

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

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

Location: Norton High School Cafeteria

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, and Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill. Student Representatives Cassidy McDonald and Tyler McNeill were also present.

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

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond, to approve the minutes of November 4, 2013, open session

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

Recognition of Fall Sports Athletes and Coaches:

Chairman Savas introduced Ted Currle, the new athletic director and football coach.

Boys Varsity Football (Coach Ted Currle):

Norton Varsity Football Team won the Tri-Valley League Small title for the first time since 2008. The team also qualified for the Division 4 South play-offs as the #3 seed. The team will attempt to win its 6th consecutive Thanksgiving Day game against Bellingham.

Boys Cross Country (Coach Kent Taylor)

The boys cross country team had an outstanding season. They won the first TVL Championship for Norton in cross country and they are the first small school to win the TVL in over 20 years. They are expected to have a top 4 finish as a team in the Division 5 State Championship and move on to the All-States as a team for the first time in school history.

Boys Soccer (Coach Eric Greene)

The team had an overall record of 13-3-4, and a TVL record of 12-2-4, the best Norton record in TVL history. In post season they lost in the South Sectional Quarterfinals. Team accomplishments include TVL Sportsmanship Award, MIAA Boys Soccer State Sportsmanship Award, and TVL Coach of the Year. There were many individual accomplishments including TVL All-Stars, EMASS All-Star, and Sun Chronicle All-Stars.

Girls Soccer (Coach Eric Greene)

The girls soccer program qualified for the State tournament earning the #10 seed with a record of 8 wins, 5 losses, and 5 ties. The team also had several individual accomplishments such as TVL All-Stars, EMASS All-Stars, Sun Chronicle All-Stars, and honorable mention TVL All-Stars.

Volleyball (Coach Diane Newell)

The team finished the season at 8-10, just one win short of qualifying for the tournament. The team had one TVL All-Star and 2 honorable mentions.

Golf (Coach Ryan Riley)

The Norton High School golf team finished the season with a record of 8-11, playing its home matches at TPC Boston. The team finished 13th at the TVL Tournament.

Dr. Baeta thanked all the coaches, volunteers, parents, and students for such a successful and rewarding season.

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Principal Lafayette welcomed the Committee to the newly renovated high school. Teachers were able to come back on August 30th, and worked extremely hard to get everything ready for the opening of school. She pointed out that every classroom now has a Smart Board. New staff members were introduced. Enrollment for this year is 714, as follows: Grade 9-202; Grade 10-185; Grade 11-150, and Grade 12-177. The average class size is 20-26. Some classes have as few as 13 or as many as 32 in specific classes. Newly approved courses, Zoology and Sports Reading and Writing are going very well. This year 8 different AP courses are being offered and 274 tests will be taken. The high school is beginning preparation for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) next evaluation in 2015. There are 17 Wheaton tutors, and 5 dedicated mentors for Grade 10. Several fall events have taken place including Senior Cruise, Spirit Week, Semi-Formal, Honor Society Induction, and a blood drive.

Mr. Savas commented on the larger enrollment and asked if it was not so much due to demographics but the high school becoming more attractive with recent additions to sports and curriculum. Mrs. Lafayette agreed. Also, a concerted effort is being made to raise the SAT scores. The Class of 2012 had 96 percent go on to other learning, with 68 percent going to four-year schools. Many opted to attend two-year schools and then transfer to four-year programs.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Lafayette for keeping the school running efficiently during the renovation process.

Personnel:

Transfer:

Jack Howley – NHS History teacher to NMS Social Studies Teacher

Appointments:

Melissa Thompson – NHS Paraprofessional

Christopher Gale – NHS History Teacher

Ted Currie – NHS Wellness Teacher, appointed to Athletic Director for the remainder of the 2013-2014 school year

Superintendent Update:

Dr. Baeta reported that the recent safety forum went well. Approximately 60 people attended and he received many emails and phone calls after. A second community forum is planned for after the holidays.

Other:

Dr. Baeta asked the student representatives to give a brief report from their perspective. Cassidy and Tyler mentioned recent events they had been involved with and upcoming events such as the 8th Grade open house and Thanksgiving pep rally.

NHS Building Project Update and Walk Through:

Steve Roman from W. T. Rich and Tom O'Neill from Pinck & Co. were present to update the Committee on the project and conduct a building walk-through. It is currently in Phase 5 and the auditorium is the last to be renovated. The project is still on schedule and on budget. A spring community outreach and thank-you will be planned.

A building walk-through will commence after the meeting.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 2, 2013, Norton Middle School

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