

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, June 10, 2013

***Location:*** Norton High School Cafeteria

***Attending:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, and Mr. Drew Mackie. Mr. Phillip Lynch and Mrs. Marge Werner were absent. Student representatives Bryce McCarthy, Tyler McNeill, and Cassidy McDonald 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 20, 2013 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

***Transfers:***

The recommended transfers include moving unexpended funds to budget line items with currently identified expenses.

Recommended transfer of \$26,764.80 from salary accounts to general supply accounts.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the transfer of funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

Recommended transfer of \$26,903.49 from salary accounts to legal fees.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the transfer of funds as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

***Norton High School Building Project Update – Pinck & Company and W. T. Rich:***

Steve Roman of W. T. Rich and Tom O’Neil of Pinck & Co. were present to give an update of the building project. Great progress has been made and the project is 65 percent complete. The project is currently in Phase 3, refurbishing the classrooms. It is still unknown what will be found above the auditorium ceiling, but everything will be brought up to code. Over the summer exterior work will be completed including site work, parking lot, landscaping, and reinstalling the brick memorial area. The auditorium will get new carpeting, seating, lighting, sound system,

and stage curtain. They stated that the project is on time and on budget. The Committee recessed to tour two completed classrooms and the administration suite.

***N.E.E.D. Organization Awarding of Grants:***

N.E.E.D., Inc. Committee representatives Beth Blakeley and Gretchen Stalters announced the recipients of this year's grants totaling \$8,004 for books, supplies, equipment, and teacher training which might not be accommodated by the regular budget. They were also able to obtain three additional smart boards from the high school and are looking into ways to fund additional grant requests. The two major sources of income this year were Square One Art Fundraiser (\$4,700) and Thank a Teacher Fundraiser (\$2,715). Over the past seven years NEED, Inc. has given out \$48,000 to teachers for programs and pieces of technology.

***Vote to Approve Revisions to Wellness Policy – Dr. Martes:***

Dr. Martes introduced Interim Food Service Director Joanne Petrelli, District Head Nurse Doreen Browne, and NHS Wellness Teacher Nicole Nunes, who have worked on the policy revision. The state regulations have been relaxed and the district may now sell chocolate milk. The policy also regulates what may be sold 30 minutes before and after school. This does not regulate activities such as cake sales, ice cream socials, etc. because they are not in that time frame. Mr. Savas said the policy does not seem as contentious as previously reviewed. Mrs. Petrelli read a letter from Massachusetts Department of Public Health relative to the School Nutrition Act.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the policy as provided, with the exception to make an exclusion for milk and milk substitutes.

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

***FY '13 Budget Update – Mr. Barry Nectow:***

Mr. Nectow said the remaining money is for summer activities and end-of-year expenses. All funds will be spent by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

***Vote to Approve School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2013-2014:***

Based on discussion of the meeting schedule at the last meeting, the Committee was offered four options, either 13, 15, 16, or 18 meeting dates. Mr. Savas felt that the option of 13 and 15 meetings was not realistic.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve Option 1, 18 meeting dates

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

***Personnel:***

***Retirement***

Mr. Don Rita – NHS Guidance Counselor and Supervisor of Guidance Services K-12, after 13 years with the district.

**Resignation:**

Ms. Amy George – HAY Adjustment Counselor/Team Chairperson, after 5 years with the district.

**Other:**

• **Memorial Bench Dedication at HAY:**

Staff members at NMS have been overseeing a group of students planning a memorial tribute to Angel Pina, a HAY student who was tragically killed in a car accident last summer. Lisa Daly and Karen Giatrelis reviewed the groups fundraising activities. Their plan is to plant a tree with a bench in memory of Angel at the Henri A. Yelle School.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the memorial bench to be placed at H. A. Yelle School

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

• **Recognition of Two NHS Student School Committee Representatives:**

The Committee thanked Bryce McCarthy and Tyler McNeill for their service on the Committee. Bryce will attend Emerson College in September and Tyler will be a senior at NHS and continue as student representative.

Also introduced was Cassidy McDonald, who will be the new student representative and a senior at NHS.

The Committee reviewed the transportation contract and the yearly increases in the bid. As previously stated, only one bid was received. Mr. Mackie noted that the bid increases were 2.9% for the first year, 7.15% second year, and 3.58% the third year. Mr. Nectow said the larger increase in year two was intended to reduce FY '14 and spread the increase over consecutive years when hopefully the budget might be in better shape.

Chairman Savas stated this is the last meeting and he wished to thank Dr. Martes for his guidance throughout the past year. Dr. Martes said he was fortunate to have joined such a supportive staff that cares deeply about the school system. He wished everyone well.

**Adjourn:**

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 Motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

**Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:**

- Transfer Requests
- Recipients of N.E.E.D., Inc. Grants
- Revisions to Wellness Policy
- Letter from Massachusetts Department of Public Health
- Meeting Date Options (4)

**NEXT MEETING DATE:** Monday, September 16, 2013, at Henri A. Yelle School

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

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