

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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2021 APR 16 AM 10:51

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday, March 11, 2021

Location: Remote Participation

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

Call to Order: Chairperson Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing and Vote on School Choice Program for the 2021-2022 School Year – Dr. Baeta:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to open the public hearing on the School Choice Program

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

Superintendent Baeta presented a school choice overview from when it began in September of 2017 through the current year. The program has grown from 52 students to 168 students this year. Financially this has been the only way we were able to provide for our 1:1 initiative and many of our curriculum purchases.

Mr. Sheedy noted how this has been a positive for NPS and that he fully supports it. Mrs. Gallagher stated how it has been a wonderful way to provide for resources and a means for making Norton a competitive district.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close the public hearing on the School Choice Program

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the School Choice Program for the 2021-2022 school year with K-5 set at 5 students per grade (excluding siblings) and open enrollment for grades 6-10

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

Public Hearing on FY 2021 School Budget – Dr. Baeta:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to open the public hearing on the FY 2022 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

Superintendent Baeta presented the line item budget with attention to mandates and general education, noting concerns about student regression, SEL and acceleration needs based on COVID.

Mrs. Gallagher stated that the budget is based on the needs of students and prioritizes the issues before us as we return to school full time. She asked about options for September including a remote model. The Superintendent responded that at this time the budget is about a full in-person return only.

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Notice of Public Hearing was published in the *Sun Chronicle*.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to close the public hearing on the FY 2022 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the FY 2022 budget as recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Deniz Savas – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes 4 – 0 – 0 Motion Carries

Other:

The Superintendent provided an update on the reopening of schools in person with attention to parent choice remote (DLA) as an option for families for the current school year.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

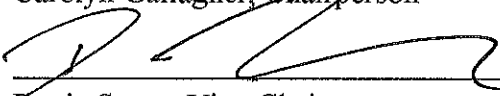
ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Kathleen Stern – Yes; Deniz Savas – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes
5 – 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

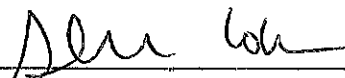
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Carolyn Gallagher, Chairperson

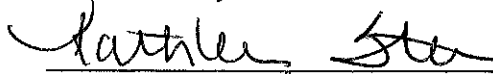


Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Daniel Sheedy



Kathleen Stern

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