

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015

Location: Norton High School Teachers' Lunch Room

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, and Mrs. Marge Werner, Mrs. Valerie Desmond. Absent: Chairman Andrew Mackie. Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer O'Neill.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes, 1 abstain

Discussion on Class Rank Distribution – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Principal Lafayette addressed the meeting regarding a change from reporting class rank to student decile. This change would be consistent with current trends in college admissions and area high schools. Many area schools are moving away from individual class rank because in some cases it can negatively impact high achieving students. These students are better served in the college admissions process if they are grouped in a decile rather than individually. Colleges and universities will still be provided with students' GPAs and the school profile to help with their admission decisions. Some area colleges and universities have been contacted regarding their admission policy. Mr. Savas did not want to make a change just for the sake of making a change. Mrs. Desmond was concerned that in some situations class rank determines financial aide or scholarships. The goal is to do what is the most beneficial for the students. The top two students will still be identified as graduation speakers. A vote on this proposal will be taken at a future meeting and any changes would begin with the next senior class who are currently juniors.

October 2015 Enrollment – Dr. Joseph Baeta:

Dr. Baeta reviewed the October enrollment data. District enrolment is 2,514, school choice enrollment is 34, and READS DHH enrollment is 46, for a total enrollment of 2,594. The high school had an increase of 38 new students. The Committee discussed what possible impact the new apartment complex on East Main Street might have on the enrollment and options to house students if there was significantly higher enrollment at LGN.

Other:

Due to an event scheduled by the JCS Parent Organization, the meeting schedule needed to be changed. The adjusted meeting schedule is October 26th at HAY, November 9th at JCS, and November 23rd at NMS, and remain there for the remainder of the meetings.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the meeting dates as recommended

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous

Mr. Savas expressed condolences to the family of Mrs. Betty Clark. Several family members are employees of the district.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Next Meeting Date: October 26, 2015 at the H. A. Yelle Elementary School, 6:30 PM

Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

- Enrollment Data
- Class Rank, NHS Profile, and Admissions Information

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

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner