

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 10, 2021

Location: Norton Middle School and Remote Participation

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

Call to Order: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. (technical difficulties) and announced that the meeting was being video recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Chairperson Savas announced that there would be a brief recess to allow the School Committee members the chance to move to the NMS Auditorium to recognize the Norton Youth Football 5th Grade Super Bowl Winners and that the meeting would continue following the recognition.

Recognition of MASS Foreign Language Association Poster Contest Participant:

Dr. Baeta recognized the NMS World Language Teacher Kim Bray and NMS student Alex George for participating in the Mass Foreign Language Association Annual Poster Contest. He presented Alex, with his family, a certificate of participation. The poster will be displayed on the MaFLA website.

Recognition of Norton Robotics Team Botball Competition Participants:

Dr. Baeta introduced the Robotics Team Advisor NHS Teacher Kerri Murphy. Ms. Murphy explained the requirements, commitment and the time and effort the students had put forth. Ryan Fitzroy and Ryan Strojny were not present due to athletic team commitments. She encouraged all students to take the class. Anybody with an imagination and creativity can participate. The Committee members thanked her for her influence with the students. She was also recognized for how she has taken the school to where they are over the last three years in robotics.

Vote to Approve Minute Meetings:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve Minutes of the May 27, 2021 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-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: June 3, 2021 \$398,586.14

School Payroll Warrants: June 3, 2021 \$1,130,997.22

Student Representatives Update:

Malia Savas was reporting remotely from the NHS. Zoe Duran could not attend the meeting due to academic commitments.

LGN: Field Day, Grade 3 picnic, Spirit Week

HAY: Field Day, Grade 5 Celebration

Students were asked what their favorite part of the year was and comments included being in person, teachers, specials, meeting new friends between JCS and LGN, mask breaks, reading outside, science, and being back to normal.

JCS: Field Day

Student comments included specials, snacks, new friends, writer's workshop, teachers, STEM, helping people, playground, and being back to school full time.

NMS: Spirit Week, sports, guest speaker, and Lancer Luau

NHS: Malia presented virtually from the Music Department's Coffee House at NHS. She said this is a super fun way to meet the students.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee thanked our Student Representatives for their service this year and are looking forward to having them next year. It was acknowledged that we have had good representatives over the years but everyone is enjoying the style of presentations this past year. It was also encouraged that Administration keep communicating with our Representatives as it is another means to advocate for their students and school to the Committee.

Review and Vote on Student Handbook Changes:

Principal Ethan Dolleman presented the Committee with new language regarding Dress Requirements for the NHS and MMS Student Handbooks. He reviewed the process in order to make the adjustments. Mr. Savas mentioned there has been previous correspondence in the past so if anyone would like to make any further comments, please do so in the Chat section. He also addressed that policies are a work in progress and the Committee is still willing to listen. There were no comments from the audience.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Approve Changes to Dress Requirements Language in NHS and NMS Student Handbooks

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

Vote to approve Administrative Assistants Contract Memorandum of Agreement for FY 2021-2022:

Dr. Baeta presented to the Committee the Administrative Assistants Employee Association's one-year contract extension for FY 2021-2022, which includes a 2% COLA salary increase, realignment of some steps, the addition of one step, and increases to 15, 20 and 25-year longevity payments.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to Approve the one-year contract Memorandum of Agreement with the Norton Administrative Assistants Employee Association.

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

Vote to Approve Superintendent's Contract for FY 2021-2022:

A Memorandum of Agreement between Norton Public Schools and Superintendent Contract of Employment was presented to the Committee. This will begin the second year of a six-year contract and requires a vote for approval. The Committee thanked Dr. Baeta for everything he has done, especially this past year. They noted that his leadership and the team he has put together are greatly appreciated

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve the Superintendent's Contract Memorandum of Agreement

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Superintendent Conflict of Interest Disclosure for ESY Program:

Dr. Baeta read a memorandum to the Committee and disclosed that his daughter, Maggie, was recommended to be hired as a Student Assistant in the ESY Summer School Year Program. A School Committee vote is required under the Conflict of Interest Law, MA G.L. c268A.

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Accept the Conflict of Interest Disclosure as Presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

Vote on FY 2021 Summer Transfers:

Mr. Matthew Wells addressed the Committee with a memorandum requesting any transfers that are required over the summer be approved to close out FY 2021.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve FY 2021 Summer Transfers

SECOND: by Mrs. Stern

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

End of Year Report:

Dr. Baeta presented the Committee with summaries regarding the district to be entered into public record. The summaries from the Administrative Departments showed a lot of good and positive outcomes this past year. He especially noted how Facilities handled a variety of situations this past year and how successful the department handled them. It was our top priority to keep everyone safe. Teaching and Learning was important and was also presented new challenges. All was accomplished to the best of our ability. Dr. Baeta noted how we accomplished two graduations within a calendar year. He thanked the entire staff for a fantastic job when we returned to full in-person learning.

The Committee had commented they were proud of the Lesley University's Trauma Program and how we are part of that program. They commented on how many good and positive things were presented in the summaries. The Committee and Dr. Baeta thanked the entire Norton Public School staff, parents, and the Town for trusting the School Committee to make decisions.

Personnel:

Dr. Baeta provided the Committee with a list of employee resignations, additions and retirements. He thanked the retirement personnel who have a combined 118 years of teaching service for Norton. He also mentioned there are openings for substitute teachers if anyone is interested.

Mr. Savas gave a shout out to the Graduating Seniors, wished them well, and told them to remember to come back and visit.

Other Business:

- NHS received a generous donation of \$750 in loving memory of Mary Amelia Swartz, whose great granddaughter is part of the NHS Class of 2021. This donation can be used to help cover costs of Senior obligations for students and families in need and adversely affected by the pandemic. Thank you to family for the donation.
- Dr. Baeta discussed the NHS Spring 2021 Purple Pages Literacy Magazine and its dedication to Norton Police Officer Detective Sergeant Stephen R. Desfosses
- Underclassman Awards were presented at NHS today and will be available on cable for viewing
- Dr. Baeta presented a plaque to the Committee for the NSBA Magna Award
- Greater Attleboro Relay for Life will hold a drive-by on June 19th, 6-9 p.m. at NHS
- Welcome Class of 2022
- If members are interested in attending the MASC/MASS Joint Conference 2021, please inform Dr. Baeta
- As we come to the end of a different year, Dr. Baeta thanked the entire staff. Stress has been high and laughs have been easier. Even with adversity and challenges, we still came out on top. He stated that he was proud to have led this district. He wished all a wonderful and great summer.
- LGN playground and solar panels are still happening and still being discussed.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Adjourn Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

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

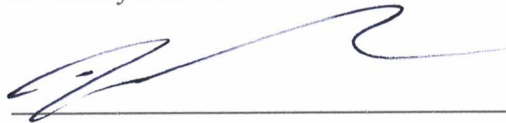
The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Next schedule date is in September 2021 but a meeting may be required before the schools open.

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- NHS and NMS Draft Dress Requirements and Current Handbook Dress Requirements Language
- MOA between School Committee and Norton Administrative Assistant Employees' Association
- MOA between NPS and Superintendent's Contract of Employment
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure memorandum
- End of Year Transfers memorandum
- FY 2021 End of Year Report

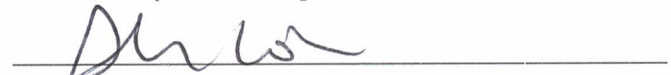
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Deniz Savas, Chairman



Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen



Kathleen Stern



Carolyn Gallagher