

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, May 20, 2013

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Mrs. Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Phillip Lynch, and Mr. Drew Mackie. Student representatives Bryce McCarthy and Tyler McNeill were also present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

H. A. Yelle Pit Field Scoreboard – Mrs. Sheri Cohen and Mr. Chris Strynar:

Mr. Chris Strynar was present to update the Committee on the progress of improvements being made to the area behind the H. A. Yelle School. Currently they are in the scoreboard phase. The conduit for the electricity is being supplied from Seminary Way. A concession stand, lighting, and resurfacing the field are also planned. This field is heavily utilized by many local groups including Pop Warner and Wheaton College, and needs upgrading for safety issues. Local companies have donated time, labor and products. The Town of Norton has donated labor and equipment. Hopefully the scoreboard will be operational by July. The Committee thanked all who have made this project possible.

Vote to Elect Superintendent to Board of Directors of READS Collaborative:

Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, requires that members of the Board of Directors are to be appointed annually. The Committee is required to make this appointment using the following language:

Incoming Superintendent Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools' representative on the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Chairman Savas suggested discussing both agenda items 4 and 5 together but taking separate votes. Mrs. Werner asked Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan to discuss the typical students in each program. After a brief discussion the Chairman entertained a motion.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to elect incoming Superintendent Joseph Baeta to the Board of Directors of READS Collaborative
SECOND: by Mr. Lynch
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

Vote to elect Superintendent to Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative:

Incoming Superintendent Joseph Baeta is appointed to serve as the Norton Public Schools' representative on the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2013-2014 school year.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to elect incoming Superintendent Joseph Baeta to the Board of Directors of Bi-County Collaborative
SECOND: by Mr. Lynch
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

Approval of Revisions to Norton High School and Middle School Handbooks:

Norton High School Assistant Principal Jeff Zini outlined the proposed updates to the NHS Handbook. Changes to the cell phone policy are eased somewhat to allow students to use mobile devices, including personal music devices and cellular services, only during lunch periods and between classes. These devices must be turned off in the classroom and during class time. A warning will be issued by a teacher for a first offense. A second offense will result in the device being sent to the office and a detention issued. On a student's third and subsequent offenses, a detention will be issued and the device will be confiscated and only returned to a parent or guardian. Other changes pertaining to tardiness, school disruptions, and violation of the alcohol policy, and honor societies had minor changes. The Committee briefly discussed the changes.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the proposed changes to NHS Student Handbook
SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond
VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

NMS Principal O'Rourke and Assistant Principal Goldstein informed the Committee that the middle school handbook is fine as it reads, and only minor clarifications are needed.

Award of Bus Bid – Mr. Barry Nectow:

Bloom Bus Company was the only vendor to submit a bid for the three-year contract. Increases are not as high as anticipated and service remains the same. Mr. Nectow said they are working to reduce the cost of the after-school bus. Mr. Baeta explained the voting process. The Committee would like more information on the details of the bid, and possibly reviewing the bid results before it is awarded. They need to understand the particulars. Perhaps this could include all bids over \$25,000.

Personnel:

Mrs. Werner read the following personnel changes:

Retirements:

Mr. Paul Duff – NHS Social Studies Teacher after 12 years with the District

Mr. John Young – NHS Custodian after 15 years with the District

The Committee praised both Mr. Duff and Mr. Young for their outstanding contributions.

Other:

Review of Proposed School Committee Meeting Dates for 2013-2014

Mrs. Werner would like to cut back on the number of meetings in the winter. Mr. Savas was concerned about the length of meetings if there were fewer. Incoming Superintendent Baeta will review this issue and it will be addressed at the June 10th meeting.

It was suggested that the budget process might begin sooner in the fall.

Mr. Nectow recommended that the contract for the after-school enrichment program be awarded again to Champions. Only three proposals were received and the other two did not meet minimum requirements. Mr. Nectow will present a more thorough write-up at the next meeting.

A discussion concerning why students go to the Charter School took place. Perhaps we do not have a good outreach program for parents and we need to make a better effort to present what is available at the school district. Also, full-day Kindergarten will be discussed in September.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 Motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- NHS Proposed Handbook Changes
- 2013-2014 School Committee Dates and Locations Draft

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, June 10, 2013, at Norton Middle School Library

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