

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, October 21, 2013

Location: Joseph C. Solmonese Elementary School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mr. Phillip Lynch. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Operations and Finance Barry Nectow, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, and student representative Tyler McNeill.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of September 30, October 5&7, 2013

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Riitta Bolton:

Principal Bolton said the new roof for the school has been nearly completed. The school served as the daycare site for the TPC golf tournament again this summer. She thanked her staff for the hard work in preparation for the opening of school. The NAEYC accreditation was again extended for the school year. Open house and Kindergarten orientation, as well as the Fall Festival have taken place so far. Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher of the Solmonese Parent Organization highlighted the upcoming events such as fundraisers, enrichment programs, grade level events, school library volunteer program, and a float for the Chartley Halloween Parade. A major goal for this year is to renovate the Kindergarten playground. The SPO helps to make a pleasant environment for staff, parents, and students.

Mrs. Bolton introduced new staff members and reported grade level changes. JCS enrollment is 469 students. Kindergarten has 111 students, Grade 1 has 126, Grade 2 has 106, and Grade 3 has 126. Class sizes are between 17.7 and 21 for Grades 1-3, 21.5 for half-day K, and 22.7 for full-day K. Mr. Savas asked Mrs. Bolton if the Kindergarten and Grade 1 enrollment numbers seemed to stay constant or are students being lost to the Charter School. Mr. Mackie mentioned the reading intervention programs and MCAS scores, especially in Grade 3. Mr. Savas wished to table the conversation until the MCAS analysis was discussed. The Committee thanked Mrs. Bolton for her informative report.

Dr. Baeta introduced the Academic Coordinators: Mrs. Mary Taylor, Math; Mrs. Tanya Benoit, Science; and Mr. Richard Godmintz, English/Language Arts.

Teaching and Learning: MCAS Analysis – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill began by comparing the district performance by grade in each category, and compared it to the state. Comparison was also made to results from surrounding communities. She also broke down the data by grade level for 2010-2013. Great achievements were made in 2013. Data analysis indicates where professional development is needed. Mrs. O’Neill’s presentation also focused on student growth, cohort data by grade, district action plan, focus areas for 2013-2014, and strategies for improvement. Mrs. O’Neill will return to the Committee in January with an update on the progress.

Dr. Baeta said the entire MCAS report is posted on the newly revamped NPS website.

The Norton Public Schools recognizes the MCAS assessment as an important indicator of student achievement. The district reviews the results in order to assess how well students are performing in relation to state standards in Mathematics, English Language Arts, and Science/Technology/Engineering. In 2013, Norton Public Schools performance in ELA for all students tested in Grades 3-10 decreased slightly from the prior year (from 91.5 to 90.3 CPI points). This is 3.5 CPI points above the state average of 86.8 for the 2013 administration. In Mathematics, the performance of our students tested increased slightly to 86.5 CPI points from 85.8 in 2012. This 5.7 points above the state average. Norton students also saw an increase in the CPI score for Science, with 87.5 CPI points in 2013, which was an increase of 3.8 points from 2012 and 8.5 CPI points higher than Massachusetts state average for the aggregate. Although the district is very happy with the performance in the 2013 administration of MCAS, it is also prepared to focus on areas of need, especially at the elementary level, to give our students the foundation they need to be successful.

Personnel:

Retirements:

Mrs. Kathi Stejakoski - HAY Grade 5 Teacher, January 31, 2014, after 19 years with the District
Mrs. Elizabeth Gibson - NHS Special Education Teacher, at the end of the 2013-2014 school year, after 29 years with the District

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- MCAS 2013 Executive Summary
- NPS MCAS 2013 Analysis and District Action Plan

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, November 4, 2013, Norton Middle School

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem
