

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2022 SEP 19 AM 9:28  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of Meeting:*** Thursday, May 26, 2022

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

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairperson Deniz Savas, Vice Chairperson Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, and Mr. Nick Schleicher. ***Absent:*** Mrs. Sheri Cohen. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce and Student Representatives Malia Savas

***Call to Order:*** Chairperson Savas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson Savas announced that the meeting was being recorded and asked that if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Reorganization of the Norton School Committee:***

Reorganization of the Norton School Committee is required by the School Committee Bylaws at the first meeting following the Annual Town Election. Mr. Savas turned the meeting over to Dr. Baeta.

Dr. Baeta asked for nomination for the position of Chairman. Mr. Savas nominated Mr. Sheedy seconded by Mrs. Gallagher. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Savas motioned to close nominations, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher. Receiving only one nomination, Dr. Baeta, acting as Chairman pro tem, cast one vote for Mr. Sheedy and declared him the new Chairman of the Norton School Committee.

The next item on the agenda was the election of the Vice Chairman. Chairman Sheedy asked for nominations and Mr. Savas nominated Mrs. Cohen, seconded by Mrs. Gallagher. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Sheedy asked for a vote to approve Mrs. Cohen as Vice Chairman; Motion by Mr. Savas, Seconded by Mrs. Gallagher. The vote was unanimous in favor of Mrs. Cohen.

(4 – 0)

In accordance with the School Committee Bylaws, Article 1, Section 2, both the chairman and Vice Chairman hold their respective offices for one year or until their successors are duly elected.

Members were appointed to the following positions as follows:

Legislative Representative:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mr. Sheedy as Legislative Representative

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

(4 – 0)

Negotiations Representatives:

MOTION: by Mr. Schleicher to appoint Mr. Savas and Mrs. Gallagher as Negotiations Representatives

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher  
(4 – 0)

Capital Improvement Committee Representative:

This position is currently held by Mrs. Cohen. It was decided that this nomination would be put on hold until Mrs. Cohen is present and has the opportunity to decide if she wishes to serve again.

SEPAC Representative:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mrs. Gallagher as SEPAC Representative

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher  
(4 – 0)

Permanent Building Committee Representative

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mr. Schleicher as Permanent Building Committee Representative

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher  
(4 – 0)

Current Warrant Signers: #1 Sheri Cohen and #2 Dan Sheedy

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to appoint Mr. Savas as #3 Warrant Signer

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher  
(4 – 0)

***Recognition of Norton Middle School Scholar Leaders and Introduction of Class of 2022 Salutatorian and Valedictorian:***

Dr. Baeta recognized 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School students Benson Chang and Taylor Collins for being selected as Scholar Leaders amongst other 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students across the state.

Benson Chang was also recognized for being a Project 351 Student Ambassador. Benson updated the Committee on his clothing drive service project for the Cradles to Crayons program. He stated that over 62 bags of clothing were dropped off at Gillette Stadium.

Dr. Baeta introduced the NHS Class of 2022 Salutatorian, Courtney Kass and Valedictorian, Abigail Leo. Dr. Baeta read bios on these students which outlined their successes as students at Norton High School. Miss Kass will be attending Providence College and Ms. Leo will be attending Washington and Lee University. Congratulations were offered to the students and their families.

Dr. Baeta presented the students with certificates.

***Approval of Minutes:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of May 12, 2021 Open School Committee Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher  
4 - 0 Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

Mr. Sheedy 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:**

- May 19, 2022 \$1,020,744.85

**School Payroll Warrants:**

- May 5, 2022 \$1,038,888.48
- May 19, 2022 \$1,056,281.39

***Student Representatives Update:***

Malia Savas reported live via Zoom from outside Norton Middle School where the tennis team had just won. She shared end of year activities that would be taking place including field days and field trips for the elementary grades. Fifth grade students would be visiting Norton Middle School as part of their transition. Eighth graders have the annual dinner dance. NHS band did well in recent competition. High School students would be giving tour of Norton to younger students. All schools will be celebrating Memorial Day with assemblies, etc.

New student rep, Antonio Romano, was unable to attend the meeting but will be introduced at an upcoming meeting.

***Proposed Amendments to Regulation on MCAS and Competency Determination, 603 CMR 30.00:***

Dr. O'Neill presented the Committee with proposed amendments to MCAS and Competency Determination requirements. These changes would establish a new competency determination standard in English language arts, mathematics, and science and technology/engineering for the classes of 2026 - 2029. Dr. O'Neill explained that the changes in scores would only be to align scaled score criteria with Next Generation MCAS parameters from their current legacy scores. Additionally, the committee was presented with changes to Educational Proficiency plans (EPP) for students that have not yet met the criteria for graduation through MCAS. The primary changes for the EPP are:

- Must be updated annually while students are enrolled
- Include tutoring or other individualized academic supports
- Inclusion of diagnostic or summative assessments that monitor student progress towards grade level expectations
- Multiple opportunities to retake MCAS until they achieve a sufficient score

The Committee discussed the challenges of meeting these new demands without additional funding from the state to support staff additions and intervention support for students. They also discussed the SEL factors that would be influenced by identifying struggling students and adding additional coursework to their schedules. The committee asked Dr. O'Neill to add these concerns to a letter of feedback to the Department by their June 3, 2022 public comment deadline.

***Vote to Approve Three Year Contract with Custodial Union Per Memorandum of Agreement:***

Dr. Baeta reported that starting in January or February he and Wade Lizotte conducted negotiation meetings with Custodial Union members. (See attached Memorandum of Agreement.)

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Three Year Contract with Custodial Union

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

4 - 0 Motion Carries

***Vote to Approve Appointment of New School Business Administrator:***

Dr. Baeta introduced Kristine Hadfield, his recommendation for the position of School Business Administrator effective July 1, 2022. Ms. Hadfield started with the District in February 2022 as a Financial Analyst / Transportation Coordinator. Ms. Hadfield came to Norton with ten years of experience at Keefe Tech in Framingham. Ms. Hadfield lives in Norton and has two children at the L. G. Nourse Elementary School.

Ms. Hadfield addressed the Committee stating that everyone has been very welcoming since she began with the Norton Public Schools and she is happy to start in an administrative role.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Appoint Kristine Hadfield to the Position of School Business Administrator

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

4 - 0 Motion Carries

***Review and Vote on Potential Changes to 2022-2023 School Calendar:***

The Norton Town Clerk is asking the Committee to consider delaying the opening of school in September from Tuesday, September 6, 2022 to Wednesday, September 7, 2022 to accommodate the State Primary election on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Longhurst is also requesting that the state election day on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> be a professional development day for staff with no students in attendance that day.

Discussions ensued regarding the matter including that making the changes would move the last day of school to June 16<sup>th</sup> (or up to as late as June 26<sup>th</sup> with the additional 5 snow days).

It was decided that no changes would be made to the calendar.

***Second Reading and Vote to Approve Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policies:***

As recommended by counsel for the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and as discussed and modified after first reading, these policies must be voted on. It was noted that nothing happened in our schools to bring forth these changes. The changes are recommended based on cases and situations through the Attorney General's office.

MOTION: by Mrs. Gallagher to approve Non-Discrimination and Harassment Policies as Presented

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

3 - 0 - 1 Motion Carries

***Other:***

Class Night being held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.; Graduation on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at Xfinity Center

Dr. Baeta stated that in light of the recent school shooting he received several parent emails regarding ALICE, the Norton Police Department, and our SRO's. He said that we are working hard to make sure that our doors are locked and that our Raptor ID program is used. He said he understands that students and staff are struggling, and noted that he wants everyone to be safe. Upgrades and further enhancements to our facilities will continue.

Mr. Sheedy stated that we would do our best and that we have a good rapport with the Norton Police Department; our SRO's are a part of our school culture like our paras, custodians, and other staff members. We will continue to keep students safe.

***Motion to Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher


4 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

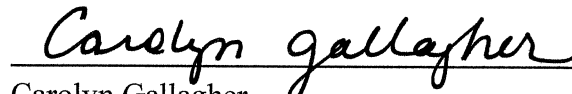
***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

- Memorandum of Agreement Between the School Committee and the Town of Norton and Local 1702, State Council #93 American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
- Policies AC (Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation), ACAB (Sexual Harassment), AC-R (Student Non-Discrimination Policy Including Harassment and Retaliation) and JICK (Harassment of Students)


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

  
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Dan Sheedy, Chairperson

  
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Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairperson

  
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Carolyn Gallagher

  
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Deniz Savas

  
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Nick Schleicher

tlr