

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 11, 2012

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Phillip Lynch, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, and Mrs. Marge Werner. 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 6:04 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Interview of Interim Superintendent Candidate:

The Committee began the interview of David Cressy, a Connecticut resident. Each member asked questions. Mr. Cressy outlined his education and experience as an educator and superintendent. The interview was conducted under the same conditions as with the previous candidates. At the conclusion of the interview Mr. Savas made a motion to select Mr. Cressy as a finalist, seconded by Mrs. McManus. The motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

Approval of Minutes of May 16, May 21, and May 30, 2012 Meetings:

Mr. Savas made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 16, May 21, and May 30, 2012 meetings. Mrs. McManus seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Approval of Budget Transfers:

Dr. Ansay recommended several budget transfers to close out budget lines, as is customary at the end of the school year. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the budget transfers as recommended by Dr. Ansay. Mrs. McManus seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Norton Middle School 8th Grade Enrichment Classes - Mrs. Segaloff:

Four students from Reading Specialist Susan Segaloff's 8th grade enrichment class presented projects they have been working on in class. The students chose Sacagawea and General George Custer as research projects and they enjoyed the experience.

DECA Accomplishments:

Evan DaSilva and Bryce McCarthy gave the Committee an update on their accomplishments and experiences at the National DECA Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 27 – May 3. Caleb Tripp also attended the conference. Approximately 16,000 students participated this year.

Evan DaSilva will continue with DECA as a state officer during his first year at Bryant College. Both Evan and Bryce gained valuable experience and thanked the School Committee for its support.

Southeastern Massachusetts Middle School STEM Expo – Mrs. Benoit:

Middle School 6th grade student Bobby Portway was one of the 30 Norton Middle School students chosen to attend the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Expo on May 24th at Bridgewater State University. He demonstrated his skills on the flight simulator project. Mrs. Benoit described the activities that Norton students participated in, such as the power of the wind, ECG's, marshmallow construction, and flight simulator. Also attending were teachers Cheryl Mulligan, Marilyn Porell, and Julie Dalzell, Assistant Principal Ronnie Goldstein, parent Christine Dague, State Representative Jay Barrows, Curriculum Director Jen O'Neill, and Dr. Ansay.

Approval of Norton High School AP Physics Book – Mrs. Benoit:

Mrs. Benoit requested that the Committee approve the textbook for the new AP Physics course. She stated that there is strong on-line support and the book should serve them for many years to come. There are currently 15 students enrolled, but a new teacher will have to be found to teach the course. The cost of the 25 textbooks is \$3,417.70. On a motion by Mr. Savas, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote was 5-0 in favor.

Technology Access Survey Report – Mrs. O'Neill:

The survey was recently given to all students in Grades 9 through 11. The survey consisted of six questions relative to individual access to technology. Sixty-nine percent of the students have their own computer, and eighty-eight percent have access to the Internet. Ninety-three percent of students shared a computer with up to eight family members. Eighty-six percent of students have access to some sort of technology such as an iPad or tablet. The survey was given to determine the possible future use of e-books, etc. versus textbooks. It was the general consensus that before we can transition to e-books, all students must have access to e-readers or iPads.

Norton High School Building Project Update – W. T. Rich:

Deborah Marai of Pinck & Co. and Steve Roman of W. T. Rich gave an update on the progress of the project. The construction phase is underway and the first steel beams should be in place by the week of June 25th. Underground work is being completed and the most disruptive part of the construction will be completed over the summer. The building should be enclosed by the end of August. Slides of the site work were reviewed. The project is scheduled for completion by December 31, 2013. There will be another update for the Committee in September.

Approval of Wellness Policy:

New nutritional guidelines from the state and federal level must be implemented during 2012 and 2013. The new guidelines mandate a revision of each district's policy. Our policy has incorporated contributions from Mansfield and Canton School Districts. Mr. Mackie questioned how often gym class is provided. It is mandatory that we follow the standards to be eligible for the substantial state and federal reimbursements. Mrs. McManus and Mr. Lynch questioned the

restrictions, such as bake sales and candy bar fundraisers. The policy is on a yearly review basis. Dr. Ansay suggested that we work with it and make any changes at the end of the 2013 school year. Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the policy subject to review next year by the Committee, Food Service Director, and Lead Nurse. Mr. Savas seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor, 2 opposed. The motion carried.

Vote to Award Bids:

Bids for contracted services are prepared every three years. Generally, the bid is for one year with an option of two one-year extensions. Bid award recommendations are for the lowest responsible, responsive and eligible bidder, effective July 1st, and are as follows:

Electrical Service.....	Bolt Electric
Boiler/Burner.....	Cam Air
Elevator Service.....	United Elevator
Fire Alarm Service.....	AFA Protection Systems
Burglar Alarm Service.....	AFA Protection Systems
HVAC/Pneumatic Service.....	Cam Air
Pest Control.....	Burgess Pest
Septic Systems.....	Soares Sanitation
Glass Repairs.....	Strojny Glass
AC/Refrigeration Service.....	Mechanical Air
Plumbing Services.....	C. P. Rich Plumbing

Mr. Savas made a motion to approve the recommended bid awards, seconded by Mr. Lynch. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

FY '12 Budget Update:

Mr. Barry Nectow provided the Committee with the latest budget figures. There is approximately \$200,000 remaining. General supplies and custodial supplies and equipment are being ordered. The remaining funds will be fully spent down or encumbered by July 1st.

Vote on Town/School Municipal Expenditure Sharing Agreement:

Dr. Ansay explained that there are two options to determine the way the town and school department share expenditures, either the state average or using information supplied by Town Hall. The School Department has elected to use the figures from Town Hall. Even though we are in compliance, we lack a written document and consequently are cited each year by the auditors. After a brief discussion, the Committee decided to bring this item back to the table in the fall.

Personnel:

Resignations:

Raymond Dewar, NHS Principal
Barbara Sherman, LGN School Psychologist
Ben Jewell, NHS Math Teacher

Retirement:

Susan Price, JCS Speech/Language Pathologist

Appointment:

Megan Lafayette, NHS Assistant Principal, appointed to the position of NHS Principal.

The Committee thanked Mr. Dewar for his years of dedicated service and congratulated Megan Lafayette on her appointment.

Other Business: None

Adjourn:

Mr. Savas made a motion to adjourn and enter executive session for the purpose of Litigation Update, Collective Bargaining with the Teachers' Union, and Interim Superintendent Compensation, not to return to open session. Mr. Lynch seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mrs. McManus-yes, Mr. Savas-yes, Mr. Mackie-yes, Mr. Lynch-yes, and Mrs. Werner-yes. The regular session adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at Norton Middle School Library.

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