

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, May 14, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Mr. Deniz Savas and Mr. Phillip Lynch were absent. Superintendent Patricia Ansay and student representatives Bryce McCarthy and Tyler McNeill were also present.

Call to Order: Chairman Mackie called the meeting to order at 5:47 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Mackie welcomed Bryce McCarthy and Tyler McNeill, the new NHS student representatives.

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings:

Mrs. McManus made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2012 Open Meeting. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-0 in favor.

Transfers:

Dr. Ansay recommended a transfer of \$8,498 from the regular salary account to the supplies/expenses account for the purchase of supplies. Also recommended was the transfer of \$76,000 from the special education salary account to purchase AV supplies, computer supplies, books, periodicals, etc. Dr. Ansay pointed out that there was no money budgeted for supplies in FY '12, and also FY '13. On a motion by Mrs. McManus, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the motion carried by a 3-0 vote.

Annual Bullying Survey Results – Mrs. O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill presented the results from the recent bullying survey. Individual surveys were taken at each school, as well as by parents and faculty. Students in grades 3-12 were asked to take the survey in October to establish baseline data, and again in April. This year, 5 incidents were reported at Norton High School, 27 at Norton Middle School, 16 at H. A. Yelle School, 12 at L. G. Nourse School, and 1 at J. C. Solmonese School. This is an increase at all schools since last year.

The following questions were on the survey:

- Conversations About Bullying
- Have You Ever Been Bullied in School?
- If You Have Been Bullied, Who Usually Bullies You?
- Types of Bullying

- Reporting

In the elementary schools, there was an increase in cyber-bullying conversations. Fifty percent of the students reported they had never been bullied. For those who were bullied, it was usually one particular boy/girl. The most common types of bullying were name calling, pushing, hitting, and destruction of personal property. Students said they reported incidents to either a friend, parent, or teacher.

At the middle school and high school there was also an increase in conversations about bullying and cyber-bullying, but the majority of students had not been bullied. Students identified the bus, cafeteria, walking to school, hallways, and classrooms as places that bullying has taken place. Students most often report bullying to friends first.

Suggestions for future studies include:

- Clarifying the definition of what constitutes bullying with students, parents, staff, and community members.
- Make students more aware of the procedures for reporting bullying.
- Re-consider giving the survey twice a year now that a baseline has been established.

The Committee thanked Mrs. O'Neill for her presentation.

FY '12 Budget Update

Mr. Nectow gave an update on the FY '12 budget. At this time, \$68,000 is unencumbered. With a month of school left, changes could still occur in tuition and transportation expenses. It is projected that by June 30th the schools will have spent relatively close to the FY '12 budget.

Vote on FY '13 Budget Reductions:

The Committee voted to make reductions in supplies and materials to meet the FY '13 budget of \$23,007,874 as there are no more staffing positions that can be cut. If they are required to reduce the budget by another \$80,000, they have no idea what else can be cut other than a literacy coach position. Class size is the most important factor. Norton Public Schools ranks 38th in the state and the high school ranks 694th of 22,000 high schools in the United States. Mrs. McManus credited Dr. Ansary with turning the high school around, and that is her legacy. Mrs. McManus made a motion to approve the budget reductions as requested, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

Meeting with Finance Committee if Requested:

The Committee will be available to meet with the Finance Committee prior to Town Meeting if required.

Other Business - Review of Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates for 2012-2013:

Tentative dates for the next school year follow the same pattern as in the past. Consideration has been given to meeting nights of other town boards, and dates may be adjusted.

Adjourn:

Mrs. McManus made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Werner. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at Norton Middle School Library.

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