

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2021 OCT 28 AM 9:16

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, September 23, 2021

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library and Remote Participation

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

***Vote to approve Minutes of August 26, 2021 and September 9, 2021 Open Meetings***

Chairman Savas noted on the September 9, 2021 minutes on Page 2, he did not make the motion for the Little Lancer face mask policy. He indicated at this time there is no need to change the correction.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve Minutes of August 26, 2021 and September 9, 2021 Open Meeting as stands

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes, Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes

***Warrants Information – Mrs. Kathleen Stern***

Mrs. Stern reported into public record that the following School Expense and School Payroll Warrants were reviewed and approved

School Expense Warrants:

- September 8, 2021 \$ 250,991.50

School Payroll Warrants:

- August 26, 2021 \$ 169,378.67
- September 9, 2021 \$1,089,488.35

***Student Representative Updates – Zoe Duron and Malia Savas***

JCS: Malia Savas reported student quotes received and information on returning to school by the JCS Principal Dr. Marcus:

- If the goal is for me to like school, the goal has been exceeded – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader
- I had my favorite best first day today – Kindergartener
- I was nervous at first but then I was excited – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grader
- Dr. Marcus is a pineapple, he stands tall, wears a crown and is sweet on the inside – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grader
- Lots of “thumbs up” during parent pick up
- Great to see kids happy and having good days

Zoe Duran reported it has been a positive start all around from the schools. They looked at Instagram and Twitter to see some events.

NHS:

- Senior cruise was last night and a lot of fun
- Student council is trying to fix some traffic problems and LLB problems
- Picture Day
- Meet the Teacher Night
- Sports

HAY: Student enjoy “The Good News Call of the Day”

The Representatives also reported everyone is excited for early release tomorrow. The school openings have gone pretty well so far. People are getting involved.

***Vote to approve DECA Trips for 2021-2022 School Year – Ms. Jennifer Skowronek and Ms. Rachel Pilotte***

Ms. Skowronek and Ms. Pilotte presented the upcoming trips planned for the DECA program. They also advised the Committee that a lot of these events are still being discussed and logistics are still being worked out.

***DECA Power Trip***

Boston, MA - November 19-21, 2021

This is optional for students to attend and not a competition. This event includes networking, learning labs, competition preps and college material.

***DECA District Conference***

Hyannis, Massachusetts - January 2022

The district conference is to be determined based on if it will be an overnight or a day conference. It is currently being researched. Usually it is a one night conference. This district conference will be a competition to include online 100 question exams along with two role plays per student.

**DECA State Conference**

Boston, Massachusetts - March 10-12, 2022

The Massachusetts State Career Development Conference is the pinnacle of the DECA year. Filled with competition and leadership activities, there is also plenty of entertainment which gets planned into this three day conference, such as keynote speakers and various performances. Participating members will compete in either a series or team decision making event, consisting of an unprepared role-play and a written exam, or a written project that will be 10-20 pages depending on the category.

**DECA ICDC International Conference**

Atlanta, Georgia - April 23-26, 2022

The DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) is the highlight of the DECA year. Twenty thousand high school students, advisors, business persons and alumni gather for several days of DECA excitement. Most participants at ICDC compete in one of DECA's competitive events. The top competitors in each event are recognized for their outstanding achievements. In addition to the competitive events, many students and advisors participate in a variety of leadership and career advancing academies.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve DECA overnight conferences in Hyannis and Boston and out of state conference in Atlanta during the 2021-2022 school year

SECOND: Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes,  
Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes

***Vote on Fall Town Meeting Articles – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta presented to the Committee a memorandum to the Town outlining the request for \$612,824.00 to be added to the FY 2022 School Department Budget at the Annual Fall Meeting.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Fall Town Meeting Article as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes,  
Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes

***Vote on Capital Plan – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta presented the Committee a memorandum to the Town with the School Department's Five Year Capital Plan FY2022-FY2026 for the Fall Town Meeting, totaling \$234,000. He did address a concern that the reengineering of the JCS and LGN parking lots for increased parking spaces may need to be evaluated one school at a time. The allotted \$15,000 may not be sufficient funds. The Committee discussed the capital plan. It was clarified that the high school parking fee cannot be applied to any expenses for other school parking lots.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve Capital Plan as presented

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes,  
Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes



***Personnel Updates – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta presented the Committee with a personnel update for the start of FY 2022. He advised the Committee that the list is continuously changing.

***Update on Athletic Complex – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta addressed how the project is currently at the 25% schematic design phase. He expects the full athletic complex committee to meet in late October / early November to review the final recommendation for consideration, publication, and bidding. Bidding would take place circa March 2022.

***Update on TRANE Project – Mr. Lizotte***

Mr. Lizotte, Director of Facilities, presented to the Committee a power point presentation with pictures on the progress to date for the upgrades to the heating system at the HAY school.

***Opening of School Reports – Dr. Baeta***

Dr. Baeta presented the Committee with reports that he received from each of the Principals and departments about the opening of the school year. He also reported at this time we have 2,418 students enrolled and 50 home schooled students. This enrollment changes daily and he will report to DESE on October 1<sup>st</sup> what the enrollment is at that time. The Committee clarified the home school children are not hybrid. They are following state protocol for home schooling.

Dr. Baeta thanked the entire staff for putting everything together for a traditional school opening. He also thanked the student body for being respectful and kind.

Mr. Sheedy questioned if the high school building could open earlier for students to help avoid the traffic situation. Dr. Baeta will look into it.

***Other Business:***

- Dr. Baeta announced that Norton High received a national ranking of #2,880, or top 16%, of the 18,000 schools in the U.S. News 2021 Best High Schools. A plaque will be displayed at the high school and more information can be found on our website. This is the first time we have reached this and he recognized all the staff and students for this achievement.
- In reference to the last meeting regarding communication with DESE about leaving decision making to the local level as much as possible, Chairman Savas drafted a letter to DESE that he provided to the Committee for their input. Mrs. Cohen also had a discussion and emails with Mr. Jay Barrows, Representative.
- Mrs. Cohen advised that the VFW is looking for volunteers to help out with their Halloween event on October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- The audience inquired about the status of unmasking for the Little Lancers Preschool. The Committee advised they were going into Executive Session and this was on the agenda. Dr. Baeta also advised he has been meeting with NTA and the Labor Management Committee. These meetings are not available to watch on Zoom.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallaher to adjourn and to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations, not to return to Open Session.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes,  
Dan Sheedy-yes; Deniz Savas-yes


The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

***Next Meeting Date:*** Thursday, October 14, 2021

***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

- Memorandum regarding FY22 Fall Town Meeting School Department Supplemental Article
- Memorandum regarding FY22 Fall Town Meeting School Department Capital Plan
- Personnel Update
- Opening of School Report

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

  
Deniz Savas, Chairman

  
Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson

  
Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern

  
Carolyn Gallagher