

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Monday, January 4, 2016

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library

***Present:*** Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, and Mrs. Marge Werner. 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, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Amanda Galpin and Daniel Gao.

***Call to Order:*** The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

***Pledge of Allegiance:***

***Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2015 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous

***Student Representative Update:***

Student Representatives updated the Committee on current activities.

- Santa Fundraiser for needy families
- Ugly sweater contest
- Pep rally to recognize the accomplishments of the fall sports teams
- Upcoming DECA District Conference

***NMS Envision Program at Bridgewater State University – Mrs. Jen O'Neill:***

Science Academic Coordinator Jason Henry gave a brief overview of the Envision the Future event at Bridgewater State University. This was a week-long residential STEM program for girls ages 11-13. In attendance were Norton Middle School students Isabelle Pietrasiewicz, Destiny McGrath, and Ashley Schepis who attended the event in July. They participated in challenging STEM activities, explored career options, attended talks by females in the science field, and interacted with other girls who had similar interests. Of special interest was the forensics unit featuring DNA Electrophoresis, which was explained by the students. Approximately 50 girls attended this event which was funded by outside sources.

***Recognition of NHS Lions Club Speech Contest Winners – Mr. Kent Taylor:***

Mr. Taylor introduced the two NHS students who won at the CLUB level. Bri Medas won for the Norton Lions Club and Tristan Grieve won for the Norton Community Lions. They both moved onto the REGIONAL competition where Bri Medas won. She will compete in the DISTRICT competition in early January and if she wins there she will move onto the STATE competition. Only two NHS students have ever qualified for the District Competition and only one student has ever made it to the State Competition. The Committee congratulated the students for their achievements.

***Vote to Approve Grade 8 Trip to New York – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:***

Assistant Principal Ronnie Goldstein provided details for the proposed trip to New York for Grade 8 students. He explained that prior to September 11, 2001 this trip was an annual event that students looked forward to, and the consensus was that it should be reinstated. Hopefully it will serve to broaden students' horizons through a deeply meaningful travel experience. The trip would depart from Norton in the early morning and return late in the evening, and would include stops at key attractions in the city, located mainly in lower Manhattan. Arrangements will be made for students who may not be able to afford to attend. Key stakeholders within the NMS community have had input. Mr. Goldstein said so far he has had nothing but enthusiasm for this idea. The Committee briefly discussed some details such as liability, cost, and chaperone to student ratio.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the Grade 8 Trip to New York as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

***STAR Assessment– Mrs. Jen O'Neill:***

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed the STAR Assessment System, which the district began using in September with all students in Grades K-5. The STAR Assessment is used to measure student baseline data and progress towards the standards in both math and ELA throughout the school year.

***Vote to Approve Revised Restraint Policy – Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:***

Changes to the Restraint Policy were presented at the first reading December 7<sup>th</sup>. A vote is required at this second reading. Staff training was discussed. The district has two trainers.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to approve the revised Restraint Policy as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

***FY '17 Draft Budget Update – Dr. Joseph Baeta and Mr. Lincoln Lynch:***

The proposed budget is not a final document. Mr. Lynch presented four options beginning with level services for FY '17, which is an increase of 6.56% over FY '16, and a culmination of

salaries, expenses, special education tuition, mandated positions, transportation, and utility costs. Other scenarios request increases of 7.79% and 9.95%. The final option includes all requests from principals/directors for what they believe is needed to provide adequate services as part of the Strategic Plan, and calls for an increase of 12.39%. The Committee discussed the components of the budget and will continue to review it over the next several weeks prior to submission to the Town.

***Personnel:***

***Retirement:*** NMS – Mr. Michael Brown, Custodian, effective January 4, 2016 after 15 years with the District

***Other:***

Dr. Baeta noted that the next regular School Committee Meeting was originally scheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>, but a Special Town Meeting has also been scheduled for that evening. He suggested that the Committee meet at 6:45 on January 25<sup>th</sup> prior to the Town Meeting and move the January 25<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to February 1<sup>st</sup> at NMS. On Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> the Committee will have a budget workshop at 9:30 A.M.

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to meet on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 prior to Town Meeting, move the January 25<sup>th</sup> regular meeting to February 1<sup>st</sup> at NMS, and have the budget workshop on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 A.M. as scheduled.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mrs. Desmond to adjourn the meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Werner

VOTE: Unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

***Next Meeting Date:*** January 25, 2016 at Norton Middle School Cafeteria prior to Town Meeting, 6:45 PM

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

- STAR Assessment
- Physical Restraint Policy
- FY'17 Budget Proposals

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

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Andrew Mackie, Chairman

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Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

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Valerie Desmond

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Daniel Sheedy

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Margaret Werner