

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 29, 2014

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Vice-Chairman Mr. Phillip Lynch and Mr. Andrew Mackie. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, 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:

Student Representatives Update:

The students listed some recent activities at the high school:

- Students are reviewing National Honor Societies applications
- Football team carwash raised \$947.00

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Catherine Luke:

Principal Luke said her fourth year at LGN is off to a great start. The building was in great shape and she thanked the new administrative secretary, Mary Lou Brooks, and the custodial staff for their hard work. LGN continues to be accredited by the NAEYC, which identifies it as a high quality early childhood program. It is a Level 2 school, and Mrs. Luke gave a brief review of MCAS scores, and also announced staff changes. As of September 4th the PreK-3 enrollment was 346. All open house sessions were well attended. She ended her report by stating that all adults in the school are teachers. Regardless of what their role is the children will learn something specific from each of them.

Lacrosse Program Presentation and Vote – Mr. Kevin Weber:

A large group was present to request the formation of a lacrosse team for Norton. Approximately 120 students are interested in joining. Norton currently has a program with Attleboro for age 7-14 students. The program will be self-funded, and start-up money needs to be raised. Dr. Baeta cautioned about Title IX requirements and explained the start-up process and financial responsibility is not on the school department. The sport would begin in the spring of 2015.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve lacrosse beginning in the 2014-2015 school year

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 in favor motion carries

Vote to Accept BICO Agreement:

The Bi-County Collaborative Board of Directors approved the BICO Agreement on September 11, 2014. Each member district must have School Committee Approval of the agreement.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to accept the Bi-County Collaborative Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 3-0 in favor motion carries

Update on District's Goals – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the district's goals:

I. Student Achievement:

1. By June, 2015, align and complete written curriculum for ELA/Reading and Mathematics in Grades PreK-8.
2. By February, 2015, complete an internal process and make recommendation for changing and improving programs and classroom requirements for specialized programs in the areas of special education (inclusion, team-teaching, support) Advanced Placement, ELL, Title I and other relevant programs.
3. By February 2015, the district will complete a full review of student services including guidance, adjustment counselors, team chairs, psychologists and other relevant support staff and make recommendations for improvements in order to meet the needs of all students.
4. Complete by June, 2015, a full Technology Plan for the District that encompasses infrastructure, instructional technology tools, teaching and learning, professional development and cost analysis.

II. Communication, Community Relations and Community Support:

1. By December, 2014, complete a new *Three-Year Strategic Plan (2014-2017)* and articulate the *Strategic Plan* process by including Mid-Year and End-of-Year results with the reporting process that includes all interested parties.

MCAS Presentation – Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill:

Dr. Baeta made an introductory statement. Mrs. O'Neill made a PowerPoint presentation of the 2014 MCAS analysis for each individual school and highlighted the strengths and weakness for each item. Mrs. O'Neill pointed out that the Grade 10 cohort data showed really good improvement for the same students who started taking the test in Grade 3. Norton is doing well but there are concerns over changing demographics and declining state support.

There will be a more in-depth analysis of the MCAS scores at the first School Committee meeting in November.

Other:

Dr. Baeta will spend the day at Norton Middle School on Wednesday.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 3-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, October 20, 2014, 6:00 P.M., at NHS Library prior to Town Meeting

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Norton Public Schools Goals, 2014-2015
- Bi-County Collaborative Agreement
- MCAS Data Overview

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

Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

Valerie Desmond

Andrew Mackie

Margaret Werner