

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2018 MAY 22 A 9:59

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, May 7, 2018

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairman Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairman Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Kathleen Stern. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Lincoln Lynch, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Student Representatives Tristan Grieve, Bobby Portway.

Call to Order: Chairman Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded by Norton Cable Access for public record.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Reorganization of Norton School Committee:

Reorganization of the Norton School Committee is required by the School Committee Bylaws at the first meeting following the Annual Town Election. Mr. Sheedy turned the meeting over to Dr. Baeta who asked for nomination for the position of chairman. Mr. Savas nominated Mrs. Cohen, seconded by Mr. Sheedy. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Savas motioned to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Sheedy. Receiving only one nomination, Dr. Baeta, acting as chairman pro tem, cast one vote for Mrs. Cohen and declared her the new chairman of the Norton School Committee.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the vice-chairman. Chairman Cohen asked for nominations. Mr. Savas nominated Mrs. Stern, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Savas motioned to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Sheedy. Chairman Cohen asked for a vote to approve Mrs. Stern as vice-chairman. The vote was unanimous in favor of Mrs. Stern.

In accordance with the School Committee Bylaws, Article 1, Section 2, both the chairman and vice-chairman hold their respective offices for one year or until their successors are duly elected.

Appointments to the following positions were required:

Legislative Representative:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

Employee Negotiations Representatives (1 or 2):

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mr. Savas and Mrs. Gallagher

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

Capital Improvements Committee Representative:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mrs. Cohen

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

SPED PAC Representative:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to appoint Mrs. Stern

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

School Liaison Assignments:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mrs. Stern as Norton High School Liaison

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to reconsider Norton High School Liaison

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mrs. Cohen as **Norton High School Liaison**

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mr. Sheedy as **H. A. Yelle School Liaison**

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mr. Savas as **J. C. Solmonese School Liaison**

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to appoint Mrs. Stern as **L. G. Nourse School Liaison**

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to appoint Mrs. Gallagher as **Norton Middle School Liaison**

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: Unanimous

Vote to Approve Minutes of April 23, 2018 Open Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2018 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that she reviewed and approved the following warrant, to be entered into the public record:

- April 23, 2018 \$312,541.77

Student Representative Update:

- AP Exams
- District wide Wear Purple Day
- Prom at Cross Pavilion/Gillette Stadium
- Arrive Alive week
- Science Honor Society activity
- Best Buddies Prom
- Senior Spirit Week
- Senior Finals
- Senior Class Night
- Senior Class Trip

Reconsider Vote on Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2018:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to strike the word “**vote**” from “Review and Vote on Transportations Options”. No vote taken.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 yes

Representative Jay Barrows:

Representative Barrows updated the Committee on recent actions taken by the state legislature. He praised Norton for its excellent school system. He discussed the current revenue picture, the Rainy Day fund, and industrial development in Norton. Mrs. Cohen addressed the budget. Mr. Savas asked if there are any plans for Ed Reform, and the Charter School funding formula. Other topics included Special Ed, circuit breaker, and competitive grants. Mr. Savas thanked Rep. Barrows for his support.

Introduction of Class of 2018 Valedictorian and Salutatorian – Mrs. Megan Lafayette:

Valedictorian – Tristan Grieve *Salutatorian* – Brooke Murphy

Mrs. Lafayette read the biographies of each of the students and the Committee congratulated the students for their academic achievements.

Window Project Presentation by Architectural Consulting Group:

Representatives from ACG shared the presentation that was given at the May 1, 2018 Building Committee Meeting. If approved at the May Town Meeting, construction will start in April,

2019 and be completed by September, 2019. It will include replacement windows, doors, and some additional repairs to the Nourse, Solmonese, and Yelle Schools.

Vote to Appoint Robert Bielawa as Attendance Officer for Norton Public Schools:

A vote is required to appoint Robert Bielawa, HAY Dean of Students, to the position of Attendance Officer for the Norton Public Schools. Mr. Bielawa will represent NPS when filing attendance documents with the courts.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Robert Bielawa Attendance Officer for Norton Public Schools

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

Second Reading and Vote on Policy Manual Sections G and H Updates and First Reading of Section I – Dr. Baeta and Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill reviewed Sections G and H.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to accept revisions to Sections G and H

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The Committee continued with the first reading of Section I and made revisions.

Discussion and Vote on Kindergarten Age Requirement – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill updated the Committee on current Kindergarten enrollment and the current district policy on entrance age. She reviewed the age requirement for several surrounding communities. Each year the district receives requests to reconsider the minimum age requirement from parents of children born in September. The current wording does not allow for any exceptions. The discussion included the possibility of assessment testing for students who were very close to the cut-off date. The item was tabled until a further study is conducted.

Discussion and Vote on Special Education Stabilization Article For Town Meeting – Dr. Baeta:

Based on a discussion with the Town Manager, Dr. Baeta recommends that the Committee withdraw this Article for the annual Town Meeting. The School Committee, Board of Selectmen, and Finance Committee will meet for the purpose of reconsidering the Article for the Fall Town Meeting in October.

Food Services Bid Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Proposals were opened on May 5th and have been reviewed and evaluated. The bid options were discussed. The Committee would like more background information before making a final decision. Mr. Lynch will ask questions and provide an update.

Transportation Update – Mr. Lincoln Lynch:

Mr. Lynch presented several different options available such as reducing the number of buses, restricting which grades are eligible to ride, and fees. Safety issues were discussed. Mr. Savas was in favor of cutting the number of buses and Mrs. Gallagher felt that a change in fees should be considered. Dr. Baeta will be in contact with the bus contractor.

FY 19 Staff Reductions Scenarios – Dr. Baeta:

Currently there is a shortfall of \$2,181,994. Dr. Baeta discussed where the cuts would be made to make up the difference. He presented the two scenarios that included using School Choice funds, increasing user fees for facilities, or increasing the number of staff cuts to 21.8. Mr. Savas strongly opposed using School Choice money to supplement the budget. Mrs. Cohen voiced her frustration at the way the school budget has not been supported. No vote was taken at this time.

Massachusetts Association of School Committees Appointments and Nominations:

This agenda item was tabled.

Other:

Tentative agreement on changes to supportive staff vacation/sick days.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Window/Door Replacement Presentation
- Kindergarten Entrance Age Policy & Neighboring Community data
- FY 19 Transportation Analysis
- Actuals for FY 19

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 14, 2018 at NHS Teachers' Lunch Room, 6:00 p.m. prior to Town Meeting

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

Daniel Sheedy, Chairman

Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairman

Carolyn Gallagher

Deniz Savas

Kathleen Stern