

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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

Location: Norton High School Library

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

Call to Order: 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 to approve the minutes of the November 7th meeting, both regular and executive sessions. An amendment was made to the executive session minutes to include “various staff members were in attendance”. Mr. Golota seconded the motion as amended. The vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion. Mr. Mackie abstained.

Approval of Budget Transfers:

Dr. Ansay recommended that \$35,000 be transferred from the NMS teacher salary account to Legal Services.

A transfer of \$76,900 was requested from the SPED teacher account to the Medical Therapist account at LGN for a speech therapist.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the Committee approved the transfers by a vote of 5-0.

Academic Excellence Award – Dr. Ansay:

The Superintendent’s Award is presented to high school students who distinguish themselves during their high school careers. She presented this year’s award to senior Elizabeth LaVerghetta, for her outstanding academic record and overall accomplishments at Norton High School.

Student Council Annual Conference – Ms. Melissa Siegal:

Student Council advisors Ms. Siegal and Ms. Lindsay Nastri requested permission to attend the annual overnight conference on Cape Cod from March 7th-March 9th again this year. The event is well supervised and the student council members feel it is the best event they have all year.

Two chaperones and 12-14 students will attend. On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the Committee approved the request by a vote of 5-0.

Opening of School Report – Principal Raymond Dewar:

Mr. Dewar introduced several new staff members who each gave a brief biography. He discussed several activities that have taken place and goals for this year. Camp Finberg and the YMCA have been used for team building activities. CPR and anti-bullying training are also being planned. As the high school building project proceeds the staff has provided valuable feedback to the architects. The school was involved with Community Task Force – Clean Up Norton project. A presentation by Chris Herren, the author of *Basketball Junkie*, is planned for February. Several of the school's sports teams have been involved in state tournaments, and also received many sportsmanship awards.

In the area of MCAS, the high school met AYP and scored above target in Math and English/LA. They are working at moving students from Proficient to Advanced. The Grade 6 double English and the Grade 7 double math will help when they reach the high school. There are now 11 advanced placement courses with a probable 400 tests administered this year. The Committee discussed MCAS trends and SATs. It was noted that the band needs to be promoted for the future. Mr. Dewar was thanked for his presentation.

DECA Update – Mrs. Heather Albritton and Students:

Several members of the DECA team presented an overview of activities including the Evening of Parties and the school store. Money made from the sale of school items benefits students who attend district conferences and the state level competition in March.

Budget Discussion – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Finance Director Barry Nectow informed the Committee that at this point \$5.1 million has been spent, and \$16.2 million has been encumbered for a total of \$21.3 million. The remaining \$1.2 million will be used for out-of-district tuitions, building maintenance, and related expenses. Variables in heating, substitutes, necessary building repairs, and equipment replacement can also affect the budget. Work on the FY '13 budget is underway.

Update on NHS Building Project:

Classroom designs have been reviewed and new plans are expected soon.

Superintendent Search Committee Update – Mrs. Beth McManus:

Dr. Ansay has drafted documents for School Committee review at the next meeting, prior to the December 12th meeting of the search committee. Mr. Mackie read a revision he is proposing.

Personnel:

Mr. Savas read the personnel changes.

- Appointment – Ms. Tammy Hall, JCS Primary Development K-1 Teacher

Other:

Dr. Ansay attended the Music Awards held at the Taunton Industrial Center.

Norton was accepted as a member by the READS Collaborative. There is a one-year waiting period.

Mrs. Werner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Savas. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: December 5, 2011, at Norton Middle School.

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