

NORTON BOARD OF EDUCATION – 09-22
Regular Meeting of October 19, 2009

President Farmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the High School Library and led the pledge of allegiance.

Those present:

Mrs. Diane Farmer, President
Mrs. Elisa Worthington, Vice President
Mr. Jim Bennett, Member
Mrs. Laura Leonti, Member
Mrs. Cindy Webel, Member
Mr. David Dunn, Superintendent
Mrs. Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ben Hyder – read the following letter:

To Members of the board, Mr. Superintendent, my name is Ben Hyder.

As some of you know our daughter, Vicki, was involuntarily removed from her position as Drum Major of the Marching Band on September 4th. It was for any number of reasons, depending upon who you ask, and when. The Director of Bands, Mr. Chiera told us he removed Vicki due to her alleged failure to fulfill her ongoing duties as Drum Major since May, 2009. Incidentally this decision was made after an August 20, 2009 meeting just two weeks prior to her dismissal where the Director agreed that Vicki was fulfilling the same. He further told us this was his decision alone and that he had the full support of the administration. He has since informed other parents he was not involved in the decision and therefore could not alter it.

We had numerous meetings and phone calls with the Director and the Norton City Schools Administration since that day. Unfortunately our efforts to reach a compromise that all parties could accept were rejected at every opportunity by the administration. In fact at no time was there any interest in making any compromise regarding the course of action forced upon us by the administration. We also attempted to appeal to the Norton School Board but that request was rejected as well.

In contrast to this situation, on September 25th a male member of the band walked out of the stadium during the 4th quarter in direct defiance of faculty members instructing him not to do so. His punishment was a detention and sitting out for one performance. This is in stark contrast to the devastating punishment my daughter received for trying to do her job. It makes one wonder why the punishment for the young lady is so different than that for the young man.

We do not dispute that Vicki made some mistakes and suffered some lapses in judgment. All maturing adults do. That being said at no time has the Director, or any administrator provided a legitimate reason for Vicki's permanent removal as Drum Major, a position she worked so hard to earn and carry out—especially in comparison with open defiance that was displayed by the male student. The Director has chosen to impose the most severe punishment for what amounts to Vicki having a difference of opinion on various band issues. Vicki fully understood the Director has the final say and always accepted that. However she also felt strongly that if she didn't provide her honest input she was not fulfilling her responsibility as Drum Major to the Band.

As of September 18, Vicki withdrew from her love, marching band. I am not here to ask for her reinstatement. It is way too late in the season to correct this transgression.

I am here as a concerned parent and a taxpayer and a registered voter to express my dissatisfaction with the inconsistent and vindictive treatment that was applied to my daughter. At every turn my daughter has been denied the chance to be heard by anyone willing to listen to her explain her actions. In other districts, we would have had the opportunity to appeal the administration's decision to the school board but here in Norton, the school board chose instead to hide behind a legal technicality

and shirk their sworn responsibility to represent the community's best interests by refusing to hear her appeal.

It is highly unfortunate the board has chosen this course of action—especially in light of the stark contrast this action displays when compared to other districts who routinely offer this possible solution to parent/student/teacher conflicts.

You have sent a message to the students and the community you were elected to represent. The message you sent is painfully clear. You didn't get involved. Your priorities were not with the students. Your priorities were with yourselves. It is alarming to me that at the very time we should be rallying around our schools and encouraging our community members to vote for the upcoming bond issue, your actions could easily be interpreted by community members as reason enough to do the opposite.

I am disappointed because at this critical time for our High School your leadership is needed now more than ever. Yet when presented with an avenue for guidance and leadership you chose the path of least resistance. You cannot disconnect yourselves from this and other pertinent issues. This board should not be a rubber stamp for failed administrative policies.

We have asked you to lead and you have opted not to. You can do better.

Thank you for your time.

MINUTES

09- 211 **Mr. Bennett** moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 21, 2009.

Mrs. Worthington seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

09- 212 **Mrs. Webel** moved that the Board of Education approve the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 12, 2009.

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 4-0-1
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Leonti

WARRANTS

09-213 **Mrs. Worthington** moved that the Board of Education approve the warrants for the month of September, 2009.

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

09-214 **Mrs. Leonti** moved that the Board of Education approve the Financial Statement for the month of September, 2009.

Mrs. Worthington seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

FIVE YEAR FORECAST

09-215 Mrs. Webel moved that the Board of Education approve the Schedule of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in the Fund Balances for Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2007, 2008 and 2009; Forecasted Fiscal Years ending June 30, 2010 through 2014.

Mrs. Leonti seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

PERSONNEL

PERSONNEL (Certified) – Pending background and license check

09-216 Mrs. Webel moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the resignation of Adam Evans, High School Volleyball Coach, effective the end of the 2009-2010 season.

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

SUBSTITUTE PERSONNEL (Classified) – Pending background and license check

09-217 Mr. Bennett moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following:

- 1. Pamela Hendrix – effective September 28, 2009.

Mrs. Worthington seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS

09-218 Mrs. Worthington moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following supplemental positions:

Dick Castilow	7th Grade Boys' Basketball Coach
Jackie Genet	JV Girls' Basketball Coach

Mrs. Leonti seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

09-219 Mrs. Leonti moved that the Board of Education approve the Resolution to hire the nonlicensed/noncertified supplemental positions for the 2009-10 school year (pending background check and permits) as follows:

WHEREAS this Board has posted the position of High School and Middle School Coaches as being available to employees of the District who hold teaching licenses or certificates, and no such employee meeting the applicable qualifications has applied for, been offered, and accepted such positions; and

WHEREAS this Board then advertised the above position as being available to licensed or certified individuals not employed by this District, and no such person meeting all of the applicable qualifications has applied for, been offered, and accepted such position;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the following nonlicensed/noncertificated person be employed as indicated, pending completion of all legal requirements:

Scott Webb	7 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Jeff McNab	8 th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Randy Forst	Varsity Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
Tracy Fortner	Girls Basketball Varsity Assistant Volunteer

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs. Webel, Mrs. Worthington, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Leonti
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

CLASS

09-220 Mr. Bennett moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the Health Class at Grade 8 as meeting the high School curriculum requirements.

Mrs. Webel seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs. Worthington, Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Farmer, Mrs. Webel
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 4-0-1
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Leonti

CONSENT AGENDA

09-221 Mrs. Webel moved that the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent approve the following Consent Agenda:

Overnight Trip

Approve the overnight trip for Masonry Class, October 23-24, 2009 to Warren, Michigan.

Donations

Accept the following donations:

1. Eleven office chairs donated to Norton Cornerstone Elementary by the Food & Drug Administration valued at \$330.
2. Window air conditioner to be used in the LRC/Computer Lab donated by Stephen & Elizabeth Thrall valued at \$125.
3. Assorted playground items for the Preschool Playground donated by Mrs. Milligan with an approximate value of \$100.

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4. Assorted playground items for the Preschool Playground donated by Mrs. Smolinski with an approximate valued of \$100.
5. Assorted playground items for the Preschool Playground donated by Mrs. Kendel with an approximate value of \$100.
6. Miscellaneous school supplies, book bags, hats and lunchboxes to be used for student and classroom rewards at Cornerstone School valued at \$100 donated by Acme #6.
7. Three boxes of paperback and hardback books to be used in the Norton Primary Library valued at \$300 donated by Judy Slack.
8. An Epson Projector, HP Laptop and eInstruction Receiver to be used for classroom instructors donated by PAC valued at \$1,777.49.

Advisory Committee

Approve the Advisory Committee list for Career-Technical Programs.

Mrs. Leonti seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Bennett,Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

ADJOURNMENT

09-222

Mrs. Leonti moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Mr. Bennett seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Farmer,Mrs.Leonti,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Worthington,Mr.Bennett
NAYS: None – Motion Carries – 5-0

“Notice of this meeting was given in accordance with the provisions of Policy and Regulations of the Board of Education which was adopted in accordance with §121.11 of the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Procedures Act.”

Diane Farmer, President

Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer