

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, November 3, 2008

Location: H. A. Yelle School Library

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

Call to Order: Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting:

Mr. O'Neil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mackie, to accept the minutes of the October 20, 2008 meeting, both regular and executive sessions. The vote was 4-0.

Vote on Student Council Request:

Norton High School Student Council representatives were present to provide information to support the request for twelve student council members and two chaperones to attend the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils Convention in Hyannis on March 11-13, 2009. Parental informational letters and permission slips will be sent home. Miss Emily Carmichael attended the convention last year and stated it was a very beneficial experience.

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve the request.

Opening of School Reports - Principal Lisa Farrell:

Chairman Golota turned the meeting over to H. A. Yelle School Principal Mrs. Lisa Farrell for the opening of school reports. Mrs. Farrell made a PowerPoint presentation highlighting staff, grade and class sizes, and activities. Mrs. Angel Doyle and Mrs. Stacy Schuko of the Parent Advisory Board were present to discuss past activities and plans for this year. Fundraisers are planned to provide support to students, staff, and families. Mrs. Farrell thanked the PTO, parents, staff, School Committee members, and Dr. Ansay.

Vote to Oppose Question 1:

At the October 20th School Committee Meeting, Chairman Golota read a statement outlining the impact of Question 1 should it be passed. This evening he requested that the

Committee take a vote for the record. Mr. Mackie made a motion to support a NO vote on Question 1, seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The vote was 4-0.

Vote to Approve Hiring Middle School Nurse:

In compliance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, section 53, the School Committee approved the appointment of Ms. Lisa Gleason as nurse at Norton Middle School upon the recommendation of Principal Chris Baratta and Head Nurse Lisa Anderson. Mrs. McManus made a motion to appoint Ms. Gleason, seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The vote was 4-0.

Fiscal Year '10 Budget:

Dr. Ansay informed the Committee that the process of creating the FY '10 Budget has begun. All administrators were asked to present a level funded budget, but an additional \$500,000 is required just to cover salary and goods/services increases. Chairman Golota suggested that the Committee begin to discuss potential cuts.

Vote to Authorize the Superintendent to Submit the Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for the Renovation and Construction of Norton High School:

Dr. Ansay informed the Committee that all Superintendents must resubmit their Statement of Interest to the MSBA by November 15th. A packet is ready to be submitted addressing overcrowding, space requirement concerns, and aging systems. She said the district needs to be ready for increased enrollments and for when systems begin to fail. Mr. O'Neil made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mackie as follows: "that having convened in an open meeting on November 3, 2008, the School Committee of the Town of Norton, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated November 3, 2008 for the Norton High School located at 66 West Main Street, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which the Town of Norton may be invited to apply to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future,

- Elimination of existing severe overcrowding
- Prevention of loss of accreditation
- Prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollments
- Replacement, renovation or modernization of heating system to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs
- Short-term enrollment growth
- Replacement or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs and approved local requirements

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance of the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from

the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Norton to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The vote was 4-0.

Middle School Basketball Walk-A-Thon (November 15, 2008):

Dr. Ansay informed the Committee that middle school parents have organized a Walk-A-Thon to help raise the funds needed to reinstate the middle school basketball program.

Other:

Professional development activities, scheduled for November 4th, were discussed.

Personnel:

Mr. Mackie announced the following personnel changes:

Appointments:

Mrs. Mary Lou Brooks, LGN AV Coordinator, effective for the 2008-2009 school year
Ms. Jill Smith, SPED Mini Bus Driver, effective November 6, 2008

Resignations:

Mr. Virgilio Nunes, HAY Night Custodian, effective December 31, 2008
Mr. Mark Parlon, NHS Night Custodian, effective November 7, 2008

Retirement:

Mrs. Karen Walasavage, JCS Cafeteria Assistant, effective October 31, 2008

Adjournment:

Mr. Mackie made a motion to adjourn and not return to regular session, seconded by Mr. O'Neil. The roll call vote was 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, November 17, 2008, 6:30 P.M. at J. C. Solmonese Elementary School.

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

