

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2013

Location: Norton Middle 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, and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan. Student Representatives Cassidy McDonald and Tyler McNeill were also present.

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Marge Werner called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie, to approve the minutes of November 18, 2013, Open Session

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Chairman Savas arrived after the vote.

Teaching and Learning: Technology Survey Results – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

This recent survey was conducted as part of a review of the district's technology needs. Parents, students, and staff members participated in the survey during a two-week period in September and October. Separate surveys were created for each of the following groups: Students Grades 6-12, Parents, Teachers/Staff, and Administration. A total of 249 students, 353 parents, 182 teachers, and 8 district administrators participated. Topics such as computer access at home, using technology for homework, instructional technology, technology integration, and professional development methods were included on the survey. Administrator responses indicated that 86% felt funding for technology is less than adequate. Teacher responses indicate there is a lack of updated technology, and inadequate technology for the number of students in class. Dr. Baeta reported that over 90% of parents in the district communicate with the schools via email. He indicated that he is anxious to reinstate the position of Director of Technology. The district needs a plan to establish its technology goals and someone to lead the schools in that direction. He would like Norton to be a "tech-savvy" district, not just a "gadget" district. Mr. Mackie asked the students how they felt about technology at the high school, and they feel they are well prepared.

Dr. Baeta said the Committee would develop a job description for the position of Director of Technology.

FY '15 Vote on Capital Budget – Mr. Barry Nectow and Mr. Wade Lizotte:

The proposed 5-year Capital Plan was reviewed for the Committee. A first draft is due to the Town Manager on December 10th. The Town Manager asked the Committee to prioritize the items for FY '15. Total requests for FY '15 are \$3,673,100. Highlights/additions for FY '15 are:

- A new item for the replacement of classroom doors and hardware across the District in the amount of \$200,000 (\$100,000 in FY '15)
- Replacement of the roof at Norton Middle School. This request will be pursued alongside an application to the MSBA for the Accelerated Repair Program
- Replace carpet with tile throughout Norton Middle School. FY '15 is year one of a three year request

Mr. Nectow reviewed the list of eight priorities for FY '15 and stated that the number one priority was replacing carpet with tile in the middle school because it is a health and maintenance concern. A discussion took place concerning the stone dust adjacent to the two-year-old track and the negative affect it has on the durability of the track surface. The Committee suggested moving funds from the #3 priority item, new classroom doors, locks, and handles, to put \$40,000 for the stone dust replacement in FY '15. The septic system at L. G. Nourse School was also discussed.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the FY '15 Capital Budget with the recommended amendments as proposed

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

FY '15 Budget Update – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta and Mr. Nectow have met with principals and others who contribute to the budget process. Dr. Baeta will propose a level service budget. Additional budget information will be presented at the December 16th School Committee meeting. A community forum will be held on January 16th, and the full budget will be presented on January 27th.

Student representatives Cassidy and Tyler gave an update on student activities at the high school.

Personnel:

Appointments:

Teresa Tocci – NHS Paraprofessional

John Noel – NHS Paraprofessional (Long-Term Sub)

Alexander Silva – HAY Paraprofessional

Kera Young – HAY Paraprofessional

Other:

Dr. Baeta thanked the parents of Grade 8 students for attending the recent open house at NHS. He also thanked the students and staff for a very well organized event.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Technology Survey Results PowerPoint
- FY '15 Capital Budget

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, December 16, 2013, Norton Middle School

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