

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, March 14, 2016

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Andrew Mackie, Vice-Chairman Deniz Savas, Mrs. Valerie Desmond, Mr. Daniel Sheedy, Mrs. Marge Werner. 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 Representative 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 Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous – Motion Carries

Student Representative Update:

Student Representative Daniel Gao updated the Committee on current activities.

- DECA Conference at Copley Marriott
- Senior/Senior Prom for senior citizens sponsored by the National Honor Society
- Upcoming Talent Show and Mr. NHS
- Pennies for Patients

Recognition of NHS Winter Sports Athletes – Mr. Ted Currle:

Boys Winter Track
Swimming
Boys Basketball

Girls Winter Track
Ice Hockey

Wrestling
Girls Basketball

Numerous student participants were in attendance and Mr. Currle read an impressive list of achievements by the teams that include state championships, league championships, sportsmanship recognition, and many individual records set. The athletes displayed the trophies they had been awarded.

DHH Program Update – Dr. Theresa Craig, READS Executive Director:

Dr. Craig last appeared before the Committee in June, 2014. She stated that the past year and a half could not have gone smoother and all involved with the program feel very welcome. She thanked the administration and everyone who made it possible for the program to continue. She introduced Shannon Allen, who oversees the program in Norton. There are 49 students enrolled, three of which are Norton residents. Students are distributed throughout the grades and participate in all areas of academics, clubs, technology, and sports. There are 12 ASL interpreters in the program. Kalee, an eighth grade student, along with her interpreter Marcia Weatherall, shared her experiences at NMS. Dr. Baeta commented on how well all the classes have adjusted to include the DHH Program.

Vote to Approve 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 School Year Calendars:

Mrs. O'Neill reviewed version 2 of the 2016-2017 school year calendar, with staff returning before Labor Day, and Good Friday being a day off instead of an early release day. In version 2 of the 2017-2018 school year, staff would return before Labor Day, and Good Friday would be an early release day. The Committee discussed the 2017-2018 early release for Good Friday, and Mrs. Desmond felt that it should be a full day of classes since there were no other religious holidays celebrated. After a brief discussion the Committee voted.

MOTION: by Mrs. Werner to approve Version 2 of the 2016-2017 calendar with no school on April 14th (Good Friday) and Version 2 of the 2017-2018 calendar with March 30th (Good Friday) a full day of school.

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Unanimous – Motion Carries

Update and Discussion on Town Meeting Article:

The Committee has a place marker on the May 9th Town Meeting Warrant for a Proposition 2 ½ override question. Dr. Baeta discussed this at his recent meeting with Selectmen, Finance Committee members, and Town Moderator. If the question is placed on the May 9th warrant there is a very good chance that it would draw a huge crowd, costing the taxpayers thousands of dollars, and still would require a ballot vote to pass after the meeting. The more logical sequence would be for the Town to hold a Special Ballot Election first, with minimal cost, and if the question passed then it would be on a Special Town Meeting Warrant to appropriate the funds. It was Dr. Baeta's recommendation that the Article be withdrawn from the May 9th Town Meeting Warrant.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to withdraw the Article from the May 9th Town Meeting Warrant and opt for a Special Ballot Election and Special Town Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Desmond

VOTE: Unanimous – Motion Carries

Other:

- Selectman Brad Bramwell would like to attend a future meeting to discuss a matter concerning the Yelle School.

- Day On The Hill, April 26th, open to current School Committee members

Adjourn:

The chairman announced that the meeting would adjourn, not to return to open session, for the purpose of building safety. Roll call vote: Mrs. Werner-yes; Mr. Mackie-yes; Mrs. Desmond-yes; Mr. Sheedy-yes, Mr. Savas-yes.

The open session adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Next Meeting Date: March 28, 2016 at Norton Middle School Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- NHS Winter Sports Memo
- School Calendar Memo

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

Andrew Mackie, Chairman

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

Valerie Desmond

Daniel Sheedy

Margaret Werner