

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 7, 2016

Location: J. C. Solmonese Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman Daniel Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, Mrs. Marge Werner.

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Technology Karen Winsper

Call to Order: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve minutes of October 24, 2016 open meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 4 yes - 1 abstain Motion Carries

Opening of School Report and Introduction of New Faculty and Staff – Mrs. Kristine Kefor:

Mrs. Kristine Kefor, acting principal in the absence of Mrs. Bolton, welcomed the Committee to JCS. She said the opening of school was very smooth and thanked all those who made it possible. JCS had four new staff this year, and she introduced Ms. Randi Carine, new physical education teacher and former student at JCS. She reviewed enrollment figures, with a total of 424 students. There is just one half-day Kindergarten program this year. The DHH program is also housed at JCS. The library has added 2,700 new books, and 20 new iPads were added for the Grade 3 math program, in addition to the current 80 iPads.

Representatives from the Solmonese Parent Organization reviewed the many activities they have planned. Upcoming fundraising events include the Harlem Wizards and Providence Bruins. Money earned from events will fund enrichment programs, offset field trip expenses, provide classroom materials, and teacher appreciation events.

JCS School Improvement Plan – Mrs. Maureen Allen and Mrs. Jennifer Ryan:

Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Ryan are Grade 2 teachers and members of the JCS Site Council. The Site Council prepared a questionnaire to be sent home to parents. The four questions on the survey dealt with: home/school communication, overall learning experience at JCS, overall atmosphere at JCS, and extra curricular activities. Overall participation in the questionnaire was excellent. The Committee thanked the JCS staff and Site Council members for their involvement in the School Improvement Plan.

MASS / MASC Joint Conference Update – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Kathleen Stern:

The MASS / MASC Joint Conference was held on November 2-5 in Hyannis. Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Stern attended. The theme this year was Social/Emotional Learning: A Priority Through the Education Pipeline. Mrs. Stern gave an informative report on the topics that were presented. Dr. Baeta spoke on school start times and parental responsibility. He predicted that there will most likely be a more flexible schedule in the future, and that high school schedules will be more like those of colleges. Dr. Baeta also pointed out that the Massachusetts State Health Curriculum dates back to 1999.

Norton High School Project Closeout – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

The “Final Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Audit Report Acceptance Form” for the High School Project was signed by all parties and sent to MSBA on October 17th. This form represents the District and Town’s final acceptance of the project and is the final document from the District needed to close out the High School Project. The project will now go before the MSBA Board on November 9, 2016 for final approval. With the Board’s final approval, the final reimbursement payment of \$876,658 will be made, and bring the total MSBA reimbursement grant to \$20,495,177 or 59.25% of total project cost of \$34,589,955. The Committee and administration thanked Norton residents and all those involved with the project for their hard work and dedication.

Other:

Dr. Baeta stated that schools were closed on Tuesday. The central office will be open and the administrative team would be attending a legal course.

Next Meeting Date: November 21, 2016, Norton Middle School Library at 6:30 PM

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 PM.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- MASC / MASS Joint Conference Agenda
- JCS School Improvement Plan

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

Deniz Savas, Chairman

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairman

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

Margaret Werner