

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 19, 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 Representatives Kady Ferguson and Sarah Pishdadian were also present.

Call to Order: Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Recognition of NHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team and Coach Liberatore:

The 2011-2012 Boys Varsity Basketball Team is the first team in school history to win a Tri-Valley League Boys Basketball Championship. The team was able to win the title outright with a 15-3 overall TVL record. This is the first boys basketball championship in twenty seasons and the first outright boys basketball championship since 1988. The team qualified for the MIAA State Tournament for the fifth consecutive season, and won thirteen or more games for the fifth consecutive season. Senior Captains Steve Burrill and Colin Feeney were named TVL first team all-stars. Coach Liberatore gave recognition to the team for not only being champions, but equally important, for their academic and sportsmanship achievements. He also introduced his assistant coaches, Joan Valenti and Travis Jolly. The Committee praised the team for its accomplishments.

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5th meeting, both open session and executive session, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

NHS Math Competition – Mrs. Taylor:

Mrs. Taylor gave a brief report on the Moody's Mega Math Challenge held on March 4th. NHS students Hannah Lavendier, Tyler Durocher and Joe DeLorenzo explained how they worked the entire day on their open-ended math question about high-speed rail lines and their impact. Participants will be notified in April of the results of the competition. Only 6 out of 1,194 teams were picked as finalists.

DECA Conference:

NHS students Evan DaSilva and Caleb Tripp reported on the recent State Career Development Conference. They were the first students to go to the conference since 2009. Evan ran for the city officer position and was elected with the most votes ever received in Massachusetts DECA.

history. Caleb also won several competitions. Both students qualified to attend the International Conference in Salt Lake City on April 27-May 3. The students requested permission to attend the conference. After the Committee asked several questions regarding chaperones and other details, Mr. Golota made a motion to approve the request to attend the conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Mr. Mackie seconded the motion, and it passed by a vote of 5-0.

Vote to Approve New NHS Biology Textbooks – Mrs. Benoit:

Mrs. Tanya Benoit explained the process that led to the selection of the recommended texts for the AP Biology course and also for level 1 and 2 Biology. It was more cost effective to purchase a book with an e-text component. Mrs. Benoit gave a very informative and detailed report on the reasons for the choice of books. The method of funding the purchase will be determined at a later date. On a motion by Mr. Savas, seconded by Mr. Golota, the vote was 5-0 in the affirmative.

Mrs. Benoit also informed the Committee that Norton has received a \$5,000 Biotechnology Award Grant from Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation. Norton High School was named the sole Innovative School of the Year in Massachusetts. The district will be honored at a luncheon in Cambridge attended by several Norton teachers and Dr. Ansay. Representative Kady Ferguson will be a featured speaker.

No Child Left Behind Massachusetts Waiver – Mrs. O'Neill:

Mrs. Jen O'Neill, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, gave a brief history of NCLB. The 2002 Act was signed into law to help students reach a level of proficiency by 2014. Objectives of the Massachusetts proposal are:

- Bring together state and federal requirements
- Maintain Massachusetts' track record in setting high standards and expectations
- Incentive improved student achievement in all schools
- Identify schools that need the most assistance in the aggregate and for student subgroups, and recognize high achieving and improving schools
- Incorporate growth in accountability determinations

The waiver will give states the option to make changes to meet their needs. The standards remain the same, but the state is giving districts a little more time and flexibility.

FY '12 Budget – Mr. Nectow:

Mr. Barry Nectow reported that approximately \$387,000 remains in the budget, and we are just where we should be. This amount should cover remaining SPED tuitions/transportation, custodial supplies, equipment, and building maintenance. Hopefully the mild winter will account for energy savings, but variables still remain. Repairs to aging kitchen equipment are necessary and the district will look into preventative maintenance plans.

Superintendent Search Committee Update:

Mrs. McManus reported that the last candidates will be interviewed on Wednesday, March 21st.

The search committee will recommend four or five to be interviewed by the School Committee. Site visits will also be conducted for the finalists.

Other:

Dr. Ansay mentioned that on Wednesday, March 21st at NHS, the Police Department, in partnership with the Norton School Department, will sponsor “Don’t Be Blindsided”. This is a drug awareness presentation especially designed for parents. Parents of middle and high school students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Having no other business, Mr. Savas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, March 26, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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