

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 5, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

Call to Order: Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6th meeting, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 4-0 in favor. Mr. Mackie abstained.

Super Bowl Math Activities – Mrs. Farrell and Mrs. Milton:

Principal Lisa Farrell and Math Specialist Jill Milton, along with five Yelle students, explained the math activities the students were involved in over the Super Bowl weekend. The students felt they had learned a lot from their projects such as planning a trip and preparing a menu using math. One student showed a Powerpoint presentation on the many facets of the number 13.

H. A. Yelle Field Trip Approval – Mrs. Farrell:

Principal Farrell requested approval for a field trip to the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Rhode Island for twelve Grade 5 students and four chaperones to attend a Dr. Seuss presentation. They would also tour the State House in Providence. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the trip, seconded by Mr. Golota. The motion carried with a 5-0 vote.

Recognition of NHS Wrestling Team:

Coach Pat Coleman and athletes from the NHS Wrestling Team were in attendance to be publicly recognized for their great season. The team was 26-1 overall. Several of their accomplishments are as follows:

- Tri-Valley League Champions – 4th time in 5 years
- D-3 Central Sectional Champions
- D-3 State Champions
- Undefeated JV Season
- Coach Pete Holmes honored as “Assistant Coach of the Year”

Mrs. McManus also announced that Mr. Coleman was named “Coach of the Year”.

Recognition of NHS Track Team:

Coach Kent Taylor and three members of the Winter Track Team were present to be publicly recognized for their great season. Following are highlights of this year's season:

Boys:

- 6-2 Record (ties 2007 as best record ever in Tri-Valley League)
- Shuttle Hurdle Relay Team broke the all-time Division 4 record
- Four team members named to Tri-Valley League All-Stars
- Voted Tri-Valley League Sportsmanship Award
- Team placed 3rd overall (of 63 schools) in Division 4 at the State Relays (highest finish ever)
- Team placed 3rd overall at TVL Championships (highest finish ever)
- Several individual school records were broken

Girls:

- Team member voted Tri-Valley League All Star
- Voted Tri-Valley League Sportsmanship Award
- Team member tied school record in the high jump at 4' 10"

The Committee congratulated the athletes and coaches for such successful seasons.

2012-2013 School Year Calendar – Mrs. O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed the proposed calendar for the next school year. School will start for Grades 1-12 on September 5th and Kindergarten on September 6th. Professional Development Day will be held on election day, November 6th, at Norton Middle School. Five days have been built in to cover any loss of days due to snow. June 19th will be the last day if no time is lost. Graduation will be June 7th. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the 2012-2013 school calendar, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Vote to Approve AP Physics Course at NHS – Mr. Dewar:

Principal Dewar requested to add the AP Physics Course for the next school year. Students have requested this course. Teacher training will be covered by a grant. This addition brings the number of AP courses offered to 12. On a motion by Mr. Savas, seconded by Mr. Golota, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Charging Meals Policy:

A new policy concerning the charging of meals in the school cafeterias was reviewed for approval. At this time there is approximately \$1,000 in charges. The policy has been reviewed by the principals, Food Service Director, and the Director of Operations and Finance. The policy will enable collection of these debts. Parents will be contacted first by phone and then by mail. Families are encouraged to apply for assistance if there is difficulty in paying for lunches. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the policy, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The Committee voted to approve the policy by a 5-0 vote.

Student Loan of a Laptop/iPad Computer Agreement Policy:

A new policy concerning the loan of laptops/iPads to students was reviewed by Dr. Ansay. It is in the district's best interest to have a policy in place in the event this becomes common practice in the future. A policy would protect both students and families, as well as the district. Any adjustments to the policy in the future will be made if needed. Several suggestions were made by the Committee. This is the first reading of the policy, and a formal vote will be taken at the next meeting on March 19th.

Superintendent Search Committee Update:

The Search Committee met on February 13th and February 27th. Members reviewed applicant materials and rated candidates according to criteria on a comprehensive grid. Of the 28 applicants, the committee reduced the pool to 8. Interviews have been scheduled for March 6th, March 12th, and March 21st. It is anticipated that final candidates will be interviewed by the School Committee in early April.

Personnel:

Appointment:

Mrs. Jeanne Karcis – Assistant Secretary, Special Education Office. (Transfer from para-professional position at J.C. Solmonese School)

Other:

Budget Update: FY '13 budget books have been delivered to Town Hall. The School Committee will meet with the Finance Committee on March 7th, and for a second time at a later date. The public hearing on the budget will be held at the April 2nd School Committee Meeting in the NMS Auditorium.

Mr. Savas also wished to clarify comments he heard regarding the NHS Building Project stating that the project will not exceed \$34 million. It is not legally possible. Mrs. McManus added that the school budget and the building project budget are separate and can't be shared.

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn and attend the presentation in "C" Wing, not to return to open session, and then enter executive session for the purpose of a brief update on longstanding litigation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion. The regular session adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Middle School Mural Presentation – Mrs. Greer and Mr. Kramer:

At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee and others attended the unveiling of a 4' x 8' wall mural in the "C" Wing of the building which was designed and painted by a group of students in 8th grade. Those involved in creating the mural made up the time they missed from class. The project was completed in one week. The mural is in an area passed by most students daily. Mr. Kramer and Mrs. Greer showed a video of how the mural was completed by the students prior to the unveiling.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 19, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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