

Norfolk School Committee
MINUTES
Norfolk Town Hall – Room 124
Tuesday • March 1, 2011 • 7:00 PM

Mission Statement

The Norfolk Public Schools offers a *safe, joyful and challenging learning* environment that meets the needs of our *diverse* students. Through *school, family and community partnerships*, we provide an education that inspires life-long learners and cultivates *caring and productive citizens* of our ever-changing world.

CALL TO ORDER

Shawn Dooley, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM and read the Mission Statement. Present: Thomas Doyle, Shawn Dooley, John Olivieri, Ross Gilleland. Also present: Dr. Claire Jackson. Absent: Linda Andrews.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ellen Horton, NTA President and 5th Grade Teacher, requested that the School Committee have two public comment opportunities at each meeting, one at the beginning and one at the end of the meeting. Also, she commented about the Tutoring for Pay policy. She thinks a \$25 fee for the teachers to rent a room for tutoring is too much. She feels it would negatively impact the teachers.

Karen Wolff, Foxhill Lane, has had teachers tutor her children and believes it is an excellent resource for the students. She finds it detrimental to all if the teachers must move off-site to tutor.

Wayne Edwards, Canterbury Lane asked the School Committee to think about whom the proposed tutoring policy helps and whom it hurts. He believes the old policy was good for students, teachers and parents and the new policy prohibits a parent and school partnership as is stated in the mission statement.

ADMINISTRATIVE/REGULAR ITEMS

Correspondence

Ex. 1

All Committee members reviewed correspondence received.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

Budget Subcommittee: FY12 Budget Discussion and Vote

Ex. 2

Shawn Dooley gave an overview of the FY12 Budget and explained that the School Committee is planning for a Level Funded Budget (0% increase) for next year.

MOTION: Thomas Doyle made a motion to approve the bottom line of the FY2012 Budget. Ross Gilleland seconded.

Discussion: The final town budget will be available after Town Meeting. Ross Gilleland asked for an overview of the budget presentation to Advisory Board. Mr. Gilleland questioned the class size and planning for the future. Mr. Olivieri suggested using volunteers as reading tutors.

All in favor. **The motion passed.**

NCTV Lease

Ex. 3

Shawn Dooley shared the NCTV Lease with the School Committee.

Superintendent Contract

Ex. 4

Shawn Dooley gave a copy of Dr. Claire Jackson's contract to the School Committee.

He informed them that it is the same as the existing contract except \$20,000 less.

Freeman-Kennedy School: Discussion

Shawn Dooley read a letter from James P. Kennedy, the uncle of Sgt. Adam P. Kennedy. He thanked the School Committee for voting to name the new school after his nephew. Mr. Olivieri reported that the American Legion voted unanimously to accept the name of the new school as the Freeman-Kennedy Elementary School.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Jackson shared a book titled, "Norfolk Woman's History Month 2010" written by the historical commission with the School Committee. There were photos of Alvin J. Freeman in the book.

Policy Readings

KF, Use of Facilities – 2st Reading

Ex. 5

After much discussion of rates and specific names of groups who may wish to reserve rooms at the schools. This policy was deferred to the Policy Subcommittee.

GCRD, Private Tutoring For Pay – 3rd Reading

Ex. 6

Shawn explained that there are two issues for discussion with this policy. First, it has a perceived conflict of interest and secondly the fairness issue. Shawn would like to check with Town Counsel to confirm the legal ramifications of renting a room to a for profit organization. The Committee agreed that the tutoring should only be for a Norfolk student. Dr. Jackson suggested allowing teachers to tutor afterschool until 5:00 PM. Shawn Dooley asked the Committee to approve on-site tutoring pending approval of this policy.

This policy will be reviewed in conjunction with Policy KF at the Policy Subcommittee.

Proposed Policy: Class Size

Ex. 7

Dr. Jackson read the proposed policy. Ross Gilleland would like to tighten up the language. Shawn suggested speaking with counsel.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

School Building Committee

The Ground Breaking Ceremony has been set for Saturday, April 9, 2011. The time will be determined. Ross Gilleland updated the Committee on the progress of the School Building Committee. At the last meeting, Bob Bullock, Building Inspector recommended paving the access road to make it a permanent road. This will be an ongoing discussion with the Town since MSBA will not pay for this expense.

NEW BUSINESS

Shawn Dooley asked for permission from the School Committee to allow the Kennedy Family to have a reception for the Town after the Groundbreaking at the Freeman-Centennial School and waive the room rental fee. The Committee agreed.

DECISION ITEMS

MOTION: Thomas Doyle made a motion to approve the January 26, 2011 meeting minutes. Shawn Dooley seconded. Discussion: The first reading of Policy KF will need to be added. Three in favor. One abstain.

The motion passed.

MOTION: Ross Gilleland made a motion to approve the February 15, 2011 public hearing meeting minutes. John Olivieri seconded. **All in favor. The motion passed.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Mr. Dooley made a motion to enter executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining because an open session will have a detrimental effect on the School Committee's bargaining position not to return in open session. Mr. Doyle seconded. **The motion passed.**

Roll Call:

John Olivieri
Shawn Dooley
Thomas Doyle
Ross Gilleland

Exhibits:

1. Correspondence, 3/01/11
2. FY12 Budget, 3/1/2011
3. NCTV Lease, 3/01/11
4. Superintendent's Contract. 3/1/2011
5. Use of Facilities Policy, KF
6. Private Tutoring for Pay, GCRD
7. Proposed Policy: Class Size

**Norfolk School Committee
Administrative Offices, Norfolk Town Hall
One Liberty Lane, Norfolk, MA 02056
Tel: 508-528-1225 Fax: 508-528-3739**