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NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

2022 JAN 14 AM 11:23

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 18, 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 Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas ***Present remotely:*** School Committee Member Mrs. Kathleen Stern, 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 Casey Russo

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 October 25, 2021 and October 28, 2021 Open Meetings

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve Minutes of October 25, 2021 and October 28, 2021 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Warrants Information – Mrs. Sheri Cohen

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

School Expense Warrants:

- November 4, 2021 \$ 441,238.58

School Payroll Warrants:

- November 4, 2021 \$1,039,027.06

Student Representative Updates – Zoe Duron and Malia Savas

LGN:

- November is Literacy Month. Students are decorating large turkeys with a decorated feather about a book or chapter they read
- The PTC bought a book for every child.
- Annual Book fair is Monday, November 22nd from 3:00-5:00 pm

JCS:

- First time all 500 students got together for the first Annual Veteran's Day Flagpole Ceremony
- Celebrated the school's core value with World Kindness Day. A giant school picture with students and staff spelling out "Be Kind" was taken 50 feet up from a drone.

HAY:

- Trunk or Treat event put on by the PTA was excellent
- Dr. Marcus and Mr. Geoghegan marched in the Town Halloween Parade
- Thanksgiving activities include: Volleyball tournament; In-class battles; Championship games with faculty and staff
- Lancer Learning Time (LLT) and Response to Intervention (RTI) programs have been successful.
- All adults are engaged in working with students to improve their learning towards Math and Reading during a 2-4 week session.

NMS:

- Friday, Nov 19th the school will be wearing purple for Epilepsy awareness
- Monday, Nov. 22nd is the annual Turkey Carnival which includes: Basketball Foul Shots; Turkey Bowling; Plinko and a Jukebox; Turkey Putt Putt; collection of canned goods for Cupboard of Kindness Food Pantry

NHS:

- Sports teams are doing well and cheerleaders are competing in a state champion at Worcester State
- Thanksgiving football game
- Pep Rally will be held on outside track
- Powder Puff Game on Monday, November 22nd
- Mid-terms and finals discussions have been held during many classes

Student Excellence Awards

Dr. Baeta presented certificates to the recipients with their families present. Dr. Baeta and the Committee commented how this is one of their favorite nights and congratulated the students. Before presenting individual awards, Dr. Baeta read biographies for each student.

MA Association of School Superintendents: Abigail Leo

National School Development Council: Jordan Robbins and Zoe Duran

Superintendent's Award of Excellence: Courtney Kass

MCAS Presentation

Mrs. O'Neill presented a Power Point overview of 2021 MCAS results. She discussed that being in a hybrid model there still was participation. It was discussed how the only use of the MCAS results are for planning purposes. There is no accountability and some data was not available. She also updated the Committee on new grants, programs and positions.

Mr. Savas clarified that the MCAS results are not an assessment of a teacher's performance. Ms. Shannon Tayler, NTA Representative, also commented it is not a fair assessment.

Mrs. Gallagher asked what the NMS Interventionist duties included. Mrs. O'Neill explained the interventionist provides support to all students regardless if on an IEP or not.

Review and Vote on NHS Calendar and Mid-Year / Final Exam Schedule

Mr. Ethan Dolleman, Principal, discussed the need to alter the calendar. He reviewed with the Committee the grading percentages for the mid-term and final exams and how it is incorporated into a student's final grade. He also discussed how new assessments his staff has been developing and the benefits to the students and their grades.

Mr. Savas opened the floor to Student Representatives. AnnCatherine Powers read a statement and provided the Committee with a petition and signatures regarding traditional testing and how the students want new assessments for mid-term and final exams. Dr. Baeta advised the statement and the petition would be entered into public record. See attached. Malia Savas also made comments regarding how new assessments for mid-terms and finals would be beneficial for the students.

The Committee heard comments from the audience and discussed how traditional testing may not be a fair assessment for students. A lot of comments and suggestions were brought to the Committee regarding traditional testing for learning versus testing of learning. Dr. Baeta and the Committee agreed that a report after the mid-terms on how each department completed their assessment/testing and the effects would be provided. Mr. Savas thanked everyone for their input and comments.

The half days added to the calendar would be January 26th, 27th, and 28th (already was half day) for mid-terms and the last 3 days of the school year for finals.

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to allow for half days for mid-term and finals testing

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

Enrollment Update:

Dr. Baeta presented the Committee with enrollment updates in PK-12, Reads DHH Program, and School Choice. As of November 15th, district enrollment was 2,465.

Athletic Complex 90% Design Update:

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on the design phase of the project and viewed the 90% design recommendation regarding the project. He expressed his concern about sewer connections and the bidding process in general. Due to inflation, further discussion will need to be about what areas do we start with due to increase in costs.

Other Business:

- Dr. Baeta thanked the Bristol County Savings Charitable Foundation for their one-time scholarship fund Ronald O'Reilly in the amount of \$2,500.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

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

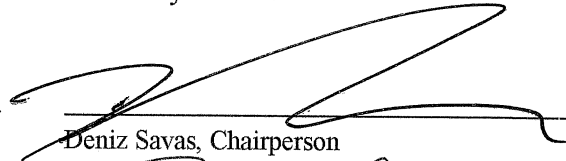
The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, December 9, 2021

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- District MCAS Overview Power Point
- Spring 2021 MCAS Results
- Memorandum Regarding NHS Mid-year and Final Exams
- NPS Enrollment Figures
- Athletic Campus diagrams

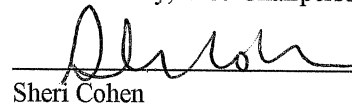
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Deniz Savas, Chairperson



Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern



Carolyn Gallagher

dmk