

NORTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Norton, Massachusetts

NORTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES

Date of School Committee Meeting: September 8, 2008

Location: Norton Middle School Library

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

Call to Order: Chairman Golota called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Golota introduced new Norton Middle School Principal Mr. Christopher Baratta who was in attendance.

Review and Approval of Minutes of Prior Meetings:

A motion was made by Mr. Golota, seconded by Mr. O'Neil, to approve the minutes of the March 24, June 23, and August 25, 2008 meetings. The vote was unanimous. Mr. O'Neil abstained from the August 25th meeting minutes.

Approval of Budget Transfers (6):

Superintendent Patricia Ansay explained the rationale for several budget transfers. On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mrs. Werner, the vote to approve the budget transfers was 4-0.

Opening of School Report – Superintendent of Schools:

Dr. Ansay reported that as of Wednesday, September 3rd, we have 2,912 students in preschool through Grade 12. At the close of school in June we had 3,047 students. In addition, we have 41 children in out-of-district placements, as well as 5 children who are being home schooled. There are 194 students at the Foxborough Charter School, an increase of 20 students this year. We have 368 students at the L. G. Nourse School, 484 at the H. A. Yelle School, 588 at the J. C. Solmonese School, 742 at Norton Middle School, and 730 at Norton High School. These enrollment figures are very tentative and will be revised. Norton High School enrollment is up 23 students. This year's senior class is 30 students fewer than the class that just graduated. Grades 9 and 11 are significantly larger than in years past. L. G. Nourse's second grade is its largest, and enrollment is about the same as 2007-2008, 24 students larger than last year's second grade. JCS enrollment is down by 43 students. The Superintendent is checking on the birth rates at the town hall and will provide class size information as soon as the numbers are available.

Dr. Ansay welcomed children at all schools on their first day. Transportation on the first day ran approximately ten minutes to one hour late, which is typical of the first week of school.

On Tuesday, September 2nd, we welcomed 28 new teachers and professional staff, a new middle school principal, and a new Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Most new positions are a result of retirements and resignations. Recognition was also given to 11 staff members, two with 35 years of service, five with 30 years of service, and four with 25 years of service. We also took advantage of this time when all employees were in attendance to update the staff on the School Resource Officer Program, Universal Precautions for School Settings, Child Abuse Reporting Requirements, Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, Student Confidentiality, Due Process, and Civil Rights.

Norton Middle School Basketball Funding:

Mrs. Jamy Sugar addressed the Committee to go on record regarding raising funds for the middle school basketball program. Parents are working on funding to reinstate the basketball program and are holding meetings to work out the details. They inquired if the timing would be an issue, and Mr. O'Neil stated that they have ample time. Mr. Golota asked the group to let them know when they were ready for approval from the Committee. Mr. O'Neil will follow up and said that if those who are interested pay the \$250 user fee, less will need to be raised. Dr. Ansay informed them that funds raised can be deposited in the Athletic Revolving Account.

Norton Teachers' Association – Income Tax Repeal:

Mrs. Kathi Stejakoski and members of the Norton Teachers Association addressed the meeting and asked the Committee to publicly oppose a state ballot question repealing the Massachusetts income tax. NTA members made a PowerPoint presentation outlining the initiative and the devastating effect it would have on not only the school department, but also all town services. Chairman Golota informed them that the Committee would like to discuss the issue further before making any public statement.

Vote to Ratify Norton Clerical Association Contract:

Superintendent Ansay highlighted the changes to the Norton Clerical Association Contract. On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote to ratify the contract was unanimous, 4-0.

Vote to Ratify Norton Cafeteria Workers' Contract:

Superintendent Ansay again noted changes to the United Food and Commercial Workers Union contract. On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the vote to ratify the contract was unanimous, 4-0.

Personnel:

Mr. O'Neil announced the following personnel changes:

(There are no new positions - these are the result of leaves, retirements, and resignations)

Retirements:

Mrs. Judith A. Cady, NHS Guidance Secretary, effective July 3, 2008, after 20 years of service

Leaves of Absence:

- a. Mrs. Kristina Berry, LGN Adjustment Counselor/SPED Chairperson, 2008-2009
- b. Mrs. Kristine Kefor, JCS Grade 3 Teacher, October 23, 2008

Resignations:

- a. Mr. Stephen Miller, NHS English Teacher
- b. Mrs. Susan McGinley, NMS Nurse
- c. Mrs. Gerry Quigley, HAY Adjustment Counselor
- d. Mrs. Ruth Mattson, JCS Educational Assistant/School Committee Secretary
- e. Mrs. Michelle Brogan, JCS Educational Assistant
- f. Mrs. Marybeth Boulos, NHS Cafeteria Assistant

Appointments:

- a. Mr. Christopher Baratta, NMS Principal
- b. Mrs. Jeanne Sullivan, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
- c. Mr. Benjamin Jewell, NHS Mathematics
- d. Ms. Megan DiBonaventura, NHS Mathematics
- e. Ms. Ashley Rodrigues, NHS Special Needs
- f. Ms. Nicole Desorcy, NHS Wellness
- g. Ms. Emily Stanton, NHS English Teacher
- h. Ms. Micaela Morin, NHS Art Teacher (one year appointment)
- i. Ms. Lisa Gracia, NMS Grade 6 Mathematics
- j. Mrs. Lisa Daley, NMS Adjustment Counselor
- k. Mrs. Denice Ravinski, NMS Grade 6 World Language (.2)
- l. Ms. Diane Littlehale, NMS Music Teacher
- m. Mrs. Megan Oakley, HAY Reading Specialist
- n. Mr. Ronald Frazier, HAY Physical Education
- o. Miss Cheryl Lassey, LGN Adjustment Counselor/Team Chairperson
- p. Mrs. Amy Weber, LGN Grade 3 Teacher
- q. Mrs. Sarah Powers, LGN Grade 3 Teacher
- r. Mrs. Sandy Sollauer, LGN Kindergarten (.5)
- s. Mrs. Ann Marie Souza, JCS CET Chairperson
- t. Mrs. Ann Giglio, JCS .5 Kindergarten Teacher
- u. Ms. Claudia Caskie, NMS Team Chairperson
- v. Ms. Melanie Larson, .3 System-wide Occupational Therapist
- w. Mrs. Kiera Boudreau, NHS Guidance Secretary
- x. Mr. Gregory Lamanna, NHS SPED Educational Assistant
- y. Mrs. Patricia Higgins, JCS .5 SPED Educational Assistant

- z.** Mrs. Lynne Caramanica, JCS .5 SPED Educational Assistant
- aa.** Mrs. Pam Romaine, LGN SPED Educational Assistant

Other:

Mr. O'Neil publicly thanked Roche Bros. Supermarket for donating the Norton High School day planners. Their support is greatly appreciated.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. O'Neil, seconded by Mrs. McManus, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:14 P.M.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, September 22nd, Norton High School