

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Monday, January 23, 2012

**Location:** Norton Middle School Library

**Attending:** Committee Members: Chairperson Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Tom Golota, Mr. Andrew Mackie, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and Student Representative Kady Ferguson 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 Meeting:**

Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0, with Mr. Savas abstaining.

**Approval of Budget Transfers:**

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of \$2,439 from the Supervisor salary account and the Medical Therapeutic account to purchase equipment and materials at NMS, instructional materials for NHS, and testing materials for LGN. Also recommended was a transfer from the SPED Paraprofessional account to the Substitute account at NHS to cover anticipated leaves of absence. Mr. Golota motioned to approve the transfers as recommended by Dr. Ansay, seconded by Mr. Savas. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

**Vote to Approve New Course at Norton High School:**

Ms. Micaela Morin of the NHS Art Department was present to request approval for a new art course, 3D Design/Advanced Sculpture, proposed for the 2012-2013 academic year. This course will provide a secondary level for students in pottery and sculpture. There is no additional cost involved in providing this course. Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the new course, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

**Vote to Authorize Superintendent to Submit Articles for Town Meeting:**

Dr. Ansay reviewed four draft articles for the spring Town Meeting.

- 1. Vote to approve the transfer of funds received from the Insurance Recovery Account for the repair of the Yelle School gymnasium floor to the school budget. The school budget temporarily paid for the repair of the gym floor which was damaged by a burst pipe beneath the floor. The insurance money will be deposited back into the school budget.**

2. **Vote to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds \$539,340 to be expended under the direction of the School Committee for the purpose of replacing and making extraordinary repairs to the roofing system at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School, located at 315 West Main Street, Norton, (the “Project”) which shall include roof repairs, as well as additional design services, contract administration, professional and other costs incidental and related thereto as may be necessary.**

The Superintendent has submitted a Statement of Interest to the MA School Building Authority for its Repair Grant Program. This is an estimated Town’s share.

3. **Vote to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds \$110,000 to be expended under the direction of the School Committee for the purpose of replacing network switches at the Norton Middle School, located at 215 West Main Street, Norton.**

Dr. Ansay stated she has also submitted this request to the Capital Improvement Committee. The switches date back to 2003, and several switches have malfunctioned on a regular basis. The technicians have tried to keep up but are not always available. This may cause an extended period without connectivity and ultimately impact most teachers in many ways. The computer labs are also unusable when the switches fail.

4. **Vote to see if the Town will raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds \$95,000 to be expended under the direction of the School Committee for the purpose of replacing and making extraordinary repairs to the air conditioning system for the inner core classrooms at the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School, located at 315 West Main Street, Norton, (the “Project”) which Project shall include the replacement, as well as additional design services, contract administration, professional and other costs incidental and related thereto as may be necessary.**

Students require adequate air exchange and temperatures to learn to the extent possible. Dr. Ansay stated this article has also been placed on the Capital Improvement requests.

Mrs. Werner made a motion to submit the four articles in draft form for the spring Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

#### **Superintendent Search Committee Update:**

Two meetings have been held. Members worked on the creation of interview questions. The deadline for applications is February 17<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Norton Middle School Library.

#### **FY’ 12 Budget:**

Mr. Nectow gave a brief overview of the budget to date. There is \$840,000 remaining of the original \$22.5 million budget after expenditures and encumbrances. SPED tuition and transportation are constantly changing but we are in good shape.

**Update on Norton High School Building Project:**

Construction documents are 90% complete and are being reviewed by the OPM, CM, and estimators. Comments will be incorporated in the set for submittal to the MSBA at the end of the month. Complete bid documents for the building will be complete in mid-February. The sewer connection package is out to bid and will be awarded by the end of January.

**Personnel:**

**Retirements:**

Mrs. Debbie Soares – HAY Grade 4 Teacher, effective June 2012 after 34 years with the Norton Public Schools.

Mrs. Sue Salley – NMS Assistant Secretary, effective February 1, 2012 after 23 years with Norton Public Schools/Town of Norton.

**Appointment:**

Mrs. Christine Danko – NHS Administrative Secretary, effective January 17, 2012.

**Other:**

On Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the Bristol County Sheriff's Dept. will present a program on bullying at NMS, 6:30 P.M.

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee will hold a budget workshop in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

Mr. Golota made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote. The School Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, February 6, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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

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