

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

**MEETING NOTES**

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS  
FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: March 14, 2007

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** March 5, 2007

**Location:**

Library, Norton Middle School

**Attending:**

Committee Members: Chairperson Mrs. Donna Gradie, Vice Chairman Mr. 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:**

A motion was made by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, to approve both the Regular and Executive Session Minutes of the prior meetings held on February 12, 2007 and February 21, 2007. On a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to approve the Minutes.

**Discussion/Vote on Community Use of Facilities:**

Dr. Ansay explained that she has completely revised the Norton Public Schools Use of Facilities Policy. According to Dr. Ansay, she reviewed policies and procedures from many districts in the area, and made up a compilation of several different policies from area school districts. She tried to select the best points from several offerings. Basically, she has prioritized the use of all of our school facilities. School events and Town Meetings, elections, and so forth are the top priority.

The committee discussed the new policy and recommended some changes. The Superintendent said she felt very comfortable making the recommended changes and would bring the policy back before the committee on March 19<sup>th</sup> for a vote.

**Matt Light Football Camp Field Use Request:**

Dr. Ansay explained that the Matt Light Football Camp is a fundraiser for the school department. She feels this camp also provides an opportunity to create good will with Wheaton College, since the camp is affiliated with Wheaton. She said the school department is comfortable with the liability. She urged the committee to approve the camp again this year.

Mr. O'Neil pointed out that the Matt Light Football Camp is a "for profit" organization. He said by approving this field usage, we are enabling this camp to exist. Mr. O'Neil noted that the school department does gain revenue by approving this field usage, however, he suggested there may be a way for the school department to gain even more by asking for 10% of the camp's revenue. Mr. Golota concurred, stating that the Matt Light Football Camp is making a hefty profit.

A discussion ensued. The committee directed Dr. Ansay to request more than the \$10,000 offered by Wheaton, as an inquiry, but decided to approve the field use request this year and accept the \$10,000 they have been offered by the Matt Light Football Camp. Next year, they may consider asking for a different arrangement. On a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously voted to approve the request for the Matt Light Football Camp.

**Vote to Approve Annual Town Meeting Article for Extraordinary Repairs to the Yelle School Building Envelope:**

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the committee unanimously voted to approve the Annual Town Meeting Article for Extraordinary Repairs to the Yelle School Building Envelope. This Article is in preparation for summertime repairs to the Yelle School.

**Vote to Appoint Superintendent and School Committee Member to the Design Selection Committee for Reconstructing/Making Extraordinary Repairs to the Yelle School Building Envelope:**

Dr. Ansay explained that we need to appoint a design selection committee for making repairs to the Yelle School building envelope. She further explained that the Superintendent and one School Committee member should be appointed to this committee. On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, the committee unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Golota to this committee.

**Vote to Approve Annual Town Meeting Article to Establish A Kindergarten Revolving Account:**

Dr. Ansay explained that we need a vote to approve an additional Town Meeting Article to establish a Kindergarten Revolving Account. She said the impetus for needing this revolving account is the receipt of the kindergarten grant, the implementation of full-day

kindergarten programming and the need to charge tuition. If we charge some tuition to support the rest of the full-day teacher's salary and possibly a teacher aide, the money has to have an account to go into, and to be expended from.

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mr. Golota, the committee unanimously voted to approve a Town Meeting Article to establish a Kindergarten Revolving Account.

### **Discussion - Strategic Plan:**

Dr. Ansay was then joined by Mrs. Amy Berdos, Director of Curriculum and Instruction K-12, to present the "Strategic Plan" for the school district. Dr. Ansay suggested that the committee might wish to put off a vote on this plan until the next meeting, due to the magnitude of the plan. She explained that the "Strategic Plan" represents the input of many people right from its inception.

Mrs. Berdos explained that the "Strategic Plan" is an attempt to help us all be on the same page in the school department. Dr. Ansay remarked that the plan is a five-year plan. The District Improvement Plan component of the "Strategic Plan" contains the details, specifies how the "Strategic Plan" will be carried out and how progress will be monitored. Mrs. Berdos added that the "Core Values" of the school district are reflected throughout the plan. Dr. Ansay described the plan as very measurable, and remarked that hard data must be gathered in order to see whether we have accomplished something. Mrs. Berdos said she has an upcoming PowerPoint presentation on the "Strategic Plan".

Mrs. Werner commended Mrs. Berdos and Dr. Ansay on the "Strategic Plan". Dr. Ansay complimented Mrs. Berdos, saying this has been a huge project. She thanked Mrs. Berdos for all of her efforts. Mrs. Gradie also thanked Mrs. Berdos and Dr. Ansay, and pointed out that the "Strategic Plan" was a lot of work. The committee suggested conducting a public forum to present the new "Strategic Plan" and District Improvement Plan.

### **Correspondence:**

Dr. Ansay explained that one of her goals this year was to explore a hypothetical promise by Wheaton College to provide Norton students who attended there a \$7,500 scholarship. She said she investigated the issue and received a letter from Dr. Ronald Crutcher, President of Wheaton College. Mrs. Gradie read Dr. Crutcher's letter to the committee. In this letter, Dr. Crutcher clarified the way in which Norton High School seniors should apply for a merit scholarship to Wheaton College. According to Dr. Crutcher, Wheaton has not designated a separate scholarship for a Norton High School senior. Instead, Norton students should follow the same application procedure as all other candidates. Mrs. Gradie mentioned that she remembers Dale Marshall Rogers, former President of Wheaton College, had once considered the idea of a separate Wheaton scholarship for Norton High School seniors. She was hoping that such a scholarship might be reconsidered again one day by the college.

**Vote to Approve Annual Town Meeting Article to Ask for an Over ride to Supplement the School Department Budget:**

Mr. O'Neil made a motion to submit an Article for the May 14<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting to ask for an over ride to supplement the school department's budget. Mrs. Werner seconded the motion. On a 5-0 vote, the committee unanimously approved to submit an Article for Town Meeting to ask for an over ride.

Mr. O'Neil also requested that Dr. Ansay put together a "level funded" budget to see what it would look like for next year.

**Personnel:**

**Resignation:**

Mr. Edward Swindelles, System-wide Network Technician, effective March 21, 2007.

**Appointments:**

- a. Mrs. Aniela Hodgson, Physical Therapist, effective March, 2007.
- b. Mrs. Taimi Paadre, NHS SPED Educational Assistant, effective February 27, 2007.
- c. Mrs. Tanja McNeil-Ayers, Elementary World Language Teacher (.2), March-June, 2007.

**Other**

Dr. Ansay announced that the "Kathy Bailey Memorial Basketball Game" was held on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, and was a great success once again. She commended Mr. O'Neil for his participation as one of the players for the school department's team. Dr. Ansay also thanked all of the custodians who recently assisted with the unexpected flood at the Yelle School, due to a burst pipe. She remarked that the custodians really "stepped up to the plate" and did a tremendous job cleaning up after this incident.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, on a roll call vote, the committee unanimously voted to enter Executive Session at 8:20 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**Monday, March 19, 2007, 6:30 P.M., Norton Middle School**

*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.*

*The Norton Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion or sexual orientation*