

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 24, 2014

Location: Henri A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mrs. Marge Werner. Absent: Mr. Phillip Lynch. 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 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2014 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 3-yes 1-abstain motion carries

Student Representatives Update:

The students listed some recent activities at the high school:

- Semi-formal dance sponsored by the French and Spanish Honor Societies
- Field trip for Spanish students to Matignon High School
- Honor society inductions on November 13th
- Museum of Fine Arts field trip
- Pep rally
- "Pie a Teacher" basketball game
- Snow Ball Dance
- DECA Conference on January 8 & 9 at the Quincy Marriott

Opening of School Report – Mrs. Rütta Bolton:

Principal Bolton introduced new staff members at JCS and noted there are 15 new staff for the READS DHH program at the school. She reviewed enrollment by grade and average class size. Mrs. Gallagher of the Solmonese Parent Organization gave a report on the activities they have sponsored so far this year. The Harlem Wizards Basketball show was a great community activity and successful fundraiser. The SPO is currently planning spring activities. Mrs. Bolton spoke of new initiatives implemented this year, and teachers at each grade level gave details on how they were involved. Class size at the Kindergarten level is 24, which is a cause for concern. Dr. Baeta said that full-day Kindergarten will be requested again this year. Chairman Savas praised the SPO and thanked them for all their efforts on behalf of the students.

Approval of NHS Handbook Change to Attendance/Loss of Credit Requirement – Mrs. Megan Lafayette and Ms. Lisa Giuliano:

Mrs. Lafayette explained that due to the enactment of Chapter 222 on July 1st there is a need to update the handbook language in reference to absences. Students cannot be penalized if they are suspended or for other disciplinary action. The language change takes suspensions out of unexcused absences. Parents can call the school nurse in lieu of a doctor's note if students are home sick.

MOTION: by Mr. Mackie to approve the NHS Handbook changes

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

Vote to Approve Creation of READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund:

Pursuant to 603 CMR 50.00 READS Collaborative Board of Directors approved the READS Capital Plan on November 13, 2014.

603 CMR 50.00 requires that each member district (School Committee) “approve the creation of a READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund to support the costs associated with the acquisition, maintenance, and improvement of the fixed assets, including real property and that the limit on the Capital Reserve Fund be set at \$500,000.”

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the creation of READS Collaborative Capital Reserve Fund

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

FY '16 Budget Timeline – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch reviewed the timeline which began in early October with requests from district administrators. Budget requests were submitted to the business office and meetings with the Superintendent were held in November. The first budget presentation to the School Committee will be held on January 5, 2015, and the second presentation is scheduled for January 26th. The Committee will hold a budget workshop in late January or early February and the official vote on the FY '16 budget will be on February 9, 2015.

MCAS Action Plan – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented the MCAS Action Plan for 2014-2015 based on the initial review of the Spring 2014 MCAS scores. He reviewed each building report and developed a draft report to the principals. They, in turn, completed a group analysis of the five buildings based on the findings, recommendations, and tasks. Final recommendations for the action plan are outlined in the following areas:

- Data Analysis
- Instructional Technology
- Academic Support

- Assessment Strategies
- Instructional Strategies
- Curriculum Alignment
- Professional Development

The Superintendent discussed the purchase of technology equipment which was approved by the voters at Town Meeting. There is a delay in the ordering due to some confusion on the part of the Town Accountant. The Committee discussed this matter and wished to meet with Town officials to clear up the matter. The original expectation was to have the technology equipment delivered by the end of December.

Mr. Mackie complimented the Superintendent and stated it was the best MCAS plan he had ever seen.

Other:

PCC Program Update: Stonehill College camp for academically gifted students. This is a six-week program for students entering Grades 9-11.

Location for Future School Committee Meetings: It was decided that the high school library or auditorium would be better to accommodate the meetings.

Dr. Baeta said that the December 1st meeting could be cancelled since there was not much on the agenda. The December 15th meeting would be student oriented with recognition for achievements, and should be held in the high school auditorium.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to cancel the December 1st meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

The Committee wished Mr. Mackie a happy birthday on December 1st.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, December 15, 2014, NHS Auditorium

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- FY '16 Budget Introduction
- FY '16 Budget Timeline
- NHS Handbook Information
- MCAS Action Plan 2014-2015

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

Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

Valerie Desmond

Andrew Mackie

Margaret Werner