

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING

Date of School Committee Meeting: Monday, September 22, 2008

Location: Norton High School Library

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

Call to Order: Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Opening of School Reports - Principal Raymond Dewar:

Chairman Golota turned the meeting over to Norton High School Principal Mr. Raymond Dewar to give the Norton High School opening of school report. Mr. Dewar mentioned new courses at NHS this year, which included AP Chemistry. He also outlined upcoming activities and the addition of the National Math and Science Honor Societies. Mr. Dewar introduced Assistant Principal Mr. Michael Barth and the new members of the high school staff. Representatives from the Student Council and the Class of 2010 each spoke of their goals and activities that are planned for the school year.

2008 Summer School Report - Mrs. Margaret Gentili:

Mrs. Margaret Gentili gave a summary of this year's Summer School. She stated 54 students, 47 from Norton and 7 from other school districts, attended this year with a very high success rate. The importance of attendance is stressed at registration and has not been an issue this year. The Committee expressed appreciation for Mrs. Gentili's leadership, stating that as usual, Maggie has done a wonderful job.

Special Education Summer Program Summary - Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan:

Chairman Golota introduced Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, and mentioned that the focus of the summer program is to help maintain students' skills and prevent regression over the summer months. The program offered a full range of therapeutic services (speech, occupational therapy, and physical therapy consultation) along with home services in applied behavior therapy. The program ran for five weeks at both the L. G. Nourse and J. C. Solmonese Schools, with a total of 56 students receiving services.

Annual Approval of Principal's Salaries, 2008-2009:

Chairman Golota informed the Committee that a formal vote would be taken at a future meeting. Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board requires that the School Committee approve the salaries of principals for retirement purposes because the Superintendent signs the contracts, not the Committee. Chairman Golota also mentioned that Dr. Ansay's contract has also been extended.

Policy - Student Conduct on School Buses:

The Committee discussed the revision of this policy, which includes the prohibited use of electronic recording devices on school buses, as well as on school property. The administrative team has reviewed and approved the revised policy. A few minor changes were suggested by Mr. Golota and Mr. O'Neil. A formal vote will be taken at a later date.

Policy - Guideline for Action by Bus Drivers in the Event of a School Bus Accident:

The last revision of this policy was in 1979 and changes were needed. The administration met with the police department to make sure everyone was on the same page. Chairman Golota asked for clarification of a few points. Dr. Ansay stated revisions will be made and brought back to the Committee for a vote at the next meeting.

Wheaton CPR Training - Mr. Craig Andrade:

Mr. Craig Andrade, Wheaton College associate dean of health and wellness and director of student health services, informed the Committee that a new community effort to expand CPR training in Norton will start within a month in Norton High School wellness classes. Each student will receive a free kit consisting of a 30 minute DVD and an inflatable mannequin. They will also receive a certificate recognizing they have completed the program. They hope the students will bring the kits home and train their families and friends. Their initial goal is to have 2,000 Norton residents trained during the first year of the American Heart Association program. Mr. Andrade stated that supporters of the program hope to raise \$40,000 for the program through donations from local businesses and grants. High school wellness teachers are enthusiastically supporting this initiative to make Norton a heart safe community.

Other - Class Size:

Dr. Ansay presented class size figures for the third week of school. The Committee noted that enrollment has generally decreased over the last three years. Dr. Ansay noted that she recently had met with area Superintendents and they had also reported decreasing enrollments in their respective districts.

Adjournment:

Mr. O'Neil made a motion to adjourn and enter into executive session, seconded by Mr. Golota. The vote was 4-0. The regular session adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, October 6, 2008, 5:45 P.M. at L. G. Nourse Elementary School

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