

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

MEETING NOTES

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS
FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
DATE: February 1, 2007

Date of School Committee Meeting: January 29, 2007

Location:

Library, Norton Middle School

Attending:

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

Call to Order:

Chairperson Gradie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. Golota suggested one correction to the Regular Session Minutes of January 22, 2007. He pointed out that Mrs. Werner was absent at that meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2007 as submitted, and to approve the Minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting as amended.

On a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the meeting held January 8, 2007 as submitted. On a 4-0 vote the committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2007 as amended. Mrs. Werner abstained from this vote, due to her absence at that meeting.

Middle School Student Technology Presentation:

Mr. Roger Parent, principal of Norton Middle School, was present to introduce middle school teachers Mr. Eric Beard and Mr. Michael Kramer. Mr. Beard and Mr. Kramer then presented a pod cast demonstration to include a mini math lesson, music by Mrs. Karen Schofield's classes, and art projects by Mrs. Sally Greer's art students. Mr. Parent explained that teachers were very inspired by Mr. Alan November who delivered the keynote address at the district-wide Professional Day on November 7, 2006.

Mr. Kramer said that the students are very excited about the pod casts. He said Mrs. Schofield has completely embraced the technology. According to Mr. Kramer, cell phones,

I pods and MP3 players are the technology of choice for the students. Inspired by Mr. November, teachers are now utilizing the technology that the students are excited about. Mr. Beard concurred, saying that pod casts are the future way learning will unfold. They are an extension of the classroom, he said.

Dr. Ansay emphasized that the pod cast technology has many possibilities for interdisciplinary activities. She said it could also be used to reinforce writing across the curriculum, which can be a difficult thing to do. Mr. Golota said the best thing about this technology is the portability. You can take it with you, he said, and you can be educating yourself while waiting to watch a sporting activity or waiting for a bus. Mr. Kramer mentioned that he is willing to work with teachers who may have questions about pod casts, and would like to know more about the technology. Mrs. Gradie commended Mr. Beard and Mr. Kramer. She said that the technology is very exciting, and the excitement of the teachers is very evident as well. Dr. Ansay thanked Mr. Beard and Mr. Kramer for their initiative.

Energy Pacesetter Award Presentation:

Mr. Chuck Fasnacht from Energy Education, Inc. was present to award a plaque to the School Committee. The award recognized the success of the energy conservation efforts of the Norton Public Schools. Cost avoidance, as estimated by Energy Education, Inc., for the period of December 2005 to December 2006, is approximately \$155,000. Dr. Ansay invited all five head custodians to be on hand for the presentation and be recognized for their assistance and cooperation in the energy conservation effort.

Mr. Thomas Withers, Head Custodian at Norton High School, and Mr. Stephen Gradie, Head Custodian at the J.C. Solmonese School were both in attendance. Unable to attend were Mr. Manuel Teixeira, Head Custodian of Norton Middle School, Mr. Mark Bramwell, Head Custodian of the H. A. Yelle School, and Mr. Thomas Araujo, Head Custodian of the L.G. Nourse School.

Jack Conway & Company Referral Program:

Jack Conway Real Estate agents, Mr. Terry Twombly and Mrs. Donna Olson were present to discuss a program they are initiating in regard to donations to the Norton Public Schools. Mrs. Olson explained that she has three children who are all graduates of Norton High School. She said that all three of her children are in college, and doing well, and she is very thankful to the school department for everything they have done for her children. In that spirit of gratitude to the schools, she and Mr. Twombly will be initiating a referral program which anyone can take advantage of. They will be donating 10% of their resulting commission to the Norton Public Schools.

Dr. Ansay thanked Mr. Twombly and Mrs. Olson for such a generous gesture, saying it was very nice of them to think of the school department. She explained that the donated

funds would be deposited directly into the Unrestricted Gift Account. She further explained that the committee is not taking a vote to approve the program, and is not endorsing Jack Conway Real Estate Company. As a public entity, the School Committee cannot endorse a private company. Instead, the program will be advertised to staff at the schools, in the teachers' rooms, and will be available for staff to take advantage of if they should choose to do so. Mr. O'Reilly thanked Mr. Twombly and Mrs. Olson for their commitment to giving back to the schools.

Appointment - School Committee Liaison to the Sped PAC:

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Golota, the committee unanimously voted to appoint Mrs. Werner as a representative to the Special Education Parents Council.

Personnel:

Resignations:

- a. Miss Stephanie Tonelli, NHS Spanish Teacher, effective January 31, 2007.
- b. Mr. Alejandro Miranda, NHS SPED Ed Assistant, effective January 26, 2007.
- c. Mrs. Pamela Walker, NHS SPED Ed. Assistant, effective March 2, 2007.

Appointments:

- a. MNS Tutors: Mrs. Catherine Correira, Miss Heather Gilbert, Miss Rachael Strandberg
- b. LGN Part-time Educational Assistants: Miss Diane Bodington, Miss Colleen Smith, Ms. Kim Tranfaglia

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, on a roll call vote, the committee unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 7:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, February 12, 2007, 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.

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