

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2024 MAR -1 AM 9:15

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, February 8, 2024

***Location:*** Norton Middle School Library

***Present:*** Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Vice Chairperson Mr. Deniz Savas, Mrs. Justine Callanan, Mr. Dan Sheedy, and Mr. Nick Schleicher ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Vincent Cerce, School Business Administrator Kristine Hadfield and Student Representatives Antonio Romano and Gabriela Kenaan

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

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

***Pledge of Allegiance***

***Vote to Approve Minutes of January 25, 2024 Open Session Meeting:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve Minutes of January 25, 2024 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

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

School Expense Warrant:

January 25, 2024 \$ 362,797.57

February 6, 2024 \$ 467,674.41

School Payroll Warrant:

January 25, 2024 \$1,179,103.33

***Student Representative Update:***

NMS - Both basketball teams finished their regular season play. While we are proud of both teams, congratulations to the girl's team who won the Massasoit League Title by finishing with the league's best record.

A guest speaker, Ivy Watts, came and spoke with all of the students about the importance of resiliency, self-care and overall mental health. She was well-received and gave the students

numerous tips and tricks they could implement in their own lives to assist with issues that they may be having.

Following on the heels of the 100th Day and in anticipation of February break, NMS is set to host Spirit Week next week. Students voted on the themes for the week and decided upon the following themes: Monday 2/12 Pajama Day; Tuesday 2/13 Twin Day; Wednesday 2/14 Country vs. Country Club; Thursday 2/15 Adam Sandler Day; Friday 2/16 Freaky Friday (teachers dress like students and students dress like teachers)

**HAY** - Last week they finished up their two-week HAY PTO Boosterthon Glow Fun Run fundraiser. The culmination of the Boosterthon is the Glow Fun Run in the gym, where the gym is darkened and the kids have an absolute blast and best time with their friends while running their 35 laps around the gym with strobe lights and different color lights. They were able to raise over \$21,000 with the unbelievable generous support and help of our #HAY Nation Community. The funds will be used to continue to pay off the new playground built last year. Because the kids were able to raise above our \$20K goal, Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. Bielawa will be slimed later in the spring. The individual classes earned multiple incentives such as PJ day, extra tech time, board games and more, for meeting class goals.

**JCS** – Everyone has been enjoying Artist in Residence, Josh Winer, for the last few weeks. The mosaic is almost done. The School Committee will be receiving an invitation to the unveiling in early March.

They have been celebrating the 100th day and the 101st day this week with all kinds of math, writing, science, and community activities. Look for the JCS 100th Day Photo Booth online at some point.

The JCS SPO is partnering with the Norton Outdoor Center to have an event on Valentine's Day called "A Starry Night." Volunteers from Wheaton are coming out that evening to show families the night sky through telescopes, while kids get to enjoy hot chocolate and a special family night in the outdoors.

**NHS** - It was Norton Night at the Boston Celtics game last night. Wellness and PE teacher Nicole Nunes was recognized as a Hero Among Us by Special Olympics of Massachusetts for her tireless work for inclusion. Norton Unified Basketball was selected to attend the game and played a scrimmage at halftime. Almost every player on the team was able to hit a shot during the scrimmage. Before the halftime, the unified players got to be on the floor during the Celtics shoot around and were able to meet a couple of players. Special thanks to Coaches Aaron Roy and Dan McDonough for applying for the program and for organizing the trip. Thanks to the 50 staff, students and families who came to support the team.

The Committee thanked everyone involved and expressed how great it was to see on social media. It was nice to have Mrs. Nunes and the coaches recognized.

***Review and Discuss Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan:***

Mr. Vincent Cerce, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, provided the Committee with an updated Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan. The bullying plan is up to date with DESE but needs some updates on the programs we utilize. Administration and other members are working on the process and procedures. The Bullying Prevention Plan and forms, as well as a

Critical Incident/Threat form is on the school website. He explained some of the different programs and organizations, like the Superintendent's Student Advisory Group, that are working with the Children's Hospital, utilizing the Thread Assessment Grant with other resources to meet the DESE bullying requirements and procedures, and how to get information out to students and families.

***Review and/or Vote on Spring Town Meeting Warrant Article Regarding Sidewalks at LGN:***

Mrs. Kristine Hadfield, School Business Administrator, provided the Committee with a Safe Routes to School Walk Assessment Program with existing conditions, findings and recommendations in relation to the lack of sidewalks at the LGN school. The Norton Traffic Safety Committee has reviewed the Safe Route to School Assessment Program. Mrs. Hadfield has been the district representative and has been working with the town Traffic Safety Committee for over a year. It was noted there is a potential for a grant to assist with the sidewalk project, however, in order to apply for the grant, the next step is the town would need to hire an engineering firm to engineer, design and lay out the proposed sidewalks. The new bike path enhances the potential of being awarded the grant. It was noted this project is not state mandated. At this time, it is recommended by administration to approve the warrant article to hire an engineer as a place holder due to the timeframe needed by the town to place it on the agenda. Since it is a place holder at this time, more financial information will be provided at a later date.

The Committee discussed issues regarding the town's reaction at this time for this project during the budget situation being presented. The Committee clarified this is not a school based project. The Committee emphasized the Traffic Safety Committee and highway department have been involved and the school has a partnership with these organizations for this project. A recommendation to include Wheaton in this partnership could be beneficial.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Spring Town Meeting Warrant Article Regarding Sidewalks at LGN as a place holder at this time

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

***First Reading Athletic Complex Rental Policy:***

Mrs. Kristine Hadfield presented the Committee with a Norton Athletic Complex: Turf Field Rentals policy. The administration, the Committee, and Mr. Wade Lizotte, Director of Facilities, discussed issues and topics relating to: utilizing due dates versus the presented 60-day request for the use of the facility; possibly initiating contracts and pre-payment from private organizations requesting the use of the facility, especially for a large 3-day tournament which generates revenue; cancellation fees; the priority order for use by the community youth programs; the original presentation of usage to the community and the revenue it would generate to assist in maintaining the fields; and how current open communication with organizations regarding scheduling is provided.

The Committee was unanimous in adding a policy that there is to be no sub-leasing from any of the organizations.

At this time, it was determined to table the agenda item to include Tim LaConte, current facilities coordinator, Aaron Sumner, Athletic Director, or other personnel who may have input and discussion regarding this topic.

***Second Reading and Vote on Surplus Items Policy Revisions:***

The Committee was provided with a Fiscal Management Disposition of Surplus Items-DN policy with revisions from the January 11, 2024 meeting. Dr. O'Neill advised the Committee no other town department has a policy and they follow The MA General Law-Part I, Title III, Chapter 30B, Section 15, which was also provided to the Committee.

MOTION: by Mr. Schleicher to Approve Surplus Items Policy as presented

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Other Business:*** None at this time

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting and Enter into Executive Session and not to return to Open Session

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

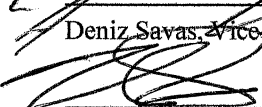
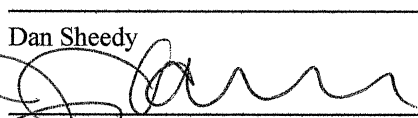
***Next Meeting Date:***

- School Committee Meeting Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the NMS Auditorium
- School Committee Meeting Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., NMS Library

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

- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
- Safe Routes to School Walk Assessment
- Norton Athletic Complex: Turf Field Rentals
- Fiscal Management: Disposition of Surplus Items-DN
- MA General Law-Part I, Title III, Chapter 30B, Section 15

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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