

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, April 1, 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 representative Bryce McCarthy were also present.

Call to Order: Chairman Mackie called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve minutes of the March 18, 2013 Open Meeting
SECOND: by Mrs. McManus
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

Recognition of NMS Girls Basketball Team and Coach Paone:

Norton Middle School Math Teacher/Coach Christina Paone and members of the girls basketball team were present. The team was undefeated in the regular season, 21-0, which has not been done since 2006. In addition to the outstanding season, many of the girls have been Student of the Month, Student Leaders, and on the honor roll. Coach Nicole Nado also assisted during the season. Principal O'Rourke said he was thrilled with the team's accomplishments and it was representative of all the good things happening at NMS. The School Committee congratulated the team for their athletic and scholastic achievements.

Vote to Approve Attendance at DECA International Convention:

Seniors Jillian Allard (Restaurant Food Service Marketing), Bryce McCarthy (Leadership Institute), and the team of Nick Petersen and Daniel Rafuse (Sports and Entertainment Marketing) requested permission from the Committee to participate in DECA's International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California, April 23-28. They will be escorted by their advisor and business teacher, Rachel Pilotte. DECA is an association of marketing students that provides opportunities for its members to explore career options, gain real-world experience, and take on a leadership role in their future career or vocation. The students won several awards at the recent state competition in Boston and received college scholarships. They are raising funds to help pay for the trip, which is approximately \$1,300 per student.

MOTION: by Mrs. McManus to approve the students' participation at the DECA International Conference in California on April 23-28, 2013
SECOND: by Mr. Lynch
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

FY '14 Budget – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Dr. Martes said they are constantly in the process of analyzing the FY '14 budget. Norton was able to save approximately \$80,000 by taking advantage of the bid for special education transportation recently awarded by the BICO Collaborative, of which Norton is a member. Originally the Committee included \$120,000 in the budget for anticipated loss of Federal Grants. At this time it is uncertain if the cuts would take place in July, later in the year, or not at all. They would like to wait and see if the funds will be needed, and possibly request them at the Fall Town Meeting. These reductions cut the budget request by \$200,000. Savings could also occur on personnel depending on, for example, retirements or leaves of absence. The original budget request was for a 6.7 percent increase and now it appears to be a 5.91 percent increase after deducting the \$200,000. The Committee also discussed the parents' option to transport their children themselves.

Personnel:

Resignation: Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston, J. C. Solmonese Special Education Teacher, effective September, 2013

Retirement: Mrs. Alise MacAllister, H. A. Yelle and L. G. Nourse Music Teacher, effective March 8, 2013 after 12 years with the District

Other:

The Committee wished to clarify a newspaper article regarding an \$800,000 overage on the high school building project. Dr. Martes said this is not an unusual occurrence considering the building is 40 years old. A discussion took place. Change orders may result in non-reimbursable items, which is a common occurrence. At the time the figures were originally formulated the bond rating was estimated at 4 percent, but is now at 2.75 percent interest rate. Mrs. McManus stated that the School Committee has the responsibility to act on any budget issues for the project. Mr. Savas asked questions regarding any overages. The original amount approved included a contingency budget. The tax impact is projected to be slightly less than originally stated, and the project appears to be on budget and on time. The final audit will take place after the project completion and it will be six months before it is known exactly how much will have to be bonded. Dr. Martes stated that the Committee does not anticipate asking the Town for more money for the project. The MSBA has cooperated fully on this project and has worked well with the building committee. All future School Committee Meeting Agendas will include building updates.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- DECA International Conference News Release
- DECA International Conference Booklet
- Personnel Letters

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, April 22, 2013, at Norton Middle School

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