

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2021 OCT 18 AM 11:17

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021

Location: Norton High School Auditorium 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 Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, ***Present remotely:*** 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 Casey Russo, and Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas

Call to Order: Chairman Savas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Representatives Update:

Zoe Duran and Malia Savas reported from the principals that everyone is excited to be back at school. Some of the HAY student comments were: they like seeing new friends; teachers are kind and it is nice seeing them around school; 5th graders like the morning announcements and the band instruments are fun. The NHS is excited for the Senior cruise.

Chairman Savas announced this meeting will not be reviewing K-12 Face Mask Policy:

Chairman Savas turned the meeting over to Dr. Baeta. Dr. Baeta discussed the protocols regarding quarantining, close contact and testing. They are presently working on a protocol for students under 18 years of age. All the protocols are available on our website www.norton.k12.ma.us.

Dr. Baeta had a meeting with DESE and he will be required to continue to report Covid data to DESE. The first report is due September 13, 2021.

At this time, some of the School Committee members addressed their personal concerns, situations, and the need for DESE to provide better direction. The School Committee expressed they have been put in a difficult position and are doing the best they can.

Audience participation and comments addressed the School Committee as to what their approach will be to address issues with DESE after October 1st. The Committee will consider their options and come back at a later date with a plan.

Vote on Revision to Face Mask Policy EBCFA for Little Lancers Preschool Program:

Dr. Baeta and the Committee agreed if there is a vote to change the mask policy for Little Lancers that sufficient time be given for a transition period. The Committee and Dr. Baeta agreed parents should sign off on a consent form. Dr. Baeta will also need to discuss issues with NTA.

MOTION: by Chairman Savas to change the current mandated mask requirements for the Little Lancers Preschool Program to strongly recommend mask requirements for children under 5 years of age.

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Questions & Answers from remote participants:

Mrs. O'Neill addressed questions and answers from remote participants.

A question was addressed regarding if a student turns 5 years of age while attending preschool, then is it mandated for the student to wear a mask. Dr. Baeta and the Committee will discuss with legal counsel for verification and provide feedback.

Other Business: None

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Adjourn Meeting

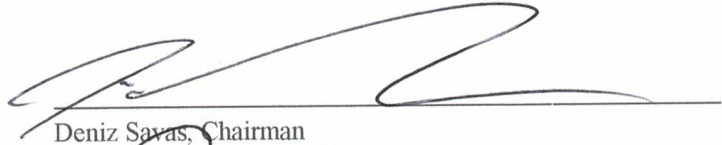
SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

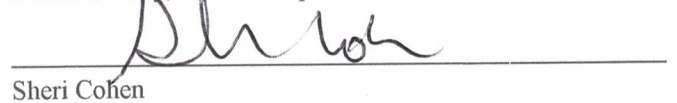
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Deniz Savas', written over a horizontal line.

Deniz Savas, Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Sheedy', written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sheri Cohen', written over a horizontal line.

Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gallagher', written over a horizontal line.

Carolyn Gallagher

dmk