

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, January 5, 2015

***Location:*** Norton High School Library

***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 6:30 PM

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Approval of Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2014 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: 3-yes 2-abstain motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Student Representatives Update:***

The student representatives updated the Committee on recent athletic events and activities.

***Student Council Annual Conference - Ms. Melissa Beck:***

Student Council Co-Advisors Melissa Beck and Jesse Shaughnessy appeared before the Committee to request permission for student council members to attend the annual MASC Conference in Hyannis. This is an overnight event and will take place from March 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>. The cost per student is \$315, covering the room, meals, and conference activities. Students will only pay \$285 because of donations and money raised. The event is well chaperoned, with a full-time nurse, and a police officer during the night. NHS is allowed to bring up to 12 students.

Mr. Lynch suggested that permission be requested earlier for the next year's conference.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve NHS Student Council's request to attend the annual MASC conference in Hyannis, MA, March 11-13.

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***Vote to Approve Revisions to BICO Agreement:***

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the School Committee voted to accept the new BICO agreement. There are now two revisions to this agreement that have been unanimously approved by the BICO Board of Directors and need to be approved by the School Committee.

- As a result of Somerset's withdrawal from the Bi-County Collaborative, the agreement was revised to remove Somerset as a named Member District.
- Page 3, Section IV Governance, the first sentence now reads: Each school committee executing this Agreement shall annually appoint the superintendent of schools or school committee member to serve as its representative on the Bi-County Collaborative Board of Directors.

Dr. Baeta recommended that the Committee accept the revision as noted.

MOTION: by Mr. Lynch to approve the revisions to the BICO Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

***L. G. Nourse Baseball/Softball Field Renovation Proposal - Mr. Bill Seaver:***

Bill Seaver and Craig Blake presented the proposed renovations the Norton Youth Baseball/Softball organization would like to make to the LGN baseball/softball field. The goal is to make the field useable for the 5-10 year age group. The renovations would be in two phases. They have \$16,000 available to begin Phase 1, which is to reposition the field, provide more playing area, move it away from the street, fix the fence, skin the top surface and add stone dust. They wish to provide a safer playing area for the children. The hope is to have it ready for the forthcoming season. NYBS would keep the Committee informed of the progress and come back to outline Phase 2. Mr. Lynch said he supported the project but would abstain because he is a member of NYBS.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve both phases of the LGN Field Renovation Project with periodic updates.

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 4-0 in favor 1 abstain motion carries

***First Reading Proposed/Revised Technology Policies - Mrs. Karen Winsper:***

Director of Technology Karen Winsper has been reviewing/revising current policies and has proposed policy changes and additions. This is an addition, and not a substitute for the NPS Acceptable Use Policy, which governs the district's technological resources. The district is wireless and students from Grade 4 and up have access with a user name and password, and are able to bring their own device. This requires oversight and accountability for educational content. The new policy addresses areas such as social media, privacy of on-line content, and instructional technology. This is the first reading of the policy and it will be discussed again at the next meeting.

***Discussion on 2015-2016 School Calendar - Dr. Joseph Baeta:***

Drafts of four versions of the 2015-2016 calendar were discussed. Labor Day falls on September 7<sup>th</sup> and the main concern is a late closing date in June due to possible snow days. Two of the options have school beginning before Labor Day and two after Labor Day. The TPC Golf Tournament utilizes some school parking lots as well as some building use, and traffic during the event could be problematic. Dr. Baeta said he is receiving feedback from staff members, parents/guardians, and other options could be considered. Mrs. Desmond would like to review the feedback. The calendar will be discussed at future meetings.

***FY '16 Budget Update - Dr. Baeta and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

The first reading of the proposed FY '16 Budget was presented. Highlights of the document were discussed.

- Contractual Salary Obligations
- Transportation
- Tuition
- Full Day-Tuition Free Kindergarten
- Mandates – Contractual, Legal, Facilities
- Classroom Priorities
- New Programs/District Positions

The Committee discussed the draft budget. A community forum is scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM at Norton High School. The final recommendation will be made on January 24<sup>th</sup> and a vote taken on January 26<sup>th</sup> prior to submission of the FY '16 Budget to Town Hall.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond

SECOND: by Mr. Mackie

VOTE: 5-0 in favor motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM

***Next Meeting Date:*** Monday, January 26, 2015

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

- Student Council Request
- LGN Baseball Field Work Request
- Current Technology Policies
- Proposed Revised and New Technology Policies
- Calendar Drafts (4)

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