

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, January 28, 2013

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve minutes of the January 5 and 7, 2013, Open and Executive Sessions, as amended to indicate Mr. Lynch was absent.

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 3 yes-1 abstain Motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve minutes of the January 10, 2013 Open Session

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries

Transfers: None

Vote to Approve New Superintendent Contract:

Mr. Joseph Baeta, the Committee's unanimous choice, was present to sign the employment contract. The Committee is very pleased it found the right person to lead the Norton Public Schools. Mr. Baeta will start on July 1st of this year.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the contract for the Superintendent of Schools

SECOND: by Mrs. McManus

VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries

Norton Hockey Organization Thank You:

A representative from the Norton Hockey Organization was present to read a letter of thanks to the Committee for its recent approval of the addition of hockey to the high school sports program.

NMS STEP Program Presentation – NMS Staff and Students:

Principal Michael O'Rourke gave the Committee a brief description of the Specialized Team for Educational Progress (STEP) class at the middle school. The program has undergone significant changes over the past year. The STEP class has merged with the town's autistic program and now has a life skills and vocational skills component that did not previously exist. Mr. O'Rourke introduced Mrs. Becky Albert and Mr. Kevin Curt, co-teachers of this class, who are assisted by 4 full-time instructional assistants and one part-time instructional assistant for the eleven students. The teachers made a slide presentation and introduced four of their students. They have opened a school-wide copy center, continue to run the school's recycling program, help with cafeteria set-up, and have made several community outings to get a hands-on view of what police and fire personnel do within the community. Each student receives individualized educational programming including life skills and social skills, and each student prepares an MCAS portfolio.

The Committee thanked the students and staff for the informative presentation.

FY '14 5-Year Capital Plan Review and Vote – Mr. Barry Nectow:

The school department presented its 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan to the Town Manager in December, 2012, and was asked to prioritize the items for FY '14. Total requests for FY '14 are \$752,500. The district-wide plan excludes the high school, which is undergoing a renovation and addition project. The top items for the first year are kitchen equipment, district-wide building repairs, replacement of copy machines, and SPED fleet vehicles, to be on a continuing replacement cycle. Yelle School repairs include sealing cracks in the structure and resurfacing the parking lot. Work needed at the J. C. Solmonese School includes replacement of the center core air conditioning and 20 exhaust fans. These do not fall under the roof replacement project. At L. G. Nourse, replacement windows and improvement to the auto-flush valves are listed. Irrigation for the lower playing fields, and network switch replacements are requested for the middle school. The Capital Plan requires Town Meeting approval in May.

FY '13 Budget Update – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Mr. Nectow stated that the district is in good shape, and remaining funds will be encumbered as needed and there are no concerns. Dr. Martes said the budget is unfolding just as we hoped. He also said there could be a slight increase in state funding.

Vote to Approve Town Meeting Article for Submission to Selectmen – Mr. Barry Nectow:

The School Department is proposing, for School Committee approval, one Article for consideration at Town Meeting in May. The School Department proposes transferring approximately \$93,000 remaining from the Feasibility Study phase of the High School Building Project to the Building Project. This vote is required by Town Counsel even though the overall project budget approved in June, 2011 included this amount. Once approved, the funds will be available for use in the project. Mr. Mackie said he would like to return the \$93,000 to the town, but it may not be possible. If the \$93,000 is not used in the scope of the project it would be returned to the town, as is any of the surplus money.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the Town Meeting Article for submission
SECOND: by Mr. Lynch
VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries

Personnel:

Resignations:

Karen Duross – HAY School Nurse
Jennifer Thayer – .5 Occupational Therapist, District-Wide
John Young – Energy Manager, District-Wide

Appointments:

Jeanine Demelo – HAY School Nurse
Julie Johnson – .5 Occupational Therapist – District-Wide

Letter of Intent to Retire:

Paula Vargas – Music Teacher at NMS, effective November, 2013 after 16+ years of service

Dr. Martes publicly thanked Mr. Young for the work he has done since the inception of the energy conservation project. The cost avoidance program, initiated by Dr. Lincoln DeMoura, has saved the district several hundred thousand dollars.

The Committee also wished to thank Mrs. Karen Duross for her many years as school nurse at the H. A. Yelle School. She initiated many beneficial health programs, and the staff and students will greatly miss her.

Other:

Dr. Martes said the Budget Workshop will be held on February 2nd at 8:00 A.M. in the Superintendent's Conference Room.

The first meeting in March may possibly be held in the new high school cafeteria.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to adjourn
SECOND: by Mr. Savas
VOTE: 4-0 Motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- 5-Year Capital Plan
- Budget Update Report
- Personnel Letters
- Employment Contract for Mr. Joseph Baeta

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Saturday, February 2, 2013, Budget Workshop at Superintendent's Conference Room.

Monday, February 11, 2013, at Norton Middle School

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