

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2021

Location: Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Vice-Chairperson Deniz Savas, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Kathleen Stern ***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, Coordinator of Special Education Cassandra Russo, Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

Call to Order: Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded.

Vote to Approve Minute Meetings:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve Minutes of December 17, 2020 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Sheri Cohen-yes; Deniz Savas-yes; Kathleen Stern-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes 5-0 motion carries

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrants:

- December 16, 2020 \$550,548.94

School Payroll Warrants:

- December 17, 2020 \$988,169.04

Student Representatives Update:

Zoe Duran and Malia Savas updated the Committee with the following events:

JCS

- Happy to be back in school and setting goal activities for the new year.

LGN

- Excited to be back in school
- On 12-21-20 had a joint sing-a-long with JCS

HAY

- Boosters will be holding a Virtual Dance Party

- Teachers created schedules to help stay on task
- Engaged in more collaborative team work

NMS

- Held the traditional Holiday Ugly Sweater Day. The Student Representatives presented a slide presentation of students and staff wearing their sweaters.
- “No Name Calling for GSA.” The students will be sending out a daily positive email. They are asking for participation from anyone that may have positive messages, quotes, images, etc., to share. Your email can be sent to the GSA Advisor at lisadaley@norton.k12.ma.us.
- They will also be holding a daily kindness challenge.

NHS

- Mr. McCoy’s Civic Class gathered in the auditorium today to discuss what is happening at the Capital.
- Different schedule and settling into a routine

Mrs. Gallagher commented how nice to see students back in school with friends and teachers and keeping traditions.

Review of Parent Remote Day:

On Friday, 12/18/2020, Norton had the first full district wide remote day. It was a great opportunity to experience what a remote day would be like. Mrs. O’Neill presented data from the parent survey. The Committee recommended obtaining more extensive qualitative data points in future surveys in order to be provided clear data points.

Mrs. Cohen questioned if there was an update on live streaming with teachers. Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on some of the Board of Education requirements. He also informed the Committee of current discussions and negotiations with the Labor Management Committee.

Dr. Baeta advised the Committee about his concerns for full remote and the amount of screen time for students. We do want kids returning but this project will have to wait until we see what is happening with the vaccine. He discussed the current phases and timeframes of the vaccine for nurses and teachers.

Review of NESDEC Enrollment Project Report and School Choice Enrollment:

Dr. Baeta reviewed key points that were noted in the NESDEC report.

The Committee discussed how the School Choice Program has grown over the past five years and how the funds have been utilized. The Committee and Dr. Baeta thanked the staff and students for making the students who attend this program feel connected. Dr. Baeta will present projected classroom sizes during the next budget.

Review and Vote on New NHS Courses for 2021-2022:

Principal Dolleman and Mr. Cerce presented information regarding new course offerings for Organic Chemistry and Practical Economics and Behavioral Economics. They explained the process that involved the staff in order to obtain new course recommendations. Consideration was given to how the new courses will be effective for college needs and covers a lot of aspects into careers.

Mr. Savas questioned if we currently have economic classes. Principal Dolleman advised there is no economics course and how we need economic classes.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Approve Organic Chemistry courses for the 2021-2022 School Year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern - yes; Sheri Cohen – yes; Deniz Savas – abstain;

Dan Sheedy – yes; Carolyn Gallagher – yes 4-0-1 motion carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Practical Economics and Behavioral Economics courses for the 2021-2022 School Year

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern - yes; Sheri Cohen – yes; Dan Sheedy – yes;

Deniz Savas – yes; Carolyn Gallagher – yes 5-0 motion carries

Discussion and Vote on Student Opportunity Act:

The SOA was enacted by the state legislature for FY'21. For NPS the increase was \$72K. DESE was required by legislation to put in place a filing process for how districts would spend their SOA funds. Because of the pandemic, we no longer will be receiving the funds but are still required to file our plan by January 15th. Dr. Baeta discussed the areas we are focusing on and how we could utilize the funds.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Student Opportunity Act Plan for FY'21

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern - yes; Dan Sheedy – yes; Deniz Savas – yes;

Sheri Cohen – yes; Carolyn Gallagher – yes 5-0 motion carries

Other Business:

- A joint Selectman, Finance Committee and School Committee meeting will be held next Thursday, January 14th at 6:00 p.m. Please email Dr. Baeta with any agenda items the Committee would like to discuss.
- NPS has been working with Trane to utilize savings and costs. They are expected to start this summer and the project will be discussed at next week joint meeting. It was also brought to the Committee's attention that the Middle School front office has no heat. The unit will be replaced on Monday and Dr. Baeta commented how nice it was to work with this vendor.
- Mrs. Cohen asked Norton to please keep Norton Police Office Sergeant Desfosses in our thoughts and prayers. He is currently battling COVID. We express our deepest condolences to Chief Clark for loss of his mother, Ann Clark.
- Mrs. Gallagher questioned if there will be vaccinations at the schools. Dr. Baeta is currently working with our Board of Health to meet the requirements for the best place and plan to distribute and will keep the Committee advised.

- There was a question from the audience regarding the live instruction increase email that was sent today and if it applied to remote parent choice remote. No it does not apply to remote parent choice.
- Dr. Baeta reminded everyone about the NPS Dashboard at: www.norton.k.12.ma and to be safe.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Adjourn Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Deniz Savas-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes 5-0 motion carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

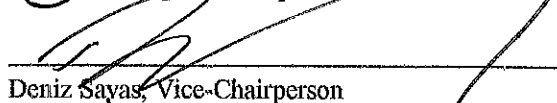
Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.


Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:


- Parent Remote Day Survey
- NESDEC Enrollment Projection Report, NPS Enrollment Report and School Choice Enrollment Report
- NHS New Course Proposals for Organic Chemistry and Practical Economics and Behavioral Economics
- Student Opportunity Act Plan

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


Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson


Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson


Sheri Cohen


Kathleen Stern