

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Norton, Massachusetts

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2023 JUN 15 PM 12:10

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 25, 2023

Location: H. A. Yelle Elementary School Library

Present: Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Vice Chairperson Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Justine Callanan, Mr. Nick Schleicher, and Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield, and Student Representative Antonio Romano.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Introduction of NHS Class of 2023 Salutatorian and Valedictorian:

Dr. Baeta introduced the Norton High School Class of 2023 Salutatorian, Julia Hinckley, followed by Valedictorian, Sandra Fairbairn. Short bios on the students' successes academically and personally were read and certificates were presented. The students were congratulated, and Dr. Baeta thanked the families for choosing Norton High School considering all the available options.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of May 11, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 - 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of May 15, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 - 0 Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that the following School Expense Warrant was reviewed and approved and is to be entered into public record:

- May 11, 2023 \$ 312,905.98

Student Representatives Update:

Antonio Romano updated the Committee on school activities, as follows:

NHS – Senior Class Night and All Night Grad Party; Senior BBQ and sunset movie; Grad walk at schools, Six Flags trip and Graduation. Memorial Day program and Junior / Senior prom at Lakeview Pavilion.

NMS – Drama production of Wizard of Oz; Memorial Day program; MCAS completed for the year; spring field trips including 8th Grade trip to New York City on June 9th.

HAY – Move-Up transitional activities for both grades; 5th Graders to visit NMS and 3rd Graders to visit HAY. Field Day on June 8th and an animal assembly for both grades. 5th Graders to visit the Hall at Patriot Place for STEAM activities. PTO will host a final celebration for 5th Graders to include a DJ, fun activities, pizza and snacks, and yearbook distribution.

Review and Vote on Transportation Timeline and Fees:

This agenda item was tabled.

Review and Vote on School Committee Meeting Dates for 2023-2024 School Year:

A draft meeting schedule was presented to the Committee similar to the current year's schedule with meetings being held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Dr. Baeta noted that the budget meeting this year was held during a regular meeting but stated that it was worth having the scheduled Saturday morning meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding holding meetings on Thursday evenings or if another night is better.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the School Committee Meeting Dates for 2023-2024 School Year as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

5 – 0 Motion Carries

FY24 Budget Vote:

Dr. Baeta shared a document outlining targeted areas to reduce budget by \$1,658,387 including 4.0 layoffs consisting of 2 teachers and 2 other staff members. Cuts are being made to expenses, technology, curriculum, consultants, contract services. Vacated positions due to retirements and resignations are not being backfilled. Potential of additional Chapter 70 money available in the fall. Reorganization at NMS and HAY with staff being bumped or involuntarily transferred. Looking at Grade 8 numbers, this year we had the least amount of students leaving Norton, despite chatter on social media; these numbers are reflective of the work being done. Biggest savings is a \$150K math program grant with the possibility of more money coming.

Dr. O'Neill stated that with the \$150K we will have received \$275K for curriculum: K-5 Math, 6-8 Math, and 6-8 ELA.

Dr. Baeta gave kudos to the Committee regarding improving salaries for hourly employees, making these hard to fill positions more competitive.

Dr. Baeta stated that the goal of this budget was to give the new administration and the School Committee flexibility should further changes happen over the summer. Difficult conversations regarding space will need to take place in the future. Redistricting is a powerful word.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to accept FY24 Budget in the amount of \$34,706,443.

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

5 – 0 Motion Carries

Other:

Mrs. Callanan updated the Committee on upcoming SEPAC activities as follows:

- Last meeting of the school year being held on June 5th
- Therapeutic horseback riding event on June 11th
- Two summer fitness programs for grades PreK – Grade 1 and Grades 2 and up
- Gnome surfing trip at the end of the summer for 40 students
- SEPAC organization is here for the families of Norton to provide support while navigating the IEP process and journey and promote and support an innovative educational environment where children with disabilities have equal access to educational opportunities and a school and community environment where all children are encouraged to reach their full potential.

The Assistant Superintendent posting closes on May 26th and there are 49 applicants. Mrs. Winsper and Mr. Cerce created a rubric for ranking applicants. A list of those being contacted for an interview will be finalized on Friday, May 26.

Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Adjourn

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

5 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.


Next Meeting Date: Thursday, June 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the NMS Library

Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

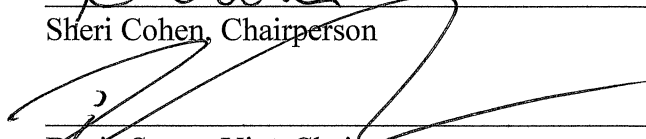
- School Committee Draft Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024
- List of cuts to reach \$34,706,443 FY24 budget

Respectfully Submitted,

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



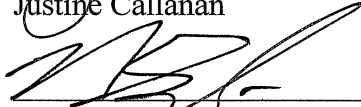
Sheri Cohen, Chairperson



Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairperson



Justine Callanan



Nick Schleicher



Dan Sheedy