Norton Athletic Complex Committee, requested that replacement of the bleachers for safety reason also be put on the warrant, possibly as a fourth article. The Committee discussed the best way to address this issue, whether it should be included in one of the articles, or a separate one. Dr. Ansay will check on the legal aspects. Mr. Savas made a motion to authorize Dr. Ansay to add a fourth article if necessary, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

Approval of Animals in School Policy:

New regulations published on September 15, 2010 amended Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and school districts are now required to publish a policy regarding the presence and use of service animals in schools. The policy was reviewed by Head Nurse Lisa Anderson. On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, the policy was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Approval of School Volunteer Policy:

Norton is currently undergoing a Coordinated Program Review (CPR) and is required to have a policy for school volunteers. The CPR is looking for assurance that no discrimination will take place. On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. Savas, the policy as written was approved by a 4-0 vote.

Personnel:

There were no personnel changes.

Other:

Mr. Golota gave an update on the Destination Imagination competition recently held. Dr. Ansay received a complimentary letter regarding the district's bullying policy. Dr. Ansay thanked Folan Waterproofing and G. Goulet and Son for each of their \$1,000 donations toward the track project. Dr. Ansay is looking for ways to lower the drop-out rate and thanked Colin Rand for designing the flyer.

A motion was made by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, to end regular session, not to return, and to enter executive session. On a roll call vote, all members voted in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 4, 2011, at Norton Middle School.

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