

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** Thursday, September 22, 2022

**Location:** J.C. Solmonese Elementary School Library

**Present:** Committee Members: Chairperson Mr. Dan Sheedy, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Nick Schleicher. **Absent:** Mr. Deniz Savas. **Also present:** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield, and Student Representatives Malia Savas and Antonio Romano.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Sheedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded and asked that if anybody else is recording to please let the Committee know.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Vote to Approve Minutes of September 8, 2022 Open Session Meeting**

A correction on Page 4, Vote indicates 4-0 and should be 5-0.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Approve Minutes of September 8, 2022 with correction as indicated

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

**Warrants Information:**

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:

- September 15, 2022 \$1,851,555.86

School Payroll Warrants:

- September 8, 2022 \$1,097,205.74

**Student Representative Updates:**

Antonio Romano and Malia Savas updated the Committee on some school activities. Principals reported they are off to a great start, clubs and activities are settling in, and they are having fun. The HAY has a new Book Vending Machine which was purchased by the PTO, where a student can earn coins and select a book. Other activities included DOT Day, Hello Week, and the Senior Cruise and Breakfast.

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***Opening School Remarks, J.C. Solmonese:***

Dr. John Marcus, Principal, advised the Committee that JCS has 541 students this year. He updated the Committee on new staff and their positions. He also shared photos of the staff at Tree Top in Canton. The SPO sponsored this team building event for 53 staff members who attended on their own time. It was spectacular and was a great way for the staff to get to know everyone. Dr. Marcus thanked the SPO.

Mrs. Ann Marie Baker updated the Committee on Little Lancers. There are 102 new preschool students, and they now have 3 full-day sessions and are looking forward to expanding. She shared photos of the preschool students in classrooms, during outside activities and with Officer Robichaud greeting the students during the first week and presenting them with stickers.

***Personnel Updates:***

Dr. Baeta reviewed the list of staff changes for FY'23. He discussed new issues regarding the changes to the protocol of COVID, resignations were primarily for years of service, and permanent building substitute positions have been posted. He advised the Committee that there is a staff exit interview form that is offered and is anonymous.

***Vote to Approve Middle School Field Trip to New York City:***

Mr. Ronnie Goldstein presented the Committee with information and a schedule of events for a Grade 8 field trip to New York City, scheduled for June 9, 2023. Since it is out of state, it will need the Committee's approval. Due to the pandemic, it has been three years since the last field trip. The Committee discussed parent approval forms with signatures, as well as security issues.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to approve the Grade 8 Field Trip to New York City on June 9, 2023

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

***Early College Incubator Grant:***

Norton Public Schools as part of the South Shore Early College Consortium, has received a one-time \$100,000 incubator grant for starting up early college programming. Dr. Baeta provided the Committee with outlines regarding the budget, expenditures, and requirements. He advised the Committee that the board is in the process of hiring personnel to start this program. More information and updates will be provided.

***Homeland Security Grant:***

Dr. Baeta presented to the Committee information that Norton Public Schools, along with Boston Children's Hospital and three other communities, is a recipient of the Homeland Security Grant for radicalization and school violence programming in the amount of \$634,307.00. For the record, he read the statement:

"Two products coming from the grant are: Type 1: Raising Societal Awareness, Type 5: Threat Assessment and Management Teams

The overall goal of this project is to equip and empower four local school districts (Bedford, Norton, Essex North and Hudson) to be able to better identify and help youth at risk for radicalization to violence or targeted violence and terrorism. The Children's Hospital Corporation proposes to do this through the establishment of school-based threat assessment teams (TATs), increasing awareness of signs of radicalization or violence risk, facilitating referral pathways to the school-based TATs, and supporting robust assessment, management and intervention of referred youth through coordination and connection with Massachusetts Area Prevention (MAP) Program at Boston Children's Hospital. The Children's Hospital Corporation proposes to implement two projects: Raising societal awareness within schools (Project 1), and School Based Threat Assessment Teams (Project 2). Under Project 1, The Children's Hospital Corporation will deliver awareness trainings for staff and students based on the existing DHS Community Awareness Briefing curriculum and customized for the school setting. Project 2 will establish school-based TATs in four Massachusetts school districts representing a range of geographic diversity and student populations."

NPS is a member of the Mass Partnership for Youth which is why the schools were selected to participate in this research program. The Committee discussed issues of school safety, assessments, behavior and other areas that this research program can benefit our schools.

***Other Business:***

Capital Improvement – Mrs. Hadfield informed the Committee that an approval to purchase a new athletic mini-bus was previously approved by the Town in the amount of \$69,000. The new mini-bus is not available, but we can use the funds to purchase a used mini-bus. Therefore, we do not have to go to the Town to request funds. The anticipated expenditure of the used mini-bus, including a paint job, is estimated around \$54,000.

Dr. Baeta informed the Committee we do not need to go to the Town to get funding for the paving project. The Norton Highway Department did some patching. Dr. Baeta thanked the highway department.

Dr. Baeta mentioned that retro checks went out to the staff today.

Athletic Campus – The site is still considered a construction zone. Substantial directive completion is needed before it can be used. The due date is 10-15-22. More information about dedication ceremonies will be coming. Channel 6 News will be here next week doing an article on the project. A reminder to the public, the grounds are not open for use.

***Motion to Adjourn***

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to adjourn

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4-0 motion carries

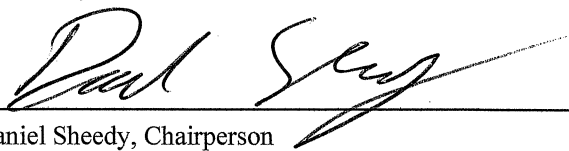
The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, October 13, 2022 at the HAY Library at 6:00 p.m.


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

- Staff Changes for 2022-2023
- Early College Incubator Program Grant

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

  
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Daniel 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

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