

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts  
NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED  
NORTON TOWN CLERK  
2024 APR 26 AM 9:18

***Date of School Committee Meeting:*** Thursday, April 11, 2024

***Location:*** H. A. Yelle Elementary School Gymnasium

***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 Dr. Jennifer O'Neill, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Dr. Brian Ackerman, and School Business Administrator Mrs. Kristine Hadfield

***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 by Norton Media and Norton Public Schools and asked if anyone was recording to let the Committee know.

***Vote to Approve Minutes of March 28, 2024 Open and Executive Session Meetings:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Minutes of March 28, 2024 Open Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 4 - 0 Motion Carries

MOTION: by Mr. Sheedy to Approve Minutes of March 28, 2024 Executive Session Meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 4 - 0 Motion Carries

***Warrants:***

Mrs. Cohen 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:

March 28, 2024                      \$ 360,099.94

School Payroll Warrant:

February 8, 2024                      \$1,162,666.31

***Student Representatives Update:***

Gabriela Kenaan and Antonio Romano shared updates with the Committee on school activities as follows:

**LGN** – Students are looking forward to Music Bingo being hosted at the Yelle by the LGN and HAY PTCs on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. It should be a great family event to kick off vacation week. Third graders are busy preparing for their Expert Fair on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. They have been researching all sorts of interesting topics, and people and are ready to put their knowledge on display.

**HAY** – Faculty vs. students basketball games took place this week for 4th Grade and 5th Grade. Friday night, April 12<sup>th</sup> is the Music Bingo event being hosted by the HAY PTO in connection with the LGN PTC. There will be prizes, concessions, music, and family fun. After the break, Mr. Geoghegan and Mr. Bielawa will be slimed for the students meeting a Boosterthon goal.

**JCS** - Families came out last night to celebrate the Specialists Night of the Arts. Students danced choreographed sets with Ms. Reardon; walked the art gallery set up by Ms. Sala; made bookmarks in the library with Ms. Durmis; did a STEM challenge with Mrs. Andrade; and sang out front with Mr. Place. Many thanks to the specialists and the other JCS staff who supported the very successful event. Additionally, all the JCS students ran the Fun Run today, celebrating a very successful fundraiser geared toward improving the playground and its offerings. The JCS is excited to be bringing back J. C. Solmonese Day, which celebrates the history and the future of the school. This will include a history assembly with invited alumni staff and students, sea turtle games throughout the day, and a culminating volleyball game with kids vs. teachers.

**NMS** - Baseball and softball home games began today. Students have enjoyed being able to eat outside on the new picnic tables that were bought by the NMS parent board. The board will also sponsor the "Best Day Ever" event for all students - a giant field day with music, Kona Ice and seven giant inflatables on the front lawn. Other highlights include trips to Six Flags, New York City, and the NMS Drama production of *Wonka*.

**NHS** - NHS Drama put on three performances of *High School Musical* last weekend. Tickets were on sale the past two weeks for the Prom which will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Juniors and Seniors will attend the annual Opportunity Fair on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> with over 30 local businesses and organizations to provide students with ideas about future opportunities. Approximately 25 students are currently in Thailand. Following the break AP students will be getting ready for exams. NHS Chorus and band are preparing to perform at the Heritage Music Festival in NYC.

Dr. O'Neill commended NHS Drama for their production of *High School Musical* and recognized Gabby and Antonio for their roles in the performance.

***Acknowledgement and Vote to Accept Cash Donation(s):***

Dr. O'Neill informed the Committee that a \$425.00 donation had been received from Ron's Transmission Services with the funds targeted for transportation costs for travel to the Trinity Repertory Theater in Providence. NHS ELA and Drama students will be participating in this opportunity. The Committee thanked the community member for the donation.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Accept the Cash Donation from Ron's Transmission Services

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 – 0 Motion Carries

***Superintendent Entry Plan Findings:***

Dr. O'Neill provided the Committee with a summary of her entry plan findings. This comprehensive process was presented in the fall and consisted of three phases. During each phase, three critical areas were examined: student experience, school community engagement, and organizational capacity. Dr. O'Neill detailed strengths and opportunities in each of these areas, referencing survey responses and student data. She followed with overall strengths, challenges, and next steps for the district.

The Committee thanked Dr. O'Neill for her thorough report and inquired about survey comments. Dr. O'Neill's report will be posted on the website with links included to full survey results. The Committee thanked Dr. O'Neill and the School Department for their detail and transparency in communication this year and discussed the Media coordinator position that was eliminated in the FY24 budget. Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to collect additional information regarding some of the challenges or negative survey responses and the need to focus on all students and not just sub-groups.

***Other Business:***

Dr. Ackerman provided the Committee with revised quotes for the Houghton Mifflin *Into Reading* program originally presented for adoption at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. At that meeting it was noted that the Committee supported this recommendation but tabled the vote due to budget concerns. The quotes, received today from the vendor, offer three different cost scenarios at significant savings. Dr. Ackerman reviewed a five-year proposal, a three-year proposal, and a one-year proposal. The Committee engaged in discussion regarding the quotes. Mrs. Hadfield reviewed possible funding solutions to support financing this purchase. Program adoption will be added to the next agenda for a vote by the Committee.

The 20th annual It Takes a Community Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game will be held Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the NHS gym featuring teachers vs. police with some high school students also playing. Tickets are available for sale, and the proceeds benefit Norton families dealing with a loss or serious illness.

***Adjourn:***

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to adjourn meeting

SECOND: by Mr. Schleicher

VOTE: 5 - 0 Motion Carries

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

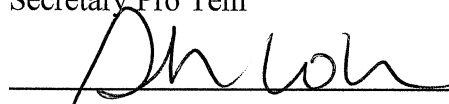
***Next Meeting:***

- Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., in the NMS Library

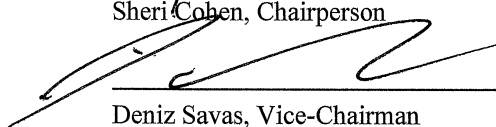
***Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:***

- NPS Entry Plan Findings
- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Into Reading Revised 5/3/1 Year Quotes

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



Sheri Cohen, Chairperson



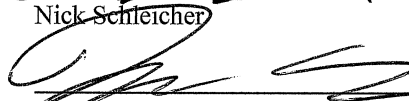
Deniz Savas, Vice-Chairman



Justine Callanan



Nick Schleicher



Dan Sheedy

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