

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2023

Location: Norton Middle School Auditorium

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mr. Dan Sheedy, Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Carolyn Gallagher, Mr. Nick Schleicher. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, 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.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Sheedy announced that the meeting was being recorded by Norton Cable and asked if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

Recognition of North Youth Football and Cheer:

Dr. Baeta recognized Norton 12U Cheer Squad for their second consecutive National Championship and the 14U Cheer Squad for their 3rd place finish at the AYC National Championship. The 14U Cheer Squad became the first cheer squad in the entire country to reach three straight National Championships. The 5th Grade Junior Lancers were recognized as the 2022 EMASS Super Bowl Champions. The youth groups were present and presented with certificates from Dr. Baeta.

Dr. Baeta and the Committee congratulated Victor Rodriguez for his 15 years of service and dedication to the NYFC program.

NMS Project 351 Ambassador:

Mr. Ronnie Goldstein reported to the Committee that Project 351's mission for this year is Embrace... Hope, Unity, and Love. He acknowledged this year's NMS Ambassador, Vanessa Lee. She presented to the Committee her experience on Launch Day. For the Annual Spring Service, they will host a fundraiser and collect clothes from each school to be donated to "Cradles for Crayons." The fundraiser will kick off the weeks of March 20th and 27th. Dr. Baeta and the Committee congratulated Vanessa and presented her with a certificate.

Therapy Canines Civics Project Presentation:

NHS 10th Grade student, Maya O'Connell, provided the Committee with information about her civics project for approval to bring in therapy dogs. She has been collaborating with Adrienne Musto, a certified member of the BONES therapy dog of Massachusetts team. Also present was therapy dog Molson. Together, their goal is to provide social and emotional support needs to

students. Dr. Baeta and the Committee presented her with a certificate. The first reading of a Therapy Dog policy will be on the agenda for the March 23rd School Committee meeting.

STEAM Showcase and Prospective Advanced Manufacturing Pathways at NHS:

Ms. Kerri Murphy, NHS Teacher, addressed the Committee about the upcoming STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) Showcase. The Norton STEAM Showcase is a community STEAM event showcasing student work and Norton businesses and connecting NPS students with organizations in STEAM. The event is to be held March 21, 2023 at NHS.

Ms. Murphy also discussed a new program being implemented at NHS, Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Pathways, with the goal of meeting labor demands of Bristol County and preparing students for careers in manufacturing, from machines to design engineers. She explained all can participate and why this program is being added at NHS.

Public Hearing and Vote on FY 2024 School Budget:

In accordance with the Town Charter, the Notice of this Public Hearing has been published in the Sun Chronicle.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Open the Public Hearing on the FY'24 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

ROLL CALL VOTE: Dan Sheedy-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Deniz Savas-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Nick Schleicher-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

Dr. Baeta presented a slide presentation with the recommended FY'24 school budget. He reviewed topics such as school enrollments, staffing, NESDEC Reports, grants, effects of the State Budget, and net school spending formula. Dr. Baeta recommended a 9.10% increase, for a total budget of \$36,364,830. This information is provided on the Norton School Website.

The public participated in a question and answer session.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Close the Public Hearing on the FY'24 School Budget

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Nick Schleicher-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Denis Savas-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve the FY'24 School Budget in the amount of \$36,364,830 as recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Gallagher

ROLL CALL VOTE: Nick Schleicher-yes; Carolyn Gallagher-yes; Denis Savas-yes; Sheri Cohen-yes; Dan Sheedy-yes 5-0 Motion Carries

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of February 9, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 4-0-1 abstain Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of March 2, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Gallagher

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

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

School Expense Warrants:

- February 9, 2023 \$ 987,610.56
- February 22, 2023 \$ 298,709.83
- March 2, 2023 \$ 217,386.57

School Payroll Warrants:

- February 9, 2023 \$1,115,810.54
- February 23, 2023 \$1,162,387.08

Student Representative Update:

Malia Savas and Antonio Romano updated the Committee on school happenings as follows:

JCS: An Afro Brazilian Ensemble will be held tomorrow (Friday) who will be showing PK-3 students the art of Capoeira which is a combination of dance and martial arts.

All are welcome to the unveiling of the new ocean-themed mural in the JCS lobby on Thursday, March 16th at 5:30 p.m. Thank to Jess Tracey, a core team of staff and parent volunteers, including Wade Lizotte, and NEED for all their efforts.

LGN/JCS: Will be hosting a visit from author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds on Tuesday, March 14th. He will be sharing a book he illustrated for Marc Colagiovanni. Staff, students and faculty are excited to see and talk with one of their favorite authors.

HAY: The first annual HAY PTO Trivia Night will be on Friday, March 9th. They had author visits over the past two weeks. They continue to get closer for the new playground to be installed in the Spring.

NHS: 32 Students left today for Boston to attend the State DECA competition. Several members of the Best Buddies participated in the Polar Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics. Best Buddies worked with the NHS Step Program and organized a "Prom Closet" with used dresses and suit jackets. Best Buddies will recognize World Down Syndrome Day with "Rock your Socks" event on March 21st. Math Pi Day is scheduled for March 14th. National Honor Society Bike-A-Thon will be on April 5th.

First Reading – Secondary Students Freedom of Expression:

The Committee was provided documentation regarding the new state regulation, MGL S82 October 24, 2022, Secondary Students Freedom of Expression Policy, and the current policy IMB-Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers. Chairperson Dan Sheedy clarified the IMB documentation was provided for informational purposes only, was not an agenda item, and no discussion on this policy would be heard.

For the record, Dr. Baeta read allowed the state regulation included in the proposed Secondary Students Freedom of Expression Policy. Dr. Baeta also provided the Committee with recommendations to be added to the state policy regarding issues of communication. The Committee discussed and included additional recommendations regarding the policy.

The public participated in a question and answer session.

A Second reading, with recommendations, will be an agenda item at another meeting.

Other Business:

- Tuesday, March 14th at 7:00 p.m., NMS Library – Joint meeting with Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee regarding TRANE

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Sheri Cohen to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5-0 Motion Carries

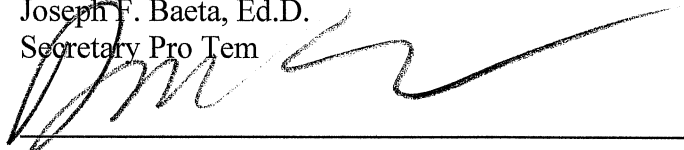
The Open Session meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m., at the NMS Library

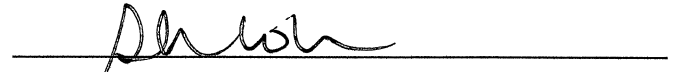
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- Information regarding Norton STEM Showcase
- FY 2024 School Budget
- Secondary Students Freedom of Expression Policy
- IBM-Teaching About Controversial Issues/Controversial Speakers (informational purposes only)

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



Dan Sheedy, Chairperson



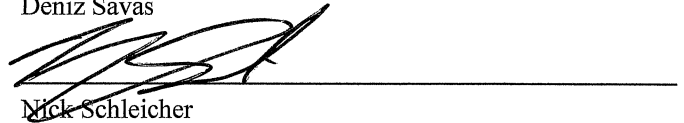
Sheri Cohen, Vice-Chairperson



Carolyn Gallagher



Deniz Savas



Nick Schleicher

dmk