

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

MEETING NOTES

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS
FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
DATE: May 16, 2006

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, May 15, 2006

Location: Library, Norton Middle School

Attending:

Committee Members: Mr. Kevin O'Neil, Mrs. Donna Gradie, Mr. Thomas Golota and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Mr. O'Reilly was absent with advance notice.

Student Representative:
Miss Larissa Weiner

Call to Order:

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Reorganization of the Norton School Committee:

Mr. O'Neil nominated Mrs. Gradie as the new Chairperson of the Norton School Committee. Mrs. Werner seconded the nomination. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved Mrs. Gradie as the new Chairperson of the committee.

Mrs. Werner then nominated Mr. O'Neil as the new Vice-Chairman of the Norton School Committee. Mr. Golota seconded that motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved Mr. O'Neil as the new Vice-Chairman of the committee.

Mr. O'Neil nominated Mrs. Werner as the new Legislative Representative of the Norton School Committee. Mr. Golota seconded that motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved Mrs. Werner as the new Legislative Representative of the committee.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman O'Neil, seconded by Mrs. Werner to approve the Minutes of the prior meetings on April 10th, April 17th and April 24th. The Minutes were unanimously approved on a 4-0 vote.

Acceptance of Equipment Donation:

Dr. Ansay explained that the Norton Youth Baseball/Softball organization has donated a field grooming machine to the school department. She said the grooming machine is already in use, and is doing quite a good job. The school department feels it has been long needed, and they welcome this gift. Dr. Ansay urged the committee to accept this gift.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman O'Neil to accept the donation of a grooming machine from Norton Youth Baseball/Softball. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to accept this gift.

Transfer of Funds - TPC Gift Account:

Dr. Ansay explained that the Tournament Players Club (TPC) donates money to the Norton School Department every year in exchange for use of our parking lots and the L.G. Nourse School during the Deutsch Bank Golf Tournament. Every Labor Day weekend, the TPC holds this same tournament, and makes a similar donation. Dr. Ansay further explained that a TPC Gift Account has been established and the balance is currently \$60, 235.39.

Dr. Ansay explained that the Norton Athletic Complex Committee is presently in need of funds to finish the Varsity Baseball Field in time for the last home game. A discussion ensued about the issue of transferring \$30,000 from the TPC Gift Account to the Norton Athletic Complex Committee. Mr. Golota felt that transferring funds would be right in line with the original intent of the money from the TPC. Mrs. Werner said that we should definitely support sports for our students. Dr. Ansay felt that it makes sense to use the TPC funds for athletics, since it comes from a golf tournament.

Mrs. Werner made a motion to approve the transfer of \$30,000 from the TPC Gift Account to the Norton Athletic Complex Committee, for the purpose of completing the Varsity Baseball Field. Mr. Golota seconded the motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved the transfer of funds.

Breathalyzer Policy:

Dr. Ansay presented a new Breathalyzer Policy for the Norton Public Schools. The committee discussed the recent Prom held over the weekend, and commended the students of Norton High School for their exceptional behavior. Mr. Golota suggested the committee should send a letter to the Senior and Junior Class to recognize their positive behavior at the Prom. The committee concurred that a letter should be sent to both the Junior Class and Senior Class to commend them on their exemplary behavior at the Norton High School Prom on May 13, 2006.

The request to institute the Breathalyzer Test at the Prom on May 13th came from the Junior Class. Dr. Ansay is asking the committee to approve the policy before them tonight. The intent is to make sure students are safe. Dr. Ansay explained that the breathalyzer is a non-invasive piece of equipment, as the student simply speaks and the breathalyzer will pick up the use of alcohol.

Dr. Ansay further explained that we will always make sure students are aware in advance that the breathalyzer will be used. Also, law enforcement will not be called in. Instead students will be detained and parents will be called to come and pick up the student if necessary. On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Vice-Chairman O'Neil, the committee voted 4-0 to approve the new Breathalyzer Policy.

Sexual Harassment Policy:

Dr. Ansay presented a revised Sexual Harassment Policy. She explained that this is a revision of a policy that has been in place since 2000. She said we wish to make a strong statement that sexual harassment in the workplace is unlawful and will not be tolerated. Vice-Chairman O'Neil made a motion to accept the Sexual Harassment Policy. Mr. Golota seconded the motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to accept the Sexual Harassment Policy.

Wellness Policy:

Dr. Ansay introduced Mrs. Susan McGinley, R.N., Head Nurse for the Norton Public Schools who presented a new Wellness Policy for the school department. Mr. Golota remarked that he noticed the school menu has recently changed, and a new trend toward healthy foods has been established. Dr. Ansay explained that Mrs. Irene Stanovitch, Cafeteria Director, deserves the credit for her hard work and attentiveness to making so many healthy changes to the school lunch menu. A discussion ensued about the committee's ideas for additional healthy changes that could be made and new products that might be offered to students such as a "make your own" salad bar. The committee decided to table this policy and revisit it again at the June 5th meeting for further discussion.

Student Records Policy:

Dr. Ansay presented a new Student Records Policy, and explained that we intend to enclose a copy of this policy in the student handbooks. Mrs. Werner said she thought the policy makes a lot of sense. Dr. Ansay explained that the reason for this policy is to ensure safety of all students. Chairperson Gradie suggested also posting this policy on the website, and distributing a handout. A parent from the audience concurred with this idea, and pointed out that more visibility of the new policy would be beneficial for parents. Mr. Golota made a motion to accept the new Student Records Policy, and Vice-Chairman O'Neil seconded the motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to accept the new Student Records Policy.

Soccer Camp Request:

Mr. Ernie Branco has made a request to hold a Soccer Camp on the soccer fields at Norton Middle School during the week of August 14th-18th, 2006. Mr. Branco will be donating \$5 per participant to the Norton Public Schools, therefore, Dr. Ansay believes this camp can be classified as a "fundraiser" for the school department. She mentioned that the camp is similar in nature to the Matt Light Football Camp which is scheduled to take place on the Henri A. Yelle School Fields in June. Vice-Chairman O'Neil said this soccer camp is definitely a "feeder" for the soccer program at Norton High School. Vice-Chairman O'Neil made a motion to approve the soccer camp request from Mr. Ernie Branco. Mrs. Werner seconded that motion. On a 4-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved the request.

Personnel:

Retirements:

- a. Mrs. Donna Lee Lima, JCS Assistant Principal, after 35 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- b. Mr. Lawrence Larocque, NHS Physical Education Teacher, after 35 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- c. Miss Karen Silvi, NMS Science Teacher, after 35 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- d. Mrs. Margaret Scott, JCS Grade 2 Teacher, after 33 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.
- e. Mrs. Mary Powers, JCS Grade 2 Teacher, after 23 years of service to the Norton Public Schools.

(These five retirement notices are from individuals who have given most of their lives to the Norton Public Schools and we will recognize their contribution in some way. We are very appreciative of their efforts in everything they have done for the youth of Norton over the years.)

Resignation:

Mrs. Marie Rose Ghazal-Sy, NHS SPED Educational Assistant, effective April 13, 2006.

Appointments:

- a. Mr. Michael Barth, NHS Assistant Principal, effective 2006-2007 school year.
- b. Mr. Robert McCoy, NHS SPED Educational Assistant, effective April 24, 2006.
- c. Miss Elizabeth Kelly, NMS SPED Educational Assistant, effective April 24, 2006.
- d. Mrs. Margaret Gentili, Director of Norton Summer School Program.

Other Business:

Dr. Ansay again commended the high school students on their positive behavior at the Norton High School Prom on Saturday night, May 13th, 2006. She announced that the school department will be working on a "Strategic Plan" for the district during the summer. The Superintendent also announced that the "Office for Educational Accountability and Assessment" is here this week. They will give us some direction for the school district for the next five years or so. Vice-Chairman O'Neil then asked if Dr. Ansay could give the committee an update on "building projects" planned for the summer at the next meeting.

Next the School Committee members each chose a school. Each committee member will act as a "liaison" to the Parent Board at each school. Vice-Chairman O'Neil chose the Henri A. Yelle School. Mr. Golota chose Norton Middle School. Mrs. Werner chose Norton High School. Chairperson Gradie chose the J.C. Solmonese School. Mr. O'Reilly will be assigned to the L.G. Nourse School.

Chairperson Gradie explained that there is currently a fundraiser happening at Roche Bros. Supermarket for the Norton Public Schools. Shoppers can donate what ever amount they wish to donate, and at the end of every month, Roche Bros. will give the school department a check for the "Field of Dreams". Chairperson Gradie started the initiative and it is going very well.

Lastly, Chairperson Gradie announced that the Graduation for Norton High School will be held at the Tweeter Center in Mansfield, MA on Friday night June 2, 2006. She encouraged all to attend this special event.

On a roll call vote, the committee unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:47 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, June 5, 2006, 6:30 P.M., Norton Middle School Library

Congratulations to the Class of 2006!



*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