

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, December 16, 2013

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, and Mr. Andrew Mackie. Mr. Phillip Lynch was absent. 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: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner, to approve the minutes of December 2, 2013, Open Session

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Student Representatives Update:

Tyler and Cassidy informed the Committee of some recent activities. The Math Honor Society is planning a trip to the Patriots' Hall of Fame on January 7th to test some activities for younger math students. A Math Fair is also being planned. The French and Spanish Honor Societies recently visited the Epoch center and sang Christmas carols for the residents in both French and Spanish. The English Honor Society's recent Yankee Candle fund-raiser was a huge success. Winter sports have begun, and the new hockey team is doing great. The National Honor Society also wrote letters to members of the military. The Snowball Dance was also a great success this year.

Student Excellence Awards:

High School Principal Mrs. Lafayette recommended three students to the Superintendent for consideration for receipt of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award and Superintendent's Award of Excellence, which are given to students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school careers. The

following students and their families were in attendance. Dr. Baeta read each student's impressive biography and made the presentations.

Superintendents' Academic Excellence Awards: Emma Hathaway and Tyler McNeill
MA Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence Award: Natalie Connors

DECA Presentation and Vote to Approve Student Attendance at District and State Conferences – Mrs. Heather Albritton and DECA Students:

Mrs. Albritton and her students explained the purpose of the DECA program, and requested approval to attend the upcoming events. The district level competition will be held on January 9th and 10th followed by the state level competition in March of 2014. Seventy-one students are anticipated to attend. The DECA program prepares the students for real-life work experience. Dr. Baeta also plans to visit during the competition.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve student attendance at district and state conferences

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Norton Hockey Update – Mr. Rick Palin:

Mr. Rick Palin gave a slide presentation and updated the Committee on the new hockey team. The community support has been overwhelming. The Foxboro Sports Center is their home rink, and they were given a private locker room. So far the team has 19 members, including 8th graders. Mr. Palin said the program is fully funded for 2013-2014. All participants are very thankful for the opportunity to put the team on ice. The season opener is December 21st. Mr. Palin presented each member with a hockey puck featuring the new team logo.

Pupil Personnel Services Presentation – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:

Mrs. Sullivan, assisted by counselor Ms. Brittany Connolly, gave an overview of the Pupil Personnel Services Department utilizing a PowerPoint presentation. She explained Special Education Regulations, Student Educational Settings, Student Statistics and Services, Sample Out-of-District Tuitions, District-wide Specialized Services, Extended School Year Services, and IEP Student Graduation Statistics. Mrs. Sullivan also discussed the Bi-County Collaborative and READS Collaborative. Looking ahead, she informed the Committee that the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program will be housed in Norton beginning with the 2014-2015 school year. A brief discussion took place. The Committee agreed that the goal is to keep students in our home district as opposed to out-of-district placement.

Budget Update – Mr. Barry Nectow:

The budget process began in October, and requests from administrators and staff are being reviewed. The Superintendent will prioritize the requests into four categories:

- I -Mandates
- II -Reinstatements
- III -New Requests
- IV -Other Requests

Mandates include contractual obligations for all units and non-union personnel, transportation contracts, special education and English Language Learners.

Reinstatements include previous positions and programs that are being requested based on needs.

New Requests are new positions that are needed for school safety, student achievement and accountability.

Each request is tested against the district-wide goals of Student Achievement, Communications, Community Relations/Community Support, and Financial Management. Requests that meet the district-wide goals will be given the highest priority.

Two items under consideration for FY '15 include non-tuition full day Kindergarten and K-6 mathematics textbook purchase.

The Superintendent will present a 3-year budget and is sorting the requests that are not recommended for year 1 into FY '16 and FY '17. He will present the Superintendent's FY '15 Budget Request to the Committee on January 6, 2014.

Vote on Superintendent Disclosure:

As per Section 23(b)(3) of the Ethic Law, Dr. Baeta filed a disclosure statement that his spouse, Michele C. Baeta, is a part-time employee of the District and a member of the Norton Teachers Association (NTA). The disclosure states that he can, and will, be fair and objective when performing his duties as Superintendent of Schools. As a non-elected public employee, he is duly responsible to file this disclosure to the appointing authority, the Norton School Committee.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to accept the disclosure statement

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Pupil Personnel Department Program Guide 2013-2014
- Superintendent's Disclosure Statement
- FY '15 Budget Memo

NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday, January 6, 2014, Norton Middle School

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