

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, April 2, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Auditorium

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 6:35 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Mrs. McManus asked for a moment of silence for a staff member, Barbara Ellis, who passed away over the weekend.

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Golota made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 26th meeting, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Transfer:

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of funds from the Project Early Teacher account in the amount of \$35,000, to Special Education legal fees, and transportation for a homeless student. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Acknowledge NHS BioTech Award:

Science Department Supervisor Tanya Benoit, along with Kady Ferguson, reported on the recent recognition that was given to Norton High School. NHS was named this year's Innovative School of the Year by the Massachusetts Biotechnology Education Foundation (MassBioEd) for inspiring students to explore life sciences careers through progressive biotechnology education and exemplary science career programming. The school was honored for this award at a recent luncheon in Cambridge. Both Mrs. Benoit and Miss Ferguson addressed the gathering. Dr. Ansay expressed how very proud the entire district is of this accomplishment.

Superintendent Search Committee Update:

Several members of the committee made site visits to Mashpee and East Bridgewater during the day. Second interviews of the two finalists will be conducted on April 10th, and a decision will be made.

Norton High School Building Project Update:

Representatives from Pinck & Company, WT Rich, and JCJ Architecture were present to give an update on the project. Bids were received on March 15th and came in under budget. As a result, hopefully the budget will be able to support the alternates. Work is currently being done on the sewer connection to the middle school wastewater treatment plant. The new addition should be completed by February, 2013, and the interior renovation and reconfiguration will begin at that time.

New State Educator Evaluation Tool:

Mrs. Jen O'Neill gave an overview of the key features of the Educator Evaluation Frameworks. Because Norton is a Race To The Top school, we will be required to implement this evaluation system for 2012/2013. Collective bargaining with the teachers' association needs to be completed before implementation. The five-step evaluation cycle is as follows:

- Self-Assessment
- Analysis, goal setting, and plan development
- Implementation of the plan
- Formative assessment/evaluation
- Summative evaluation

Every educator is an active participant in an evaluation. The process promotes collaboration and continuous learning. The district choices are to adopt it, adapt it, or revise the existing evaluation system so that it is consistent with the regulations. The Superintendent is currently in the negotiation process with the teachers' association.

7:30 P.M. – Public Hearing on FY '13 School Budget:

Mr. Golota began with highlights of the school year.

- Where students are headed – types of schools they will attend
- Academic accomplishments of each school
- Student art work recognition
- Athletic accomplishments
- MCAS accomplishments (all seniors have met MCAS requirements for graduation)

The proposed budget is \$23,235,958, an increase of \$724,290 over last year, and just slightly higher than the 2007-2008 budget. Approximately 35 teaching positions have been cut over the last several years. Fixed costs such as maintenance, utilities, transportation, and contractual obligations increase every year. Even with \$1.5 million received in grants, over \$1 million in energy cost avoidance, and \$709,000 collected in fees, state funding has been reduced and local funding must make up the difference. Special education out-of-district tuitions and transportation are approximately \$3 million.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Golota thanked those who attended, and noted that this is his last budget presentation, as well as Dr. Ansay's.

Having no other business, Mr. Savas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

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NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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