

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Wednesday, August 5, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Kathleen Stern (logged in at 6:47 pm) ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Manager Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Technology Director Karen Winsper, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce, and Coordinator of Special Education Cassandra Russo

Call to Order: Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded, live streamed to Facebook, and included closed captioning.

Discussion on the Model for Teaching and Learning for September 2020:

Mrs. Gallagher addressed the Committee regarding two emails received and would like to enter them into public record. The email perspectives are to the full return model, and hybrid-within-hybrid model (K-5 return full time and other grades remote). The Committee had no objections, so the emails will be entered as public record.

Mrs. Gallagher also discussed an email that was sent today to staff and families that addressed all the Q&A overview of the School Committee meeting held last night. If anyone did not receive this email and would like it, they can contact the Superintendent's Office.

Dr. Baeta explained our report being submitted to DESE regarding the School Committee decision for returning to school will be thorough and will also have to contain information as to how we got to the decision. He also expressed his thoughts about the importance of using significant local data pertaining to Norton towards the final decision.

Dr. Baeta advised the Committee that he received notice of a meeting tomorrow at noon with the Commissioner of Education. He recommended to the Committee on holding a final decision until after that meeting. There may be pertinent information that could change the dynamics. Mrs. Gallagher agreed that more information would be helpful towards the final decision. The Committee agreed to wait on voting until the next meeting being held on Thursday, August 6th.

He also mentioned that the Q&A released today also had an attachment to submit more questions and concerns.

Mrs. O'Neill and administration started addressing and discussing the 50+ questions that were received from the survey that was sent today. They also addressed questions and comments that were received through Zoom Q&A.

Mrs. O'Neill also announced a survey pertaining to students returning to school could be going out to families possibly Friday morning, pending the final decision from School Committee.

Dr. Baeta mentioned anyone can email him or use Let's Talk to communicate. He will not be responding to anyone who is anonymous. Mrs. O'Neill will bring an updated Q&A survey to the meeting tomorrow night.

Several Committee members made public statements. They also addressed the fact that the final decision after tomorrow's vote could change at any time.

Dr. Baeta stated, "Hard decisions lead to opportunities."

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to adjourn meeting

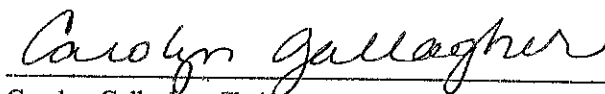
SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: Roll Call: Deniz Savas-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Kathleen Stern-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes;
Carolyn Gallagher-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

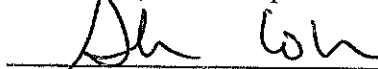
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm, remote

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



Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Daniel Sheedy



Kathleen Stern