

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Tuesday, April 10, 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 was also present.

Call to Order: Chairperson McManus called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mrs. Werner made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 2nd meeting, seconded by Mr. Mackie. The vote was 4-0 in favor. (Mr. Savas arrived after the vote).

Transfer:

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of \$150 from the Paraprofessional Salary Account to the Facilities Account to pay for supplies. Mr. Mackie made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

Review of Interview Procedures:

Members discussed the types of questions they wanted to ask and decided on the order each would ask their questions.

6:00 P.M. - Interview of Ann Bradshaw:

Mrs. Bradshaw began her career in early childhood education, has a Master's Degree in reading, and a C.A.G.S. in Administration. Her philosophy is "people first – things second". She explained to the committee the issue between the school department in Mashpee and the town government in regard to the use of the Munis accounting system. The school department also makes use of a spreadsheet that is easier to comprehend. Mr. Savas asked Mrs. Bradshaw about two incidents that took place during her time as superintendent. She explained her reasons for the actions she took and also informed the committee of what she could have done differently. She was also asked how she communicates with the community. The last question was what she perceived as weaknesses in Norton and how she would improve them. The committee thanked Mrs. Bradshaw and took a brief intermission before the second candidate arrived.

7:00 P.M. – Interview of Susan Cote:

Mrs. Cote gave a brief review of her educational background, and stated that she is nearing the completion of her doctorate. She also is an adjunct professor for American International College and frequently teaches courses in the area. She stated that the safety and well being of the students is her main priority. Mr. Savas asked her about two controversial incidents which occurred recently in East Bridgewater. She explained how she handled them and what the outcome was. In conclusion, Mrs. Cote told the committee how she would reach out to educate the public about what is going on in the schools. The interview concluded at 7:33 P.M.

Review and Discussion of Site Visit Findings, Reference Checks:

Mr. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Werner, to discuss the two candidates. All voted in the affirmative. Mr. Mackie said he was satisfied with Mrs. Cote's actions during the controversies and felt she used appropriate behavior in difficult issues. It is a difficult choice and it comes down to which one is the best fit for Norton. Mr. Golota and Mrs. Werner said Mrs. Bradshaw was very visible in the schools and community, literally "everywhere". It was the consensus of the Committee that during the site visits, there was a more welcoming atmosphere in Mashpee. Mr. Savas said there is a clear style difference. He felt that the particular incidents mentioned in Mashpee happened on Mrs. Bradshaw's watch, not because of anything she did. In reference to the incidents in East Bridgewater, he felt they happened because of what Mrs. Cote didn't know. Mrs. Bradshaw received glowing references.

The Committee asked if anyone in the audience wished to make a comment. Shawna Powers, who served on the selection committee, said that as a parent and educator, she felt very positive about Mrs. Bradshaw.

Vote to Offer Superintendent of Schools Position (Pending Successful Contract Negotiations):

Mr. Mackie made a motion to offer the position of Superintendent of Schools to Mrs. Ann Bradshaw, pending successful contract negotiations. Mr. Savas seconded the motion. All members voted in the affirmative.

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session in order to strategize salary and benefits, and not return to open session. Mr. Golota seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. McManus-yes, Mr. Savas-yes, Mr. Mackie-yes, Mr. Golota-yes, and Mrs. Werner-yes. The regular session adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 23, 2012 at Norton Middle School.

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