

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 18, 2013

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. Interim Superintendent of Schools Christopher H. Martes and student representatives Bryce McCarthy and 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:

Mrs. McManus wished to amend the minutes under ***Other*** to read “Mrs. McManus congratulated the wrestling team and basketball team on successful seasons, and thanked coaches Pat Coleman and Marc Liberatore”.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve minutes of the March 4, 2013 Open Meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0, Mr. Savas abstains Motion carries

Recognition of NHS Wrestling Team and Coach Coleman:

Coach Pat Coleman and members of the wrestling team were present to recap their season. The team finished with a 27-3 winning record, a new school record which exceeded their expectations. They went on to repeat as D-3 Central Sectional champs and took second place at the D-3 State championships. Many of the team members achieved individual honors. Coach Coleman introduced and thanked the volunteer assistants, Chris McCarthy and Jeff Francis. He thanked the parents for their support and loyalty. The team had 12 honor roll students. In addition, a young Lancer JV team had a winning season (11-7) and had three place winners in the JV State competition. The Norton High School wrestlers represented their school and town with pride.

Coach Coleman was named D-3 Central Coach of the Year and Coach of the Tournament for the South Sectionals, both much deserved honors.

The School Committee congratulated the team for their athletic and scholastic achievements, and also for their exemplary sportsmanship.

Recognition of NHS Varsity Boys Basketball Team and Coach Liberatore:

Coach Liberatore and team members also gave a recap of the season. The team won the Tri-Valley League championship for the second year in a row, with a record of 16-6. It was the first back-to-back championship in 25 years, and the sixth straight season of 13 or more wins. It was also the team's sixth straight MIAA Tournament playoff appearance. Many players received individual honors, both athletic and scholastic. Assistant coach Travis Jolly was a former team member. Coach Liberatore was named Tri-Valley League Coach of the Year. The Committee commended the players and coaches for such a successful season.

Class of 2013 Valedictorian and Salutatorian:

Principal Lafayette introduced the Class of 2013 Valedictorian, Jennifer Golden, and Salutatorian, Connor Grieve. She read an impressive list of accomplishments by both students, including honor societies, academic achievements, AP courses, clubs, and sports. The Committee congratulated the students and their parents and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Champions Program – Mr. James Mott:

James Mott, Champions Area Manager, presented a brief PowerPoint recapping the 2012-2013 program in Norton. Champions is a before and after school enrichment program for students at the H. A. Yelle, J. C. Solmonese, and L. G. Nourse Schools. He introduced the managers of each school program. Champions has been in Norton for 15 years and provides services customized to family needs. The program has a 93 percent satisfaction rate and has experienced yearly growth at all three schools. The Committee thanked Mr. Mott and his assistants for attending the meeting.

Vote to Approve 2013-2014 School Year Calendar – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed the tentative calendar, noting changes from the current format. The professional development schedule has been streamlined allowing for all schools to dismiss early on the same day and on a consistent schedule. Hopefully this change will be beneficial to both staff and families. The last day is tentatively scheduled for June 19th, with 5 snow days added if necessary. Graduation will be June 6th. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: by Mrs. McManus to approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar as reviewed

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

FY '14 Budget – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Dr. Martes said he would comment on this item as they had recently met with the Finance Committee. The presentation to the Finance Committee was the same as the public hearing presentation. The School Committee is working with the Town Manager to review revenue, expenses, and projections. They will meet again with the Finance Committee, but no date has been set. The goal is to provide a level service budget. Federal and state revenue is uncertain at this time. Transportation bids are currently in progress.

Other:

The district just received a letter from the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) stating Norton Middle School has been chosen as a Spotlight School because of its record of powerful learning for young adolescents and its consistent observance of middle school best practices. The honor is for three years, and during that time other middle schools may visit. Arrangements will be handled by NELMS. The school will be presented a banner in celebration of this worthy recognition. NMS is one of just 13 middle schools in the state to receive this distinction. Mr. O'Rourke praised the middle school community for achieving this honor, and the Committee said he deserves a lot of credit for bringing the middle school up to the level it is today.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas
SECOND: by Mrs. Werner
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Draft of 2013-2014 School Calendar
- Letter of Recognition from New England League of Middle Schools

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 1, 2013, at Norton Middle School

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