

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

RECEIVED
NORTON TOWN CLERK
2019 SEP 20 A 10:33

Date of School Committee Meeting: Thursday, June 13, 2019

Location: Norton High School Library

Present: Committee Members: Vice-Chairman Carolyn Gallagher, Mrs. Sheri Cohen, Mr. Deniz Savas, and Mr. Dan Sheedy. ***Also present:*** Superintendent of Schools Joseph F. Baeta, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning Jennifer O'Neill, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Jeanne Sullivan, School Business Administrator Matthew Wells, Director of Technology Karen Winsper, Student Representative Cooper Smith. ***Absent:*** Chairman Kathleen Stern

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the meeting was being video recorded by Norton Cable Access for public record and asked if anyone else was recording the meeting.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Vote to Approve Minutes of May 30, 2019 Open Meeting:

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Open Meeting

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve Minutes of May 30, 2019 Joint Meeting with Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen:

Mr. Savas noted on page 2 of the Minutes should read The Finance Committee had a motion and a 2nd to reconsider Article I at Town Meeting on June 3, 2019. The Minutes read ...to **not** reconsider.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Joint Meeting with Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen as written with one amendment.

SECOND: by Mrs. Cohen

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Warrants:

Mrs. Cohen reported that she reviewed and approved the following warrant, to be entered into the public record:

- May 30, 2019 \$147,580.45

Student Representative Update:

Cooper Smith was present at the meeting. He updated the Committee on the following happenings at the schools:

LGN:

- Custodian Tom Araujo retired and the NMS Rubik's Club made a mosaic of him out of 600 cubes
- Last day of school is Friday, June 14th

JCS:

- Held Expert Fair on Thursday, June 6th
- 3rd Grade Field Day and BBQ held Friday, June 7th
- Last day of school is Friday, June 14th

HAY:

- 5th Graders had a dance last Friday
- Field Day was on Tuesday, June 12th
- Last day of school is Friday, June 14th

NMS:

- 8th Grade Luau is Thursday, June 13th
- Last day of school is Friday, June 14th
- NMS drama club presented Peter Pan

NHS:

- Senior Class Night held on June 4th
- Graduation was on June 7th
- Fall Sports meeting was held last Tuesday
- Finals this week
- Last day of school at NHS on Thursday, June 13th

Cooper and Caroline were thanked for their service as School Committee reps for the year. It was noted that Cooper was voted as Student Council President, National Honor Society President, and Vice president of the History Honor Society for the 2019-2020 school year.

Recognition of LGN Students for Being “Green Team” Winners – Ms. Nancy Grant

Mrs. Grant and three of her Grade 1 students were present at the meeting for being recognized by the Department of Environmental Protection for being “Green Team” winners for the actions they have taken to increase environmental awareness in their school and community. Students learned about being safe and reusing things. They made solar ovens and cooked English muffin pizzas. This was a year-long project and students decided what materials to use. All ovens reached temperatures over 120 degrees.

One of the students present was also the winner of Curiosity Challenge for Memory Book and attended the award ceremony at MIT.

Recognition of Mr. David Denham for Conducting SAT Practice Workshops – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta introduced Mr. Denham and recognized him for conducting SAT practice workshops for NHS students from October to May. He taught students how to improve scores and other useful tips. Cooper Smith noted that he took a few sessions and that they were very helpful.

Recognition from Cystic Fibrosis Foundation – Dr. Baeta:

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation presented the Norton Public Schools with a plaque for raising more than \$25,000 on behalf of one of our students. Dr. Baeta thanked LGN teacher, Ms. Jen Carlson and the Leo family for spearheading the effort.

Update on Looping at HAY – Mr. Martin Geoghegan:

Mr. Geoghegan updated the Committee on his intention to halt the practice of looping at HAY after 2nd year of piloting the practice and after much discussion with teachers, students and parents. There have been positives academically but not on the SEL side. Comparing September to end of the year student comments, students felt they were trapped with same students and couldn't meet others. Positive behavior incentives for other students is to be able to sit where they want at lunch. The looping classes stay amongst themselves, with less opportunity to make new friends.

Mrs. Cohen suggested having NHS students come over to HAY to spend time with the 4th and 5th grade students, like a buddy program. Mr. Savas noted that he felt that we were pulling the ripcord too early and that it boils down to exposure with other kids. He didn't feel the decision was supported by the data. Dr. Baeta noted that we are creating a “clique” of kids who were fixed to a classroom and feels they should be treated like true elementary school students. He noted that we would continue to have conversations on this issue.

Vote to Approve NHS Global Certificate Independent Study Course – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta presented information on the proposed Global Certificate Independent Study 1-credit pass/fail course for approval by the Committee.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Global Certificate Independent Study Course

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve NHS Handbook Changes – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on two recommended changes to the NHS Handbook for 2019-2020 regarding language updates for the Nathaniel Hawthorne Chapter of the English Honor Society as well as the French/Spanish Honor Societies.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Changes to NHS Handbook as Recommended

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Vote to Approve NMS Handbook Changes – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta updated the Committee on recommended changes to the NMS Handbook for 2019-2020. Language regarding Bus Passes is being amended; a policy regarding Aerosols is to be added; Smoking policy is being updated; Course Offerings is being updated; Additions are being made to Code of Conduct. It was noted that in the places that it reads aerosols it should read aerosol "sprays". Appropriate and Responsible use of Electronic Devices should read Appropriate and Responsible use of Personal or Non-School Electronic Devices. Also need to clear up some duplicate words in Course Offerings section.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Approve Changes to NMS Handbook as Recommended with changes previously mentioned

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

NTA Donation to It Takes a Community Organization – Ms. Shannon Taylor:

Ms. Taylor, President of the Norton Teachers' Association, presented a check in in the amount of \$300 to the It Takes a Community organization from donations received at the recent JCS Community Night. There were 76 participants at the event. In honor of the 300th anniversary of public education in Norton, for a \$10 donation staff members could dress down with proceeds going to the Norton Historical Society. \$1,120 was donated to the organization.

Window Project Update:

Don Velozo, Project Manager and Jeff Seyeze from ACG provided an update via a Powerpoint presentation regarding the window project:

LGN:

- Started May 13th
- Work being done at night
- Non-friable asbestos being removed conforming with DEP and OSHA standards
- Constantly filtering/testing air
- Schedule showed slight delay getting ventable windows
- Should finish before school starts

JCS:

- Work started this week
- Schedule shared
- Shade issues may hold up finish date

HAY:

- No delivery date for windows
- Impact: some windows will not be done at start of school

Vote to Appoint Superintendent to Board of Directors of Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. (PCC):

As required, all Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. Board members need to be appointed annually to the Board of Directors by the School Committee. The following specific language should be read and entered into the Minutes:

Pursuant to Chapter 40, Section 4E, as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012, members of the Board of Directors of Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc. are to be appointed annually.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to Appoint Joseph Baeta to serve as the Norton Public Schools Representative on the Board of Directors of Project Contemporary Competitiveness, Inc., in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E as amended by Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2012 for the 2019/2020 school year.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Vote on Adhoc Committee Membership:

Dr. Baeta noted that there is an understanding that the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee and School Committee would meet on a regular basis. Two School Committee members need to be voted in to be on the Adhoc Committee. Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Gallagher volunteered.

MOTION: by Mr. Savas to appoint Mrs. Cohen and Mrs. Gallagher to the Adhoc Committee

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

Homework Committee Update – Mrs. Jennifer O’Neill:

Mrs. O’Neill presented the Homework Review Committee Draft Vision. It was noted that there are strong opinions on the topic. This document is the first pass of the guidelines and we will come back and talk about it again in the fall. Consistency and communication between teachers is needed. Members on the committee were thanked.

Inforce Technologies System Update – Dr. Baeta:

Dr. Baeta discussed getting the app for all five schools which would be placed on all computers for direct access to 911.

Vote to Approve FY2020 School Meals Price Increase – Mr. Matthew Wells:

Mr. Wells noted that the price increase was mandated by USDA. Discussion ensued regarding how the USDA arrives at pricing of paid meals.

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen to Approve FY2020 School Meals Price Increase

SECOND: by Mr. Sheedy

VOTE: 3 yes 1 oppose Motion Carries

Other:

- Overview and Findings of The Education Alliance Report for NPS/NHS. Dr. Baeta noted the key points as noted in his memo to the School Committee dated June 6, 2019.
- School Start Time Committee – Mrs. Gallagher volunteered to be on the committee.
- Rt. 123 Roadwork: sewer line along Rt. 123 from Wheaton up to Housing Authority/Speedway starting July 8th. Day work causing significant traffic issues.
- Relay for Life being held at NHS track starting on June 14th.
- Dr. Baeta wished families and staff a wonderful summer.

Motion to Adjourn:

MOTION: by Mrs. Cohen

SECOND: by Mr. Savas

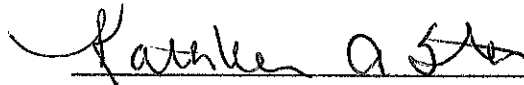
VOTE: 4 yes Motion Carries

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

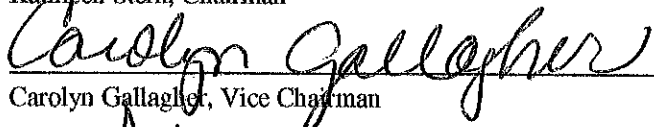
Documents and Other Exhibits Used at Meeting:

- School Expenses Summary sheet for 5/30/19
- Letter from DEP to Ms. Nancy Grant / Certificate of Recognition
- Letter to Dr. Baeta from Principal Geoghegan regarding looping at HAY
- Information sheet on Global Certificate Independent Study
- Information on NHS Handbook Changes
- Information on NMS Handbook Changes
- Homework Review Committee Draft Vision document
- FY20 School Meals Price Increase memo to Dr. Baeta from Matthew Wells
- Memo to School Committee from Dr. Baeta regarding An Overview and Findings of The Educational Alliance Report for NPS/NHS
- Memo to School Committee/PreK-12 Faculty and Staff regarding School Start Time Committee

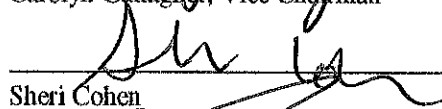
Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph F. Baeta, Ed.D.
Secretary Pro Tem



Kathleen Stern, Chairman



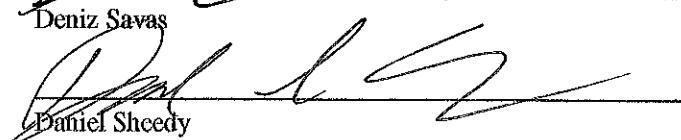
Carolyn Gallagher, Vice Chairman



Sheri Cohen



Deniz Savas



Daniel Sheedy

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Next Meeting Date: Thursday, September 19, 2019