

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2022 MAR 11 AM 11:08

Date of Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2021

Location: Norton Middle School Library and Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Vice Chairperson Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, and Mrs. Kathleen Stern (remotely). ***Absent:*** Chairperson Deniz Savas

Also present: Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, and Director of Technology Karen Winsper. Present remotely: School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Facilities Wade Lizotte, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce, Coordinator of Special Education Casey Russo, and Student Representatives Zoe Duran and Malia Savas.

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Announcement that meeting is being recorded

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

MOTION: by Sheri Cohen to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Carolyn Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes;
Dan Sheedy - Yes 4 - 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that the following School Expense Warrants and School Payroll Warrants were reviewed and approved and are to be entered into public record:

School Expense Warrants:

- November 18, 2021 \$ 436,368.69
- December 1, 2021 \$1,469,751.43

School Payroll Warrants:

- November 18, 2021 \$1,076,157.23
- December 2, 2021 \$1,060,407.49

Student Representatives Update:

Malia Savas and Zoe Duran updated the Committee on happenings in the schools:

LGN: Scholastic book fair; Holiday Spirit Days activities; Trait of the month is Integrity

JCS: Spirit week activities; PK – 1 Polar Express events; Grant received from the MA Cultural Council along with NEED and SPO to design and paint an ocean-themed 100 ft. long mural across the cafeteria.

HAY: Spirit week activities with a different theme each day.

NHS: Band and Chorus Winter Concerts on December 16th; winter sports underway; the Student Council Santa Fund drive raised almost \$700 for the Attleboro Council for Children's Christmas for Kids Charity; toy drive sponsored by Math Honor Society in conjunction with NPD and the C2 foundation; National Art Society sold over 200 snowman ornaments as a fundraiser; National Business Honor Society sold raffle tickets for holiday gift baskets.

Norton NEED Grants Announcement:

Members of the Norton NEED organization were present to announce grants totaling \$9,552.26 as follows:

NHS – Kim Bray, French Teacher: Increasing Proficiency Through Reading French books

NMS – Jessica Holicker, Learning Specialist: Write On, wipe-off whiteboard desks; Jill Wroblewski and Heather Treannie, Spanish Teachers: Spanish reading materials; Meghan Pestana, Special Education Teacher: Flexible seating; Del Hall, Math Teacher: Wacom tablet

HAY – Susan Cashton, STEAM Teacher: STEAM Ahead with Lego Education Spike (12 kits)

JCS – Dr. John Marcus, Principal: An Ocean of Characters: Ocean mural for cafeteria; Amanda Kendall, Emily Teixeira, Amanda Weeden, Kendra Lemieux, and Meghan Noris, K Teachers: STEM< items

JCS and LGN – Emily Ducharme, multi-sensory room: flexible seating and tactile learning items.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee thanked the NEED organization for their work and dedication.

Presentation and Vote on NHS Cheer Trip to Nationals:

NHS teachers and cheer coaches, Kimberly Birkett and Baileigh Morse shared a slide presentation with the Committee, recapping the successful season. Permission was sought for the team to attend the AmeriCheer InterNational Championship being held in Orlando, Florida from March 18 – 21, 2022. Fundraising would take place to offset the approximate \$750 per person cost. Chaperones would consist of Ms. Birkett, Ms. Morse, and Ms. Jacklyn Dembishack. Approximately 11 to 14 athletes, including alternates, would travel to the competition.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee noted how proud they were of the squad. Dr. Baeta recognized the commitment by the coaches and team members. The season is long with competitions on weekends in addition to the support at football games.

Dr. Baeta suggested that the costs involved for the chaperones be paid for by NPS being that they are employees and, for liability reasons, are acting on behalf of the district.

MOTION: by Sheri Cohen to Approve Cheerleader Trip to National Competition as Presented

SECOND: by Carolyn Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Dan Sheedy - Yes 4 - 0 Motion Carries

Announcement of Class of 2022 Adams Scholarship Recipients:

Dr. Baeta read the names of the scholarship recipients and expressed his congratulations. He noted that earlier in the day he passed out letters from the State to these students. These students are typically among the top 25% of their class. Potentially more names will be added in the spring. Dr. Baeta also added that we are starting to see private schools give scholarship money for Adams Scholarship recipients.

Recipients were: Michael Collins, Isabella Dumont, Zoe Duran, Henry Eck, Justin Galego, Justin Marando, John Nihill, AnnCatherine Powers, Jordan Powers, Tristan Sibug, and Michael Whalen.

Review and Vote on New NHS Courses for 2022-2023:

Principal Dolleman presented new courses for consideration for the 2022-2023 school year which were created with input from the Academic Coordinators and NHS Site Council.

Courses proposed include:

- Exploring Computer Science
- Introduction to Piano
- Recording Arts 2
- Intro to Public Speaking
- Advanced Yoga & Mindfulness (Yoga 2)

Dr. Baeta noted that some of these courses are the continuation of current courses. The Piano course would require the purchase of keyboards which is not a deal breaker. He stated that he supports these proposed courses.

MOTION: by Carolyn Gallagher to Approve NHS Proposed Courses for 2022-2023 as Presented

SECOND: by Sheri Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes; Dan Sheedy - Yes 4 - 0 Motion Carries

Trane Update:

Mr. Wells presented a Trane update including a one page reconciliation sheet. Also included was a timeline which listed projects by school. He noted that the solar projects take more time. He is hoping to have conversations regarding the \$9,800 interconnectivity charge at JCS as this cost shouldn't be passed along to NPS.

Solar ports will be going in at NMS, NHS, JCS and HAY. These should produce enough solar energy to offset costs in the long run, and down the road for the athletic complex.

So far the projects are on budget.

Other:

- A virtual meeting for parents and students regarding the Early College Program is scheduled for January 6th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. The presentation is for current 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students. The program is through UMASS Dartmouth and other UMASS system schools as well as Boston Architectural College. A cohort of students from Norton and other area schools would attend classes together and would earn college credits at locations to be determined. This is not dual enrollment. Courses would consist of live instruction for 60-90 minutes 2 to 3 times a week. Regarding fees, there should be some type of fee as a “buy-in”. Currently there is no list of prerequisites. Credits would be transferable in the state college system.
- Dr. Baeta congratulated Karen Winsper, Director of Instructional Technology, for being the recipient of a \$2,500 donation to a nonprofit or educational agency from Future of Privacy Forum.

Dr. Baeta wished all happy holidays and a happy new year.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Stern to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kathleen Stern – Yes; Carolyn Gallagher – Yes; Sheri Cohen – Yes;

Dan Sheedy - Yes 4 - 0 Motion Carries

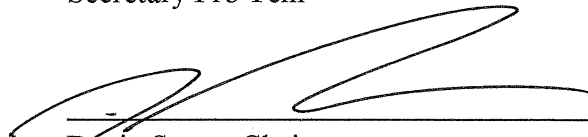
The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: January 13, 2022

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- NHS Cheerleading slide presentation
- John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Overview sheet and list of recipients
- NHS New Course Proposals documents
- TRANE project financial report
- TRANE project construction schedule report

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



Deniz Savas, Chairperson

Dan Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Carolyn Gallagher

Kathleen Stern

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