

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 17, 2012

Location: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Mr. Phillip Lynch was absent. Interim Superintendent of Schools Christopher H. Martes and student representative Tyler McNeill were also present.

Call to Order: Chairman Mackie called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairman Mackie officially welcomed Dr. Christopher Martes as Interim Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Martes has met with administration and staff and toured all school buildings. It has been a smooth transition and we are happy to have Dr. Martes with us.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve minutes of June 11, 2012 Executive Session

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 in favor

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve minutes of June 20, 2012 Open and Executive Session

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 in favor

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve minutes of August 23, 2012 Executive Session

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 in favor

Budget Transfers: None

Opening of School District Report – Dr. Christopher Martes:

Dr. Martes reported that on opening day, September 7th, there were 2,636 students in preschool through Grade 12. In addition, 57 students were in out-of-district placements and approximately 20 students being home schooled. At the close of school in June, there were 2,674 students plus 60 in out-of-district placements, 18 who were home schooled, and 198 students in the Foxborough Charter School. Verification of the number of students at the Foxborough Charter School is pending. Enrollment at the L. G. Nourse School is 346, H. A. Yelle is 416, J. C. Solmonese is 498, Norton Middle School is 659, and Norton High School is 717. All figures are tentative and will be adjusted for the October 1st reporting date. Transportation has been running quite smoothly and will require minor adjustments over the next few weeks.

On Tuesday, September 4th, we welcomed 20 new teachers and professional staff, a new Norton High School Principal, Megan Lafayette, and a new Norton High School Assistant Principal, Geoff Zini. Recognition was given to 26 staff members, two with 30 years of service, one with 25 years of service, two with 20 years of service, twelve with 15 years of service, and nine with 10 years of service.

Dr. Martes felt it was a great start to the year and was appreciative of all the assistance from staff and administration.

Opening of School Report – Principal Lisa Farrell:

Principal Farrell welcomed the Committee to the Yelle School. Enrollment for the school is 202 students in fourth grade and 214 in fifth grade. She thanked all her staff for the great job in getting the school ready to open. Mrs. Farrell introduced new staff members and explained the staffing changes for this year. The Summer Reading assembly will be held on Friday, September 21st. The Open House was held on September 6th and was well received. Mrs. Farrell felt it was important to stress that the school days ends at 2:30 P.M. Bus passes are a concern due to the fact that students pay a fee to ride the bus. The DARE program will again take place for fifth graders, and Det. Franco is again the School Resource Officer. Some activities to continue will be Helping Hands, Homework Club, band, and tutoring sessions. Mrs. Farrell pointed out that the mural painted on the library walls was created by Wheaton students. She stated that the start of the school year has gone well.

Chairman Mackie said Mrs. Farrell has done a fantastic job and the Yelle School is a special place.

Mr. Savas asked Mrs. Farrell to explain what a typical day was for her. It appeared that much of her time was taken up by discipline issues. All agreed that an assistant principal would be a very welcomed addition if there is a way to provide funding for the position in the future.

Update on Norton High School Building Project – Mr. Tom Golota, Mr. Andrew Mackie:

Mr. Mackie introduced former School Committee member, Tom Golota, to update the meeting on the current progress. All the steel structures are completed and most of the enclosure has been done. Bricks will be installed next. When the area is completed, departments will be relocated to facilitate renovations in other areas of the school. The project is still on track for completion in December, 2013. It was noted that students are still able to have lunch in the cafeteria, but meals are prepared at the Yelle School and sent over.

FY'13 Budget Update – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Mr. Nectow told the Committee that we are in relatively good shape. Out-of-district tuitions are unpredictable and therefore always a concern. Mr. Nectow will return to the October 1st meeting with an update of where the district stands at that point.

Superintendent Search Update – Mrs. Beth McManus:

Discussion took place on how the search might be done differently. Advertisement for search committee members will need to be done soon, and a time line needs to be developed. Dr. Martes suggested that a posting be made in a national educational publication. Applications could close in November and perhaps first round interviews could take place before the end of December, with a contract offer by February. It was agreed that the original committee was too large and that the job description should be revised. Dr. Martes stressed that potential candidates need confidentiality, especially for the first round. Mrs. McManus and Mrs. Werner will continue to be the School Committee representatives to the search committee. Mrs. McManus asked Dr. Martes to be involved as much as possible, up to the interview phase. They will provide an outline for the next School Committee meeting.

Approval of Elevator and KLC Champions Contracts – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Elevator repair and maintenance bids were received in the spring of 2012 and the bid was awarded to Associated Elevator effective July 1, 2012. Shortly thereafter, one of the other bidders approached the School Department and asked to reconsider the contract award. The vendor believed that it had not received an amendment to the bid, which was issued during the bidding process. As a result, the contract award was withdrawn and a new bid was issued on July 11, 2012. The new contract was awarded to BBE Elevator, effective August 1, 2012.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the bid award to BBE Elevator, effective August 1, 2012

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor.

The contract with KLC Champions was extended for the third and final year, effective for the 2012-2013 school year. During the spring of 2013, an RFP will be issued for before and after school services for a three-year period.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the contract with Champions for the final year

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 in favor.

Mrs. Werner asked if it would be feasible for the Norton School District to operate its own before/after school program. Mr. Nectow will check into the possibility.

Vote to Appoint Interim Superintendent to Bi-County Collaborative Board:

Bi-County Collaborative required this vote so that Dr. Martes can have voting rights.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to appoint Dr. Martes to the Bi-County Collaborative Board

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 4-0 in favor.

Vote to Approve Fall Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Tabled until next meeting.

Vote to Revise Wellness Policy:

The Committee discussed at length the fundraising restrictions of the policy and felt that wording in the state and federal documents was confusing. They also felt that it was not the intention to stop fundraising by parent groups, etc. This policy will be discussed at upcoming meetings before revisions are made.

Mrs. Werner questioned why hot meals are not served at the high school during construction. It was explained that the actual kitchen has been torn out, to be replaced by the utilities area. The cafeteria seating area is still being used by the students.

Personnel:

Retirements:

- Susan Price, JCS Speech/Language Pathologist
- Cindy Reardon, NMS Grade 6 English/Language Arts Teacher
- Debbie Soares, HAY Grade 4 Teacher
- Susan Taylor, JCS Grade 2 Teacher

Resignations/Terminations:

- Christopher Cantwell, NHS Para-Professional
- Raymond Dewar, NHS Principal
- Meg Fox, LGN Para-Professional
- Lisa Gleason, NMS Nurse
- Ben Jewell, NHS Math Teacher
- Shannon MacDonald, HAY Reading Teacher
- Jill Milton, HAY Math Specialists
- Al Ortelt, HAY Structured Resource Room Teacher
- Jennifer Pavlov, NHS Science Teacher
- Linda Ready, NHS Para-Professional
- Robin Soccol, HAY French Teacher
- Suzanne Souza, Food Service Director
- Rachael Strandberg, NMS Grade 8 Science Teacher

Appointments:

NHS

- Allison Donovan, Mathematics/Physics Teacher
- Jacqueline Pigeon, Science Teacher
- Rachel Pilotte, Business Teacher
- Geoffrey Zini, Assistant Principal

NMS

- Christopher Cummings, Grade 6 English/Language Arts Teacher
- Brianna Havir, Grade 8 Science Teacher
- Jessica Meier, Special Education Teacher
- Scott Rogers, School Nurse

HAY

- Bob Bielawa, Grade 4 Teacher (transfer from Grade 3 at JCS)
- Kimberly Bray, 4 French Teacher
- Catherine Coyne, Grade 4 Teacher
- Kristie Dietz, Math Specialist (reassignment from Grade 4 at HAY)
- Christine Malone, Grade 4 Teacher
- Beth Morley, Grade 4 Teacher
- Kerry Wall, Reading Teacher (transfer from JCS .5 to HAY 1.0)

JCS

- Sarah Adams, Grade 3 Teacher
- Kerri Bransfield, Grade 2 Teacher
- Rebecca Dondi, Special Education Teacher
- Anne Giglio, Grade 2 Teacher (job-share to full time)
- Kerry Goodrich, Grade 1 Teacher
- Sharon Marble, Speech/Language Pathologist
- Gia Sunderland, .5 Title 1 Reading Teacher (reassignment from JCS/HAY Literacy Coach)
- Shannon Taylor, Primary Development Special Education Teacher
- Amanda Weeden, .5 Kindergarten Teacher

LGN

- Katrina Hanewich, Kindergarten (from .5 to 1.0 position)
- Lisa Lovering, Grade 2 (transfer from JCS job-share to full time)
- Rebecca Malo, Psychologist
- Deborah Tomarakos, Speech/Language Pathologist

Mrs. McManus wished the four retiring teachers well, and said they were superb teachers who will be greatly missed.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 in favor

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Copies of Minutes as outlined in Agenda Item
- Copy of Wellness Policy outlining proposed changes
- Copies of personnel letters/memos concerning hiring/resignation/reassignment/retirement/termination of staff members

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, October 1, 2012 at L. G. Nourse Elementary School.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christopher H. Martes, Ph.D.
Secretary pro tem
