

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, September 15, 2014

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library

***Attending:*** Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Mr. Phillip Lynch, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Mrs. Valerie Desmond was absent. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, and Student Representatives Amanda Galpin and Daniel Gao.

***Call to Order:*** Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Approval of Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the minutes of June 9, 2014 open session

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Opening of School District Report - Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta reported that the district had a smooth opening. As of Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, there were 2,538 students enrolled in preschool through Grade 12. In addition there are 49 students in out-of-district placements, 18 students being home schooled, and 155 students at the Foxborough Charter School. Individual school enrollments are as follows: L. G. Nourse – 343, H. A. Yelle – 386, J. C. Solmonese – 448, Norton Middle School – 624, and Norton High School – 737. There are 11 students enrolled under the School Choice Program and three students from China, one from Mexico and one from Japan. This year the district is hosting the READS Collaborative Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) program with 60 students in the school buildings. The district was able to add a school resource officer and reinstate the Director of Technology position.

On Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the district welcomed 31 new staff members. Mrs. Marge Werner represented the School Committee and gave opening remarks. Recognition was also given to staff members for years of service as follows: 30 years (3), 25 years (2), 20 years (3), 15 years (13), 10 years (11).

***Student Representatives Update:***

The students listed some recent activities at the high school:

- Freshman Orientation on August 24<sup>th</sup>
- Orientation for exchange students new to the school and town
- Norton Transfer Assistance Program for new students
- Meet the Teachers Night

- Back to School Assembly to introduce new staff
- Planning for Homecoming in October

***Opening of School Reports – Principals:***

Building Principals Riitta Bolton, Catherine Luke, Lisa Farrell, and Megan Lafayette briefly reviewed the opening of school and opening enrollments. More details will be provided when the School Committee visits each of the individual schools in upcoming meetings.

The new Middle School Principal, Vincent Hayward, reported a smooth opening day and that his transition is going well. Current enrollment is 637 students. READS Collaborative and BICO Collaborative also have programs at the middle school. Mr. Hayward introduced the new staff members in attendance. Middle school soccer starts soon, as well as sign-up for clubs. Meet the Teachers Night is September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Savas questioned the number of students transitioning from Grade 8 to Grade 9. Dr. Baeta will report back on the October 1<sup>st</sup> official enrollment figures. Regarding the Foxborough Charter School, the number of Norton students enrolled in school year 2012-2013 was 197, 2013-2014 was 173, and currently is 155.

***NMS Wrestling Program – Mr. Pat Coleman:***

Pat Coleman, NHS Wrestling Coach, and Robert May, NMS Physical Education Teacher, discussed the background of the wrestling program and the proposal to expand it to the middle school. The high school team has had great success in both sportsmanship and academics. They explained the way the program would be conducted, and Mr. May's qualifications to be the team coach. The expansion program would be self-funding, and require no money from the school budget. They strongly believe that this program will provide an outstanding athletic and educational experience for middle school student-athletes. The expectation is approximately 20 participants.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the Middle School Wrestling proposal as a self-sustaining program

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Introduction of New Administrators – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta introduced Director of Technology Karen Winsper and outlined plans for the school year in regard to technology.

***Vote to Accept School Choice Account – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

The Committee voted to accept the School Choice Account.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to accept the School Choice Account as required by MGL 76, Section 12 of the School Choice program.

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Appoint Title VI, Title IX, 504 and Sexual Harassment Coordinators/Reporters – Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta recommended the following appointments:

- Title VI Equity Coordinator: Jennifer O'Neill
- Title IX Equity Coordinator: Jeanne Sullivan
- 504 Equity Coordinator: Jennifer O'Neill
- Sexual Harassment Reporters: Brittany Conley (NHS)  
Eric Paulus (NHS)

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the appointments as recommended by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Fall Town Meeting Articles Review and Vote – Dr. Baeta:***

Dr. Baeta reviewed the articles to be submitted for the Fall Town Meeting.

**Article 1:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer available funds in the amount of \$603.60 to pay for three prior year invoices from Verizon Space and Telephone Pole Charges.

**Article 2:** To see if the Town will vote to transfer available funds in the amount of \$80.04 to pay for a February 2005 Verizon Security System charge.

**Article 3:** To see if the Town will vote to appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds \$279,000 to be added to the School Department total FY '15 budget as voted at the Annual Town Meeting of May 2014 for Fiscal Year 2015.

Dr. Baeta explained his rationale for the Article 3 request.

- The acquisition of laptops for PreK-8 faculty to replace current desktop units which are outdated and no longer supported. (\$164,000 one-time purchase)
- Upgrade of the Student Information System to comply with SIF DESE requirements. (\$50,000)
- Classroom Technology Carts for the elementary and middle grades to support instruction. (\$40,000)
- Professional Development: To provide specialized reading instruction training for up to 10 staff members. (\$25,000)

These are one-time costs and do not require additional personnel to complete. The Committee reviewed the requests and voted.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve **Article 1** as recommended by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve **Article 2** as recommended by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve **Article 3** as recommended by Dr. Baeta

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of READS Collaborative:***

Massachusetts General Law requires that members of the Board of Directors be appointed annually. Dr. Baeta is appointed to serve as the 2014-2015 representative of the Norton Public Schools in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to appoint Dr. Baeta as the Norton Public Schools representative on  
READS Collaborative Board of Directors

SECOND: by Mr. Lynch

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

***Personnel:***

**Retirements – end of 2013-2014 school year**

- Elizabeth Gibson, NHS Special Education Teacher
- Lynn Ducharme, NMS Special Education Teacher
- Patricia Kalicki, NMS Special Education Teacher
- Michael O'Rourke, NMS Principal
- Marilyn Porell, NMS Science Teacher
- Rosemary Kline, JCS Kindergarten Teacher
- Carol Shipkin, JCS Grade 1 Teacher
- Rosemary Spaulding, JCS Reading Specialist/Title 1 Teacher
- Marie Flynn, LGN Administrative Secretary

**Resignations/Terminations:**

- Brianna Havir, NMS Grade 8 Science Teacher
- Kim Spence, NMS Social Studies Teacher
- Amy Mikels, NHS English Teacher
- Barry Nectow, Director of Operations and Finance
- Diane Newell, NHS English Teacher
- Nancy O'Brien, NHS Guidance Secretary
- Ellen Whittemore, HR/Payroll

**Leaves of Absence:**

- Laura Twomey, NHS Special Education Teacher
- Jessica Carvalho, NMS Adjustment Counselor
- Kevin Curt, NMS Special Education Teacher

**Transfers/Reassignments:**

Bob Bielawa, Grade 4 Teacher to Interim Dean of Students at HAY  
Beth Morley, HAY Grade 4 to JCS Grade 1  
Sarah Adams, Grade 3 to Grade 1 at JCS  
Lisa Lovering, Grade 2 to Grade 3 at LGN  
Erin Haglund, Grade 1 to Grade 2 at LGN  
Katrina Hanewich, LGN Kindergarten to Grade 1 at JCS

**Appointments:**

**NHS**

- Kailynn Bateman, Wellness Teacher
- Lisa Giuliano, Assistant Principal
- Rachel Kearney, Special Education Teacher
- Lewis Martin, Paraprofessional
- Marie Pires, .6 FTE Spanish Teacher
- Katherine Rego, Biology Teacher
- Kayla Sweed, Special Education Teacher
- Jerilyn Tameo, Special Education Teacher
- Melissa Thomson, Guidance Secretary
- Jennifer Tonelli, English Teacher

**NMS**

- Norma Fowler, Guidance Counselor
- Vincent Hayward, Principal
- Jennifer Hebner, Special Education Teacher
- Mary Pasquantonio, Special Education Teacher
- Bethany Puleo, Special Education Teacher
- Christina Scilingo, Grade 6 Social Studies
- Christa Spremulli, Grade 8 Science Teacher

**HAY**

- Kelly Allen, Grade 4 Long Term Substitute for B. Bielawa
- Nicole Callahan, Special Education Teacher
- Bethany Couto, .5 Team Chair
- Tracy Jackman, .5 Adjustment Counselor
- Jennifer O'Shea, Chorus/Band Teacher
- Alex Silva, Paraprofessional

**JCS**

- Daniela Marte, Paraprofessional

**LGN**

- Marysa Rousseau, Paraprofessional
- Alicia Silva, .5 FTE Kindergarten Teacher

**District**

- Sheila Anderson, Coordinator of Human Resources and Personnel
- Lincoln Lynch, Business Manager
- Jennifer Ogiba, Reading Specialist
- Deborah Ward, .5 FTE ESL Teacher
- Karen Winsper, Director of Technology

***Other:***

Dr. Baeta said the Norton Teachers Association plans to have a representative attend the upcoming meetings. Sarah Horton was in attendance this evening.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 P.M.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at L. G. Nourse Elementary School

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

- Town Meeting Articles
- Memo from Town Manager regarding Town Meeting Articles
- NMS Wrestling Team Proposal

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

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Deniz Savas, Chairperson

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Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

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Valerie Desmond

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Andrew Mackie

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Margaret Werner