

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
SECRETARY CLERK  
2021 JAN -4 P 1:18

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, August 27, 2020

**Location:** Remote Participation

**Present:** Committee Members: Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Kathleen Stern, and Mr. Dan Sheedy. **Also present:** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, 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 turned the meeting over to Dr. Baeta.

***Second Reading and Vote on Policy ACAB - Harassment:***

Dr. Baeta noted that no changes were recommended for this boilerplate policy.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Savas to Approve Harassment Policy ACAB

**SECOND:** by Mrs. Cohen

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Sheri Cohen – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Second Reading and Vote on Policy EBCFA – Face Coverings:***

Recommendation to change wording from Face Coverings to Face Masks in all instances as agreed to by the Committee.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Savas to Approve Face Masks Policy EBCFA

**SECOND:** by Mrs. Stern

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Discussion and Vote on Reduction of Transportation Fee:***

Bus usage will be down 68% per rider so the recommendation is to reduce the bus fee to \$133 for this school year. It was noted that the fee would be reduced again if we go to a full remote model.

**MOTION:** by Mr. Savas to Approve Reduction in Transportation Fees

**SECOND:** by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Discussion and Vote on Reduction of Parking Fees:***

Recommendation to reduce \$25 student parking fee at NHS to \$0 for this school year. By doing so would held lower the capacities on the buses. All rules and regulations regarding parking would still apply. The anticipated impact on the budget would be \$600/yr. Money collected for parking goes toward ice melt purchasing, snow removal, and parking lot upkeep. The past fee of \$150 had been lowered because the funds hadn't been spent down.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Reduction of Parking Fee to \$0

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***COVID-19 Related Updates:***

Dr. Baeta addressed the Committee:

- Working to address balancing cohorts.
- Schedules being worked on. Staff starts on Monday.
- Remote learning teachers – use of grant money through December.
- Concerns about remote only at NHS. Would prioritize by Seniors, then Juniors, Sophomores and Freshmen.
- Opening day theme: Kindness, Flexibility, Forgiveness.
- COVID-19 updates will be made as needed going ahead.
- Message to teachers: get to know students and learning styles. Develop relationships.

***Other:***

***Update on Athletics:***

Dr. Baeta noted that Aaron Sumner is now the Director of Athletics and Student Services. Mr. Sumner updated the Committee on athletics:

- No post season / championships
- MIAA recommended a September 18<sup>th</sup> start date; TVL recommended September 26<sup>th</sup>. Golf to begin on September 18<sup>th</sup> only due to running out of daylight later in the season.
- Sports being held in the fall: cross country, soccer, and golf
- Football, volleyball, and cheering will be held February – April
- Winter schedule will remain the same.
- Spring season scheduled to go to July 3<sup>rd</sup> but pushback is anticipated.
- TVL separated into two pods based on geography, although not necessarily permanent for the entire year.
- No non-league scrimmages for the fall.

- Practices: for two weeks, every day; three times a week thereafter. Some teams only practicing two times.
- State guidelines: only 25 on playing surface. Can split field but no coming together or scrimmaging.
- Games: golf during the week and some Sundays
- Roster limits: 20 per team; golf – 8 player per match (8 varsity and 8 JV)
- Cross country: 5 meets; soccer: 10 games (Saturdays and Sundays)
- Need to take a look at user fees
- TVL Athletic Directors and Principals decided to move football, cheer, and volleyball to Fall 2 season
- TVL voted no spectators. State guidelines: one per athlete. A lot of work and staffing to do contact tracing. Parents are considered spectators.
- Working on videotaping games.
- No season overlap so students can play four sports during year.
- No fall Middle School sports
- Daylight and EEE issues.

Dr. Baeta stated that student activities/clubs may not run the first six weeks. Need to work through this.

Matt Wells noted that the USDA extended the meals program through September 30<sup>th</sup> or the first day of school under the National Lunch Program. FEMA extended the adult portion through September 24<sup>th</sup>. We will continue with the program and that we would be working with the Town. Will utilize school buses on remote days to deliver food. There will be a weekly ordering system. Full remote students will receive a weekly delivery.

Dr. Baeta said that we should invite Food Services to an upcoming meeting. He also noted that Mike Yunits recently lost his sister – an unfortunate loss.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Adjourn Open Session and enter into Executive Session not to return to regular session for the purpose of preparation for potential impact bargaining with the NTA

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sheri Cohen – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 5 – 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

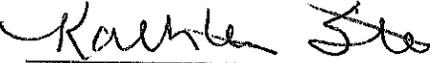
Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem

  
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Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

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Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson

  
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Sheri Cohen

  
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Daniel Sheedy

  
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Kathleen Stern