

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON TOWN CLERK

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

2020 MAR -5 A 11: 56

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 6, 2020

Location: Norton Middle School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mr. Dan Sheedy ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Director of Pupil Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Student Representatives Cooper Smith and Carolyn Daly ***Absent:*** Chairperson Kathleen Stern, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Technology Director Karen Winsper

Call to Order: Chairperson Gallagher 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:

Warrants:

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

- January 23, 2020 \$168,768.89

Student Representative Update:

LGN:

- Grades 1-3 will enjoy their 100th day of school on Friday, February 7th and Kindergarten will enjoy their 100th day of school on Monday, February 10th
- Literacy Night was held for Kindergarten and Grade 1 and all activities focused on the book, "If You Give a Pig a Pancake," by Laura Numeroff
- Literacy Night was held for Grades 2 and 3 which highlighted three authors: Patricia Polacco, Cynthia Rylant and Tomie DePaola

JCS:

- Preschool open house was held on January 29th
- Grade 3 held a Biography Breakfast on January 31st and parents were invited to see the students' biography presentations
- The whole school read allowed to celebrate World Read-Aloud Day
- Providence Bruins Night is Friday, February 14th

HAY:

- This Friday, February 7th, the HAY is having Kelley Perotti from Think Kindness coming to present two presentations to each grade on Kindness. Kelley is a 5th Degree Black Belt, who will talk about the power of being nice. She is going to challenge the students to a 15-Day Kindness Challenge where the HAY will be charged with performing 5,000 random acts of kindness. With the help of the HAY Student Council, they will be keeping track and monitoring each classroom and grades' progress.

NMS:

- Held the Mid-Year Social on January 31st
- On Tuesday, February 4th, the NMS hosted a visiting team from the New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS). The team was there as part of a process to determine if NMS would remain a Spotlight School. There are only six schools in Mass and 27 in all of New England to successfully go through the process and earn the distinction. The visiting team expressed how impressed they were with the students and staff at the NMS. In about three weeks the school will receive feedback including commendations and recommendations that Principal Hayward will share.
- On Saturday, February 8th at Wheaton College, the NMS students will be taking part in the 2nd Annual "Math Madness Game." NMS students are invited to go and watch the Wheaton Women's Basketball Team at the Haas Athletic Center at their 1:00 pm game against Emerson. Students are encouraged to attend and will be given math packets if they attend which can then be turned into their math teachers for extra credit.
- The Blacklight Dance will be held on Friday, February 7th

NHS:

- Parent conferences were last Thursday, January 30th
- Tri-M's Coffee House was on Friday, January 31st
- Prom tickets are now on sale
- Girls Track Team are TVL All Stars
- Junior and Senior classes were shown a presentation on texting and driving by PACT on Wednesday, January 29th
- The Patriots Place Art Show is February 14th – 16th at the Artists Studio. NHS students will display their art work.

Recognition of Project 351 NMS Student Participant – Mr. Ronnie Goldstein:

Project 351 is a non for profit organization that began in 2011, and their chief mission is to train and inspire a new generation of youth service, oriented leaders across the Commonwealth. Each year the goal is to have all **351** communities from across Massachusetts send a representative 8th grader to the annual service launch day which takes place on Martin Luther King weekend.

The Project 351 representative for 2020 was Helen Russell. Helen represents some of the finest qualities of a service-minded student leader. This year's Project 351 event was held on Saturday, January 18th, in Boston to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During the day of service Helen and Mr. Goldstein were able to serve at the Pine Street Inn, creating both meals and comfort items for the residents there. In addition, Helen and all of the ambassadors were given the charge to go forth into the world and create "Good Trouble," a reference made famous by Congressman John Lewis, one of the pioneers of the Civil Rights movement.

Helen is also a member of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee.

Dr. Baeta presented Helen with a certificate to recognize her great work. Mr. Goldstein recognized that Cooper Smith is an alumni of the program. Helen and Mr. Goldstein both commented on how the organization was a welcoming group and how great it was to help at the Pine Street Inn.

***Recognition of NHS Student for Excellence at Annual Lions Club Speech Competitions –
Mr. Kent Taylor:***

Caroline Daly has competed in the Lions Club Youth Speech Competition for four years. The speech competition consists of at least 4 levels (including the school, local, zone, regional, and state levels). The competitors must write a 5 to 8 minute speech and each level gets progressively harder. By the third level, the competitors should be completely off script and have the entire speech memorized. If they miss lines, they are deducted points. Each year there is a different topic statewide.

The topics Caroline has competed in have been;

- Freshmen - "Being Politically Correct: Is it taken too far?"
- Sophomore - "Volunteerism: What does it mean to you?"
- Junior - "Integrity: What Does it Look Like?"
- Senior - "What is Heroism?"

As a freshman she competed at the school, local, and regional levels. No freshman has ever been close to accomplishing what she has. Caroline's sophomore and junior years she won the school, local, zone/region levels and made it all the way to the State Championship against four other competitors from around the state. Sophomore year she was 2nd overall at the State Championship and junior year she was the State Runner-Up.

In her final year here at Norton High School, and unequivocally the best orator in school history, once again Caroline won the school, local, and regional levels and has made her way to the State Championship where she will compete on the fourth Saturday in April in Mansfield for the State Championship one last and final time with her speech "What is Heroism?" All are encouraged to attend.

Caroline's incredible run has amassed her a total earnings north of \$4,300 in her high school career so far, with another (at least) \$500 just for competing at the State Championship in April.

Dr. Baeta presented a certificate to Caroline and recognized her for her excellent representation of NHS and Norton Public Schools. He also acknowledged how she is an inspiration to everyone around her. Dr. Baeta also thanked Mr. Taylor for his wonderful work with her.

***Vote to Approve Changes to Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan –
Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan***

The school Principals asked for the Notice to Parents or Guardians on Page 11 be changed to "Within 24 hours..." to give them the opportunity to complete an appropriate investigation.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve changes to the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Review and Vote to Approve 2021-2022 School Calendar – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neil:

Draft Version 1 and Draft Version 2 will be taken under advisement by Committee.
Agenda item tabled.

FY20 Preliminary Budget – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented a preliminary budget which includes all priority requests from each of the Administrators for their respective departments / schools. This includes general ed and mandates. He thanked the Principals for coming forth with real numbers to justify their needs for the expense increase request. He explained the staff increase request by identifying which positions were new requests, mandated requests, positions transferring and/or sharing time within schools, or a position requiring an increase of hours. Dr. Baeta commented the salaries are still under negotiation. The first proposal regarding a reduction in the fees collected for transportation and athletics was introduced and how the cost would have to be absorbed into the budget.

Some concerns included the cost of student out-of-district placement changing and the transportation increase due to the required placement. Also, the price per pupil expenditure at the state level is going up which means less funds from Circuit Breaker. It is proposed that we get the 75% Circuit Breaker. However, funds for Circuit Breaker transportation are still a question.

Dr. Baeta will be meeting with Senator Feeney at the State House and will advise the Committee of the outcome. He will also be meeting with the Town Manager, Town Accountant and School Business Manager on February 24th to discuss budget issues. The budget workshop will be held on February 29th.

Vote to Award Minibus Bid – Mr. Matthew Wells:

On January 13, 2020 the NPS released an invitation for Bids for the purchase of a new 12+2 passenger wheelchair mini bus. A total of three firms submitted Bids. New England Transit of Tyngsboro, Mass submitted the lowest price for a 3-year lease with annual payments of \$20,743.30. These funds were approved under Capital expenditure at Annual Town Meeting, 10-21-2019.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to award the bid for the purchase of a school mini bus to New England Transit

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Other Business:

- A tentative joint meeting is to be held on February 27th with an agenda item being the private citizens articles put forth and our response.
- Discussed Project 412 regarding looking at the whole idea of national labor statics, college placement and career choices for students. Dr. Baeta is looking for members of the Committee, staff, administration, local businesses or higher education be part of this long-term discussion. The discussion will be an opportunity for us to take a look at innovative and career pathways for our students.

- School Committee policy regarding vaping has to change per legal counsel. The policy change should be available at next regular meeting and will require a second reading. The Committee was in agreement that students should be financially responsible for the cost of any destruction to property.
- Mrs. Cohen announced that on March 6, 2020, it will be the 18th annual basketball game fundraiser, "It Takes A Community." All are encouraged to purchase tickets and donations will be greatly appreciated. Information regarding this fundraiser can be found on Norton Facebook page, ITACnorton@gmail.com, as well as flyers being sent home. Dr. Baeta appreciates the organization and thanked everyone involved.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting Dates: Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Central Office
Thursday, March 5, 2020 at NMS Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- School Expense Summary dated 1/23/2020
- Bullying and Prevention and Intervention Plan – proposed revision
- 2021-2022 Calendar – Draft Version 1 and 2
- Memo regarding Award Purchase of One (1) School Mini Bus
- Draft FY 2021 Preliminary Budget dated February 6, 2020

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



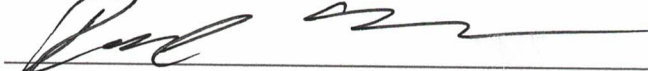
Kathleen Stern, Chairperson

Carolyn Gallaher, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Deniz Savas



Daniel Sheedy