

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, December 15, 2014

Location: Norton High School Auditorium

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Phillip Lynch, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Andrew Mackie, and Mrs. Marge Werner. 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 6:34 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The chairman wished to amend the minutes of the November 24, 2014 open meeting to indicate that the location of the meeting was the J. C. Solmonese Elementary School.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2014 open meeting as amended

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 4-yes 1-abstain motion carries

Student Representatives Update:

The students listed some recent activities at the high school:

- French classes visited a nursing home in Woonsocket, RI
- National Honor Societies sent Christmas cards to members of the armed forces overseas
- French and Spanish Honor Societies will visit the Epoch Senior Center for multi-lingual caroling
- Basketball, wrestling, and swim teams kicked off their season
- NHS Holiday Concert at NMS on December 18th

Student Excellence Awards – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta was pleased to recognize three outstanding NHS students for their achievements in academics, as well as being exemplary students. Their biographies include AP courses, honors courses, Adams Scholarship recipients, sports, community involvement, and extra-curricular activities. He presented certificates to the following students and invited their parents to come to the podium for a photo:

Superintendent's Award of Excellence: Katherine Folan and Laura Carlson

MA Association of School Superintendents' Academic Excellence Award: Meitong Chen

Recognition of NHS Student Involved in ICE Program – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

NHS STEP student, Cara Eagerman, is a part of an innovative program called ICE (Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment). This program at Bridgewater State University is designed to offer enrollment opportunities for 18-22 year old high school students with intellectual disabilities who have been unable to pass the MCAS tests. The program's goals are to give students the chance to audit a course at BSU where they can experience college life and spend time with "traditional" college students through their course, weekly peer mentoring, career counseling, and education coaching. ICE is just one of three programs Norton has partnered with Bridgewater State University this year to provide for high school STEP students. Dr. Baeta presented Cara with a certificate of participation.

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

Mrs. Albritton and two students involved in DECA informed the Committee of recent activities and requested permission to attend the upcoming competitions. Mrs. Albritton pointed out that the group started with just ten participants and now there are over one hundred. The annual district competition will be at the Boston Marriott Copley and the conference is in Quincy.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve DECA members participation in upcoming events

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

Recognition of Fall Sports Athletes and Coaches – Mr. Ted Currle:

Mr. Currle summarized the fall sports season and read an impressive list of accomplishments by all the teams. In many cases they had their best season ever. They also received many sportsmanship awards. The teams recognized were volleyball, soccer, cross country, football, golf, and fall cheer.

Strategic Plan – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan, Mrs. Jennifer O'Neill, Dr. Baeta:

The committee was formed in May and was made up of staff members, parents and community members. A survey was made available to the entire community for two weeks in September. A total of over 400 responses were received. The primary focus for the strategic plan was Academic Success for All Students, Enriching Student Learning Experiences, Investing in Staff, and Continue to Represent A Source of Pride for the Community. The next steps in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the creation of a District Action Plan were reviewed.

Approval of Waste Water Treatment Facility Connection – Dr. Joseph Baeta and Mr. Wade Lizotte:

The Norton Housing Authority has requested connection to the wastewater treatment facility located at the back of the middle school. Their system is failing and there is not a suitable place to expand the current system. The connection would be at the full cost to the housing authority.

This facility is able to handle significantly more than is currently being treated and having a steady flow would actually keep the plant working more efficiently, especially during school vacations and summer. The housing authority will apply for a grant to proceed with the project. A vote is needed to approve the connection and authorize the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with the housing authority.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to authorize the connection to the NMS wastewater treatment facility by the Norton Housing Authority and authorize the Superintendent to begin negotiations with the Norton Housing Authority to reach an appropriate agreement.

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

Other:

- Four drafts of the 2015-2016 school calendar were briefly reviewed.
- Budget workshop and presentation dates were discussed
- Future Town Meeting articles were discussed. Middle school roof replacement article is still funded and a priority
- Five-Year Capital Plan was reviewed
- Next meeting will be held at the NHS Library

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, January 5, 2015, NHS Library

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- DECA Field Trip Information
- Strategic Plan Powerpoint
- Fall School Sports Summaries

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

Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Phillip Lynch, Vice Chairperson

Valerie Desmond

Andrew Mackie

Margaret Werner