

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

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NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, September 14, 2023

***Location:*** Henri A. Yelle Library

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

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

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

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Vote to Approve Minutes of June 8, 2023 and June 12, 2023 Open Session Meeting:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of June 8, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of June 12, 2023 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 – 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 the public record:

**School Expense Warrant:**

June 8, 2023	\$ 634,962.69
June 21, 2023	\$ 392,488.72
July, 19, 2023	\$ 784,002.96
August 2, 2023	\$ 144,915.40
August 16, 2023	\$ 386,359.09
August 30, 2023	\$ 265,079.46

**School Payroll Warrant:**

June 15, 2023	\$ 5,886,034.45
June 29, 2023	\$ 221,875.03
June 30, 2023	\$ 27,522.62
July 13, 2023	\$ 139,639.74

July 27, 2023	\$ 242,039.84
August 10, 2023	\$ 240,331.16
August 24, 2023	\$ 226,369.80

***Student Representative Update:***

Nothing to report at this time due to the Senior Cruise and other commitments of the Student Representatives.

***Opening School Remarks – Principal Martin Geoghegan:***

Principal Geoghegan presented to the Committee a slide show showing the students during their first few weeks at school engaging in learning, activities, and events such as the Good News Call of the Day to a parent acknowledging their child had been nominated because of an act of kindness they performed. He thanked the tremendous staff for a wonderful job they did getting ready for the school year. During the year, he will update parents and the community with newsletters, Twitter, and #HAYNation. It was a good school opening.

***Introduction of Dr. Bella Wong-Interim Superintendent, Natick Public Schools, Superintendent Mentor –Dr. Jennifer O’Neill:***

Dr. O’Neill introduced Dr. Bella Wong to the Committee as her wonderful mentor for the 2023-2024 school year and thanked her for coming. Dr. Wong thanked the Committee for welcoming her to the meeting and how it has been a privilege to be working with Dr. O’Neill. She explained the New Superintendent Induction Program and the benefits of this cohort with 22 new Superintendents this year. Dr. Wong discussed with the Committee some support issues of this program relating to monthly scheduled meetings, leadership skills, observations in the schools, and explained she is also in training as a new coach.

***Superintendent Entry Plan – Dr. Jennifer O’Neill:***

Dr. O’Neill presented to the Committee a power point and discussed her entry plan phases.

- Phase 1: Listen and Learn (July 2023 – December 2023)
- Phase 2: Data Analysis and Reflection (January 2024 – February 2024)
- Phase 3: Next Steps and Action Planning (March 2024 – June 2024)

She explained how each phase will focus on the existing mission and vision of Norton Public Schools by examining three critical areas: Students’ Experience; Engagement of the School Community; and Organizational Capacity of NPS. She will publish this plan in the bi-weekly newsletter and will share with staff. She will follow-up with the Committee to keep them advised.

Dr. O’Neill advised the Committee that she has met with Town Officials and is looking forward to working together to do what is best for all departments of the community.

***Review and Vote on Capital Improvement Plan Article – Mr. Kristine Hadfield:***

Mrs. Hadfield provided the Committee with the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Fall Town Meeting. She reviewed the need of the improvements on the presented plan. The

Committee discussed the items on the improvement plan and order of importance. It was recommended obtaining the Town's Five Year Plan to compare where the school's plan may be best accommodated. Discussion also clarified that the High School Parking Revolving Account can only be utilized at the high school facility. The Committee would like to review the three quotes received for a project to determine which vendor will provide the service and also to include more information in the notes if additional labor, working hours or other accommodations may be required.

The Capital Improvements Committee is meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup> and the Town Meeting is October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Due to the time frame, it was decided the Committee could still vote on the proposed plan with amounts and vendors subject to change.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve the Proposed Five Year Capital Plan as presented, subject to change.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Town Meeting Warrants – Mrs. Kristine Hadfield:*** No requests at this time.

***Other Business:***

- The Extended Stay has four students enrolling at this time. Dr. O'Neill has met with the Town Migrant Task Force and funds of \$1,000 for each student will be granted for any immediate need of the student, and \$104 per student/per day will be granted. If the student is enrolled for the full year, that is a potential of approximately \$18,000 per student.
- Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting is a joint meeting with Finance Committee. The Committee recommended inviting the Select Board.
- Mrs. Justine Callanan updated the Committee regarding SEPAC. The first meeting was held on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, and all meetings going forward will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:00 p.m., in the high school auditorium. The SEPAC is looking to expand and gain more members and community involvement. SEPAC contacts are: [sepacnorton@gmail.com](mailto:sepacnorton@gmail.com) and <https://www.nortonsepac.com>. Check out their newsletter for more updates.
- Due to the weather conditions and rain, it was noted minimal leak damage was in the LGN and JCS.
- Questions regarding hosting virtual meetings were addressed. Clarification will be needed regarding the regulations for hosting virtual meeting, i.e., microphones, audience participation, and interpreter for deaf and hard hearing members. Discussion included possibly hosting meetings at the Norton Media Center.
- The busses are being parked at the HAY and MS due to increased activities and limited parking spaces.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., in the NHS Library

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

- Superintendent's Entry Plan
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer O'Neill, Ed.D.  
Secretary Pro Tem

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Sheri Cohen, Chairperson

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Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman

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Nick Schleicher

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Dan Sheedy

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Justine Callanan

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