

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2008

Location: L. G. Nourse Elementary School Cafeteria

Attending: Committee Members: Chairman Thomas Golota, Mr. Andrew Mackie, Mrs. Elizabeth McManus, Mr. Kevin O'Neil, and Mrs. Margaret Werner. Student Representative Emily Carmichael was also present.

Call to Order: Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 5:50 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings:

Mr. O'Neil made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Werner, to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2008 meeting, both regular and executive sessions. The vote was 4-0. Mr. Mackie abstained.

Mr. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Werner, to accept the minutes of the September 22, 2008 meeting, both regular and executive sessions. The vote was 4-0. Mrs. McManus abstained.

Opening of School Reports - Principal Danielle Klingaman:

Chairman Golota turned the meeting over to L. G. Nourse School Principal Mrs. Danielle Klingaman for her opening of school report. Mrs. Klingaman introduced several new staff members. She mentioned that their Open House was held the evening before school began, and she received much positive feedback from parents and teachers. She also stated LGN enrollment is down by approximately 21 students from the 2007-2008 school year. Currently, the average class size is 21. New initiatives for the 2008-2009 year include a new *Reading Street Language Arts Program*, changes in special subjects to allow longer ELA and math blocks, team collaboration time, and Bully Guard activities. Some upcoming events include Grade 1 Parent Lunch, Project Early field trip to Winslow Farms, Grade 3 field trip to Plymouth Plantation, the Horribles Parade, and LGN Election Day on November 3rd.

Representatives from the LGN Parent/Teacher Association welcomed the School Committee back and outlined the events planned for the upcoming year, such as the Holiday Plant Sale, Holiday Shop, Breakfast with Santa, Winter Carnival, Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, and the Ice Cream Social. They will continue to conduct fundraising activities and staffing the LGN Library with volunteers to provide the students the opportunity to check out books.

Vote to Approve Principals' and Superintendent's Salaries:

As discussed at a prior meeting, this vote is required annually. On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the vote was unanimous.

Vote to Approve Guidelines for Action by Bus Drivers in the Event of a School Bus Accident:

Changes that were requested have been incorporated into this policy. On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the vote was unanimous.

Vote to Approve Student Bus Conduct Policy:

As discussed at a prior meeting this policy was revised to include the prohibited use of electronic recording devices and cameras. Discussion took place regarding the use of cell phones on buses, and if they should be allowed in certain circumstances. Mr. O'Neil stated that in his opinion there is a need for students to be able to call parents, and would like the language of the policy to reflect that. The Committee agreed that this policy warrants further discussion, and will take up this agenda item again at its next meeting.

Presentation of 2008 MCAS Results - Mrs. Amy Berdos and Mrs. Sharon Roberts:

Mrs. Berdos and Mrs. Roberts presented the 2008 MCAS Summary Analysis. Comparisons to 2007 and the state were highlighted as follows:

- Adequate Yearly Progress was achieved at district level for ELA and Math in Aggregate and Subgroups-No Accountability Status.
- Norton continues to outperform the state in English Language Arts in Grade 3 and at the middle and high school levels.
- Math MCAS Grades 3 and 10 had the largest CPI increase from 2007.
- Aggregate and all subgroups achieved AYP in math at JCS, LGN, and HAY Special Education subgroups.
- Norton's greatest achievement was in Grade 10 for English, Math, and Science Engineering Technology.
- Math continues to be a high area of focus despite significant gains at Grades 3, 8, and 10.
- Slight gains were accomplished in Science Engineering Technology in Grades 5 and 8.
- Grades 4 and 5 particularly require attention and focus.

Presently schools are analyzing data to identify strengths and weaknesses to inform instructional practices. Details will be provided at each school level in November.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Mackie suggested that the district's AlertNow system be utilized to notify parents when MCAS scores were being sent home, and that all results should be sent home on the same day. Dr. Ansay was in agreement.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:45 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, October 20, 2008, 6:30 P.M. at Norton Middle School.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D.
Secretary pro tem
