

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

MEETING MINUTES

Date of School Committee Meeting: December 17, 2007

Location: Library, Norton Middle School

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Kevin O'Neil, Vice-Chairman Thomas Golota, Mrs. Beth McManus, Mrs. Margaret Werner and Student Representative Emily Carmichael. Mr. Andrew Mackie was absent

Call to Order: Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

A motion was made by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. McManus, to approve the Minutes of the prior meeting on December 3rd. The Minutes were unanimously approved on a 4-0 vote.

Adoption of Grade 6 Social Studies Textbooks:

Dr. Ansay introduced Mr. Paul Duff, Social Studies Academic Coordinator for Grades 6-12. Mr. Duff explained that it has been approximately ten years since there has been a purchase of new textbooks for Grade 6. He further explained that many of the current books are in horrible physical condition, and the information is outdated. Mr. Duff said it is not appropriate to have outdated texts for this subject. He announced that the new textbook adoption, if approved, would come with corresponding technology, and would more appropriately match the Norton Public Schools' curriculum, which has been updated through its curriculum maps. He explained that the new text also incorporates the teaching and learning of geography, which is part of the Grade 6 curriculum. According to Mr. Duff, 275 textbooks would be purchased, and the entire book and all of the resources would be available on-line.

Dr. Ansay said that it is her understanding Social Studies will be a graduation requirement at the high school level starting with the Class of 2011. She said this makes the purchase more important. According to Dr. Ansay, this textbook purchase will be made possible by the transfer of funds from several salary lines to the textbook line which has been zeroed out for FY '08. The salary adjustments came as a result of a combination of things, for example, hiring staff members at lower salary rates, not filling a position until December, and so forth. A discussion ensued. Mrs. Amy Berdos and Mrs. Sharon, Co-Coordinators for Curriculum and Instruction, K-12, were also present to support the new textbook purchase.

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, the committee unanimously approved the adoption of new Grade 6 Social Studies textbooks, on a 4-0 vote.

NHS New Course Approval:

Mr. Raymond Dewar, principal of Norton High School, was present to request approval of the following new courses at the high school:

English Department:	<i>The Poetry of Song: Drama III</i>
Business Department:	<i>Hospitality and Tourism</i>
Science Department:	<i>Biotechnology: Anatomy and Physiology</i>
Social Studies Department:	<i>U.S. History through Film</i>

Mr. Dewar explained that these new courses will require additional staff. He said the high school is always looking to add new courses to keep things fresh. Mr. Dewar said the teachers and students need variety. Dr. Ansay concurred. She urged the committee to approve the request which reflects keeping up with the times, as well as providing students with what they need and what they are interested in. She explained that doing so would help engage the students academically.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the committee unanimously voted to approve the new courses requested at Norton High School, on a 4-0 vote.

Field Trip Policy:

Dr. Ansay explained that a new field trip policy has been needed for quite some time. She presented a draft policy to the committee, explaining it had been reworked, and revised again and again. Dr. Ansay explained that she had shared this draft with all building principals, and said the new policy covers out-of-state, overnight, and international field trips.

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, the committee unanimously voted to approve the new field trip policy, on a 4-0 vote.

Personnel:

Appointments:

Mrs. Maureen Jarbeau, NHS SRR Educational Assistant, effective December 17, 2007.
Mr. Edward Currle, Girls' Varsity Basketball Coach
Mr. Kent Taylor, Boys' Winter Track Co-Coach
Mr. Eric Paulus, Boys' Winter Track Co-Coach

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, on a roll call vote, the committee unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 7:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, January 14, 2008, 6:30 P.M., Norton Middle School Library.