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NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022

Location: Norton Middle School Library and Remote Participation

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mr. Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher ***Absent:*** School Committee Member Mrs. Kathleen Stern, ***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 Representative Malia Savas

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

Chairperson Savas announced at 6:01p.m. 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 Cheer Teams for a 3rd Place finish and first ever national championship in Florida in December 2021. The meeting continued in the NMS Library following the recognition at 6:17 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Vote to approve Minutes of December 9, 2021 Open Meetings

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to approve Minutes of December 9, 2021 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Deniz Savas-yes
4-0 motion carries

Warrants Information – Mrs. Sheri Cohen:

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:

- December 16, 2021 \$ 542,027.03
- January 6, 2022 \$ 578,619.81

School Payroll Warrants:

- December 16, 2021 \$1,051,014.39
- December 30, 2021 \$1,049,064.66
- December 31, 2021 \$ 960.00

Student Representative Updates – Malia Savas

LGN:

- The students were excited to see the COVID dogs at work. The students were also happy to see themselves on the news.

JCS:

- Officially adopted the Sea Turtle as the school mascot. They are excited to start many themed events.

HAY:

- Mr. Geoghegan is very impressed with the staff. They do anything we ask of them and are professional and supportive of the students.

NMS:

- Basketball season is going good and they are happy wrestling has returned.
- Student Representatives made a visit to the Norton Senior Center and delivered homemade holiday gift cards and treats.

NHS:

- The hallway decoration competition was competitive: 9th grade jungle theme; 10th grade Candy Land; 11th grade carnival; 12th grade Star Wars. Seniors won the competition.
- DECA competition on January 11th was virtual and many students participated.
- In honor of Martin Luther King Day, his “I Have a Dream” speech will be streamed in the cafeteria during lunches.
- Winter sports are continuing despite Covid related instances.
- A gymnastics competition is being held at the NHS gym this weekend.
- The decision on midterms is still waiting for a consensus.

First Reading of Section D – Fiscal Policies Revised Policies

As a result of MASC’s full review of Policy Section D – Fiscal Policies, updates must be reviewed and subsequently voted on by the Committee. Dr. Baeta and the School Committee discussed the recommendations regarding the updates and how they pertain to Norton Public Schools. Dr. Baeta will make the necessary changes. No vote is required at this time.

NEASC Update – Mr. Ethan Dolleman:

Mr. Dolleman presented a letter and a slide presentation to the Committee regarding acceptance of the Five-Year Progress Report and continuation of the school’s accreditation. Dr. Baeta suggested our teachers should attend other site visits with NEASC. This way we could see the process before we go through it. He thanked the staff and stated how he appreciates all they do for the school to be fully accredited.

Review and Vote on Article for Sewer Connection – Dr. Baeta:

This article will be for connecting Norton High School and the Yelle Elementary School to the main sewer line on W. Main Street/Rt. 123. The original article was withdrawn in June 2021 as it was anticipated that the connection would be part of the Athletic Complex Project. This has become a more complicated situation.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Approve a Place Holder Article for Sewer Connection

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Deniz Savas-yes
4-0 motion carries

Update on Acceleration Tutoring Program – Ms. Mia Correia:

Mia Correia, Coordinator of Tutoring for the Acceleration Tutoring Program and a Portuguese Language Teacher in New Bedford, gave an update of the program to the Committee. The Tutoring Program started after Thanksgiving for grades 1-8. Presently, there are 9 Tutors and 18 different student participants. The Program operates from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and a student is allowed up to two (2), 45 minute sessions per week. The program is free to parents and allows for on-line flexibility. Dr. Baeta and Ms. Correia explained the possibilities of expanding the program to grades 6-12 for a homework center. The Committee commented that this is a great opportunity and convenience for students.

LGN Principal Search – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta made the announcement of Mrs. Catherine Luke's upcoming retirement as Principal of LGN. He informed the Committee he will be using NESDC to assist with the search for her replacement. Their services have been used in the past and the expense has already been budgeted. Mrs. O'Neill will oversee the process and form a committee. The Committee and Dr. Baeta expressed their appreciation and thanked Mrs. Luke for everything she has done.

February 5, 2022 Budget Workshop:

Dr. Baeta and the Committee agreed to postpone the workshop to March 5th or March 12th. Remote participation will be an option.

Other Business:

- DESE has extended the mask requirement through February 28, 2022.
- Bob Bielawa, Dean of Students at the HAY, has been nominated for the Mass Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. NPS is very proud of Mr. Bielawa and everything he does. Good luck.
- Dr. Baeta will be making announcements regarding contact tracing and testing and the process. He and the Committee also expressed a sincere thank you to our nurses for everything they have done and continue to do.
- The Committee congratulated Mrs. O'Neill on receiving her doctorate.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Deniz Savas-yes
4-0 motion carries

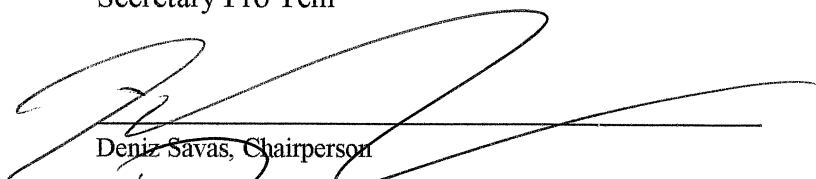
The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, January 27, 2022

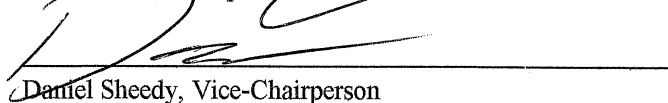
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Policy Section D – Revised
- NEASC letter dated December 9, 2021 regarding Five-Year Progress Report

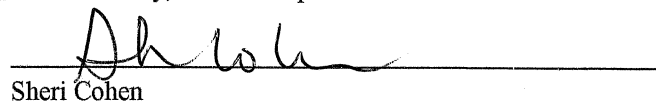
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Deniz Savas, Chairperson



Daniel Sheedy, Vice-Chairperson



Sheri Cohen

Kathleen Stern



Carolyn Gallagher

dmk