

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

MEETING NOTES

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS
FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
DATE: June 6, 2006

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, June 5, 2006

Location: Library, Norton Middle School

Attending:

Committee Members: Mrs. Donna Gradie, Chairperson, Mr. Kevin O'Neil, Vice Chairman,
Mr. Jonathan O'Reilly, Mr. Thomas Golota and Mrs. Margaret Werner

Guests: Irene Stanovitch, Food Service Director
Mr. Roger Parent, Principal, Norton Middle School
Mrs. Lisa Farrell, Principal, H.A. Yelle School
Mrs. Mary Brown, Principal, J. C. Solmonese School
Mrs. Linda Ashley, Principal, L.G. Nourse School

Call to Order:

Chairperson Gradie called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

A motion was made by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Golota, to approve the Minutes of the prior meeting held on May 15, 2006. On a 4-0 vote, the committee voted to approve these Minutes. Mr. O'Reilly abstaining from the vote due to his absence at this meeting.

Breakfast Program:

Mrs. Irene Stanovitch, Food Service Director, was present to give the results of her recent investigation into the feasibility of implementing a voluntary breakfast program at all schools for the coming September. She outlined her proposed program, which would allow students to arrive one-half hour before the start of school. Mrs. Stanovitch explained that initially the cook in charge would operate the entire program for the students. This would include supervision. However, as the program increases in popularity, staff would be needed to accommodate the program at each school.

Mrs. Stanovitch explained that students could be dropped off by parents and would be served cold breakfast in the cafeteria such as cereal, muffins, granola bars, fruit and yogurt. The state and federal guidelines for nutrition would be followed in order for the program to receive reimbursement. She explained that the program would be self-sustaining and the same rates would apply such as free and reduced prices.

Mr. Golota acknowledged that there are definitely students that arrive early so he thought the breakfast program would be a great idea. He asked what kind of cold cereal would be served. Mrs. Stanovitch replied that a healthy cereal would be served. Mr. Golota is concerned about children with wheat allergies, and asked if at least one cereal could be served which is not wheat based. Mrs. Stanovitch concurred and explained that one non wheat-based cereal would be served. Mr. O'Reilly asked if bagels and cream cheese would be served and Mrs. Stanovitch replied in the affirmative. Mr. O'Reilly commented that the more tastier the meal, the more successful the program will be. Mr. Golota asked if the muffins would be peanut free. Mrs. Stanovitch concurred that the muffins served will be peanut free.

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, the Breakfast program was unanimously approved.

Wellness Policy Revision:

This policy was submitted to the committee for the second time. The Norton Public School District is required to adopt a school wellness policy. Mrs. Irene Stanovitch, Food Service Director, was present to answer any questions about the policy and elaborate on the foods and beverages that would be sold. Mr. Golota asked if pretzels would be offered as a low-fat alternative, and Mrs. Stanovitch concurred that pretzels would be sold. Mr. Golota also asked about the fat content of the chicken. Mrs. Stanovitch explained that the lunch program is separate from the Wellness policy. The Wellness policy is only for separate items sold other than lunch.

Mr. Golota said he would like to see us move toward a peanut-free policy for the school district. Mrs. Brown spoke about her dealings with the issue of peanut allergies back in 1999. The children were taught how to deal with their allergies. Mr. O'Neil asked about integrating salad bars, such as at the middle school. Mrs. Stanovitch told the committee that prepackaged salads are now served and the students do seem to like them. Mr. Golota asked if "sugar" drinks would be served and Mrs. Stanovitch explained that "sugar" drinks like *Sunny Delight* would not be served.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the committee unanimously approved the Wellness Policy Revision.

N.E.E.D. Group:

Mrs. Gretchen Stalters was present to provide a wrap-up of the recent Teacher Appreciation fundraiser. They explained that donations of \$5 each were collected to recognize a teacher, and then certificates were given to those teachers. The event raised over \$4,700. The plan now is to start working on a grant for teachers to work on special programs. The long range plan is to get involved with Norton High School alums who may wish to make a donation back to the school department at Reunion time.

Next, Mrs. Angel Doyle discussed the "Ink Fund", which is a fundraiser for the school department, through the purchase of toner and ink cartridges. This is a new company that sells

“on-line” ink cartridges. They are offering us the chance to be benefactors, and they will do all of the advertising for us. All our parents will need to do is go on-line to the Ink Fund to purchase their toner and ink cartridges. This company is located locally in the Myles Standish Industrial Park. Mrs. Doyle said N.E.E.D. lucked out by being selected to be the benefactor, and it seems like a wonderful opportunity for the school department.

Mr. O’Neil asked if we are excused from any liability, and Mrs. Doyle replied in the affirmative. Dr. Ansay concurred, saying that she was with the N.E.E.D. group when they had the presentation from the “Ink Fund” and she did not see any problem with it.

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. O’Reilly, the committee unanimously approved the Norton Public Schools to participate in the “Ink Fund” as a benefactor.

Bid Award Recommendations:

Next, Dr. Ansay explained that bids for electrical, boiler/burner, elevator, fire alarm, burglar alarm, HVAC/pneumatic, pest control, septic system pumping, glass repairs, AC/Refrigeration, and plumbing services were opened on Friday, May 19th. The number of bidders this year was the largest ever seen, due to the advertising in the Central Register. Dr. Ansay presented a list of low bidders to the committee. She explained that the low bidder was determined by assigning a percentage weight to the hourly rate, over-time rate, and the parts mark-up percentage; 80%, 10% and 10% in that order.

For electrical, the low bidder was Bleau Electric; boiler/burner, Johnson Controls; elevator, Associated Elevator; fir alarms, H.E.L.P.; burglar alarm, H.E.L.P; HVAC/pneumatic, Mechanical Air; pest control, Flynn Pest Control; Septic Systems, Soares Sanitation; glass repairs, Strojny Glass; AC/Refrigeration, Johnson Controls; and plumbing, C.P. Rich. Dr. Ansay explained that the references were checked, and she recommended that the committee approve these vendors. She said it was a quality process and she is looking forward to doing business with these individuals. Mr. O’Reilly asked if there are any instances when we will save money when we switch to the new vendor. Dr. Ansay mentioned that she will bring those figures to a future meeting for the committee to review.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. O’Neil, the committee unanimously approved the Bid Award recommendations presented by Dr. Ansay.

School Improvement Plan/Site Council End-Of-Year Reports:

Mr. Parent, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Ashley were present to discuss the accomplishments of their 2005-2006 School Improvement Plans. Mr. Dewar was unable to attend. The principals provided their summaries, and answered questions.

Student Handbook Changes for 2006-2007:

The building principals were present to answer questions about their handbook changes. Dr. Ansay explained that the handbooks have one major change, and that is to provide information for non-custodial parents on how to access student records. Dr. Ansay said she appreciates everyone's work in trying to alignment of the handbooks.

Middle School Schedules:

Next, Mr. Parent presented the proposed schedule for the middle school for the 2006-2007 school year. The primary intent of the schedule change is to meet mandated TIME ON LEARNING requirements set by the state. A discussion ensued, and the committee decided to table the proposed schedule for the middle school for 2006-2007 until the June 19th meeting.

School Committee Appointment to Technology Committee:

On a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously appointed Mr. Golota to serve on the Technology Committee.

Update on Strategic Planning Committee:

Next, Dr. Ansay provided the committee with an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. She discussed the proposed "Core Values" and "Mission Statement" of the Norton Public Schools developed by this committee.

The proposed core values of the Norton Public Schools are as follows:

"We believe in:

- *Creating a safe environment and showing respect and appreciation for individual differences.*
- *An active commitment between family, community, and schools is vital to student learning.*
- *High standards is key to academic excellence and lifelong learning.*
- *Taking responsibility for one's own learning.*
- *Pride in our schools as being essential."*

The proposed new mission statement of the Norton Public Schools reads as follows:

"Guided by our core values, the Norton Public Schools, in an active partnership with the community, provide each student with a quality education, fostering personal development and intellectual growth which prepares each student to contribute and succeed in a global society."

The Strategic Planning Committee is currently working to construct a proposed "Vision Statement". Dr. Ansay explained that Strategic Planning is a very important component to all school districts, so that the district is assured of continuous improvement. She said it is imperative that everyone is working towards the same goals. The articulation and dissemination of these goals to everyone involved is paramount to our success. Dr. Ansay explained that to

date, this inclusive participatory process has been successful and she anticipates the result being a very quality document that will guide us in the important work that we do.

Personnel

Retirements:

- a. Mr. John Atwood, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, effective August 4, 2006, after 31 years of service to the Norton Public Schools, and a former member of the Norton School Committee.
- b. Mrs. Mary Bouchard, JCS Kindergarten Teacher, after 33 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- c. Mr. Barry Mindes, JCS Grade 3 Teacher, after 34 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- d. Mr. Thomas Ruest, NMS Social Studies Teacher, after 34 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- e. Mrs. Barbara Downe Rukstalis, HAY Grade 4 Teacher, after 34 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.

Leave of Absence:

- a. Mrs. Linda Kabat, JCS Grade 1 Teacher, effective for the 2006-2007 school year.
- b. Mrs. Jennifer Wise, JCS/HAY School Psychologist, effective October 26, 2006 through April 20, 2007.

Resignation:

- a. Mrs. Janey Goodwin, NHS Social Studies Teacher, effective May 17, 2006. Mrs. Goodwin was currently on a leave of absence.
- b. Mrs. Kristina Kloman, NHS Guidance Counselor, effective June, 2006.

Appointments:

- a. Mr. Robert McCoy, Jr., NHS Social Studies Teacher, effective September 2006.
- b. Mrs. Susan Salley, Central Office Assistant Secretary, effective May 30, 2006.
- c. Mrs. Judy Lizio, NMS Assistant Secretary, effective May 15, 2006.
- d. Mrs. Ruth Mattson, JCS Assistant Secretary, effective May 30, 2006.
- e. Mr. Robert McCoy, Jr., Varsity Football Coach, effective for the 2006-2007 school year.

Other Business

Dr. Ansay announced that Wheaton College held a "Community Day" on April 30, 2006, and has recently donated funds from this day to the Norton Athletic Complex Committee. Mrs. Gradie commented on the recent Graduation Exercises for Norton High School held on June 2,

2006. Mrs. Gradie said the Class of 2006 is a credit to Norton and a credit to themselves. She commended the graduates, and thought the graduation was outstanding.

Dr. Ansay informed the committee members that she was recommending a Special Town Meeting article be submitted to the School Committee on June 19th, 2006, requesting that the “Field of Dreams” design money be transferred to the “Field of Dreams” construction account.

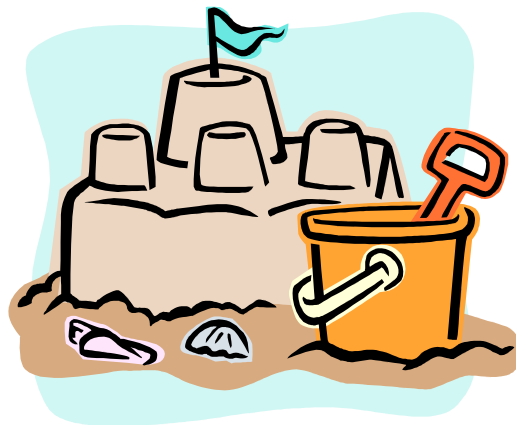
Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. O’Neil, seconded by Mr. Golota, on a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, June 19, 2006, 6:30 P.M., Norton Middle School Library

Enjoy the season!



These Meeting Notes are intended to keep the school district and the community informed in a timely fashion following a meeting of the Norton School Committee. They have not been officially approved by the committee.

The Norton Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or sexual orientation