

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Norton, Massachusetts

**MEETING NOTES**

TO: ALL STAFF MEMBERS  
FROM: Patricia H. Ansay, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: October 2, 2007

**Date of School Committee Meeting:** September 24, 2007

**Location:** Cafeteria, L.G. Nourse School

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings:**

On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the committee voted to approve the Minutes of the prior meetings held on September 10 and September 17, 2007. Mr. Golota abstained from the vote on the Minutes of September 10, 2007 due to his absence at that meeting.

**L.G. Nourse Opening of School Report:**

Dr. Ansay introduced Mrs. Danielle Klingaman, new principal of the L.G. Nourse Elementary School, who presented the opening of school report. According to Dr. Ansay, Mrs. Klingaman has some wonderful ideas for the school year, comes with a wealth of experience, and has already been hard at work most of the summer. She added that the parents and staff are very pleased with her presence at LGN.

Mrs. Klingaman began her report by thanking LGN administrative assistant, Mrs. Marie Flynn, and LGN head custodian Mr. Thomas Araujo and his staff, for their hard work all summer long. She explained that it was a group effort to prepare for the new school year, and added that the parent group has been very helpful as well. Mrs. Klingaman then introduced new LGN staff members.

Mrs. Klingaman also announced that LGN's preschool program, Project Early, has been awarded accreditation by the N.A.E.Y.C. She said the credit for this achievement belongs to the entire Project Early staff, former LGN principal Mrs. Linda Ashley, and Mrs. Sharon Roberts. She commended all those involved for their dedication and commitment throughout the very lengthy process of applying for accreditation.

Mrs. Klingaman next introduced the co-chairpersons for the LGN parent group, Mrs. Liz Scibilia and Mrs. Anne Givens. They reviewed activities that have occurred since the beginning of school, as well as those planned for this school year such as “Breakfast With Santa”, “The Holiday Shoppe”, “The Winter Carnival”, “The Ice Cream Social”, and outings to the Brockton Rox and Providence Bruins games.

Mr. Golota commented that the programs sound great and was happy to hear that many of the successful programs from the past will be returning. Mr. Mackie concurred and wished the P.T.A. well during the upcoming school year. Mr. O’Neil thanked both P.T.A. co-chairpersons. He remarked that it is very hard work to co-chair this organization, and said their role requires a lot of time and dedication. He also welcomed Mrs. Klingaman, saying he has heard nothing but great things. He encouraged her to keep up the good work.

### **NHS Student Fundraising Event:**

A presentation was then given by Miss Kimberly Birkett, a student at Norton High School. Miss Birkett spoke regarding a student proposal to hold a *Walk for Awareness*. This 12 hour long walkathon would be held at Norton High School from 7pm on Friday, October 19 until 7am on Saturday, October 20. The walkathon would be held for the purpose of raising funds for the Cann family of Norton. The funds would be donated to help with the family’s medical expenses. According to the presenter, teams of 4-6 people would take turns walking on the Norton High School track for 12 hours. A disc jockey would be present, and babysitting would be available. The planning committee hopes to show a movie, and is working to obtain donations of food such as pizza for October 19 and breakfast for October 20.

Mr. O’Neil commended those high school students who are planning the walkathon. He also commended the high administration for supporting the idea and the students, and allowing them to move forward. Mr. Mackie concurred stating that the presentation of this student fundraising event was very thoughtful and thorough.

On a motion by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the committee unanimously voted to approve the *Walk for Awareness* fundraising event.

### **Summer School Program – Mrs. Margaret Gentili:**

Mrs. Margaret Gentili was present to give the committee an overview of the 2007 Summer School program. She reported that a total of 58 students attended our Summer School Program this year, 53 from Norton and 5 from surrounding communities. Sixteen of these students were Norton Middle School children, 37 were Norton High School students. Five students were from out-of-district, two from Taunton High School, one from Middleboro High School, one student from Dighton-Rehoboth High School, and one student from Attleboro Middle School.

Mrs. Gentili reported that the Summer School went very well overall, and didn't experience any problems. She was pleased to announce that there were a reduced number of attendance infractions this year. She attributed this to the fact that there were two sessions instead of three this year. She said tuition remained the same as last year

Dr. Ansay pointed out that commendations need to be extended to Mrs. Gentili again, as in the past, for the outstanding program she ran. She said Mrs. Gentili is a very capable administrator who handles the entire program from beginning to end without hesitation. Mr. O'Neil concurred and thanked Mrs. Gentili for a wonderful job with the Summer School Program.

**Request to Purchase Land – Mrs. Lorraine Blake:**

Mrs. Lorraine Blake was present to speak to the committee about her request to purchase town land. Mrs. Blake, owner of Majesty Stables, owns seven acres which she uses for boarding her four horses, and for horse riding areas and an indoor facility. According to Mrs. Blake, she would like to purchase the additional land that abuts her property. This land is currently owned by the town of Norton and is adjacent to Norton High School.

According to Mrs. Blake, the 15 acres of town land she desires to purchase is wet and unusable. She said does not intend to clear all of the land. She explained that her business would like to purchase the land in order to have more pasture land for horses, and more space to create riding trails. Mr. O'Neil asked Mrs. Blake for further clarification as to why she wanted to purchase the land. Mr. Golota also asked why Mrs. Blake wanted to purchase the land, instead of just using it freely. Mrs. Blake explained that she has been concerned about the liability issue of using town land for her riding business.

Mr. O'Neil explained that he would draft a letter to be sent to all town organizations concerned, asking for feedback on the matter. He said his letter would also include the School Committee's questions and concerns. Mr. O'Neil further explained that a Public Hearing on this issue would need to be held, and the land would need to go out to bid before being sold. He pointed out that there are a lot of issues to consider about selling 15 acres of town land, due to the fact that the high school may need to expand in the future. He mentioned that he is also very concerned about the natural wetlands being disturbed, because this land functions as a storm drainage area for the high school. Mr. O'Neil said the Conservation Commission may have a concern with that as well.

Another abutter, the Carine family, also spoke to the committee. They alleged that when they purchased their land, there was an understanding that the school-owned property would never be sold. Additionally, there is a right-of-way that is accessed on their property for this land in question. As a result, they want to be the first to acquire the property if it goes up for sale. Another abutter, Thomas Noel, also exists.

Mr. O'Neil summarized by stating the committee does not seem interested in supporting Mrs. Blake's request to purchase the land. He commented further about the risk involved in selling the land because of the requirements for space that might exist in the future. He mentioned that there are so many risks involved in selling the land with seemingly very little benefit to the town.

Mr. O'Neil emphasized that he would send a letter to all town organizations concerned asking for feedback on the matter.

**Vote to Approve Superintendent/Principal Salaries:**

Dr. Ansay explained that a vote on the salaries of the five principals and the Superintendent of Schools is recommended by the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board. On a motion by Mrs. Werner, seconded by Mr. Golota, on a 5-0 vote, the committee voted unanimously to approve the salaries of all five principals and the Superintendent of Schools.

**PERSONNEL:**

**Retirement:**

Mrs. Gail Scott, LGN Cook, is retiring effective October 1<sup>st</sup> after 30 years of service.

**Leave of Absence:**

Mrs. Tracy McGarry, NMS SPED teacher, effective January to May, 2008.

**Resignation:**

Mrs. Patricia Penza, Diversity Alliance Advisor and Chess Club Advisor.

**Appointment:**

Mrs. Lisa Allen, HAY SPED Educational Assistant, effective September 17, 2007.

Mr. Everett Clark, Senior Class Advisor

Miss Lori Harris, Sophomore Class Advisor

Miss Kara Immonen, Yearbook Advisor

Mrs. Amy Mikels, Newspaper Editor

**OTHER:**

Dr. Ansay announced that the Surveillance Camera Policy has been approved by the Norton High School Site Council at their recent meeting.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. Mackie, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:45 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**Monday, October 22, 2007, 6:30 P.M., H.A. Yelle Elementary School**

*Enjoy the season!*



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