

RECEIVED
NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts
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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday, September 17, 2020

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, and Mrs. Kathleen Stern. ***Absent:*** Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce and Coordinator of Special Education Casey Russo.

Call to Order: Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. noting that the meeting is being recorded.

Appointment of Districtwide School Nurse on Recommendation of Superintendent:

Dr. Baeta noted that the hiring of a School Nurse belongs to the School Committee. Candidates were interviewed and three finalists were put forward. It is recommended that Kathryn Pendergast of Canton be named to the position. Dr. Baeta shared some details from Ms. Pendergast's resume with the Committee including that she was coming to Norton via the Randolph Public Schools. Ms. Pendergast is committed to Norton and has registered her two children in Norton through School Choice.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Appoint Kathryn Pendergast to Districtwide Nurse position for the Norton Public Schools as recommended by the Superintendent

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sheri Cohen – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher - Yes 3 - 0
Motion Carries (Mrs. Stern was muted during vote)

Discussion and Vote on Athletic Fee Reduction for Current Active Fall Sports:

Mr. Wells address the Committee regarding fall sports. Five NHS sports teams will be running: boys soccer, girls soccer, golf, boys cross country and girls cross country. These sports will have 28% fewer practices and games this year versus the same sports last year, which is expected to create a 28% reduction in the revolving account cost to run the programs. It was recommended that the fee be reduced proportionally for these sports from \$350 per student to \$250 per student.

Mr. Savas questioned what the reduction in revenue amount would be. Mr. Wells stated that it was approximately \$9,000 - \$10,000.

Mr. Savas stated that it was his opinion that the fee should go to \$200 per student. Dr. Baeta said that he was not opposed to this amount but that it meant we would need to find another \$5,000 - \$6,000. Mrs. Cohen noted that she agreed to the reduced fee but that we need to know where the shortfall is coming from. Dr. Baeta said that savings would incur through needing less refs and transportation costs. Mrs. Gallagher said that it was important for families to understand that the reduction would be just for this particular year, and that the \$200 fee was the right thing to do for families. Mrs. Cohen said that she would reach out to the Director of Athletics to let families who are struggling know that there are non-profits in town willing to help with the fees.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve change of current fall season fee to \$200

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes;

4 – 0 Motion Carries

Other Business:

Dr. Baeta addressed the Committee:

- Volunteers / staff and administrators team were thanked for all the work on reopening.
- Rt. 123 project is a nightmare during the afternoons. May need the School Committee to get involved. Project cannot be done at night. May possibly continue to November. Mornings have been good.
- Bloom bus and custodial staff were thanked for all they have done.
- Theme for the year: Flexibility, Kindness, and Forgiveness

Members of the Committee thanked administrators of NPS as well as teachers and paras. It was noted that Dr. Baeta went above and beyond welcoming back students on the first day of classes.

MOTION: by Mr. Cohen to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion on potential impact bargaining with custodial union, and not to return to open meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes

4 – 0 Motion Carries

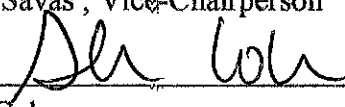
The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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



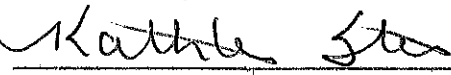
Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

Deniz Savas , Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Daniel Sheedy



Kathleen Stern

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