

NORTON BOARD OF EDUCATION – 14-21
Special Session of September 2, 2014

President Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Treasurer called the roll:

- Mrs. Jennifer Bennett, President – Present
- Mr. Patrick Santelli, Vice President – Present
- Mr. Rob Knight, Member – Present
- Mr. Jason Sams, Member – Present
- Mrs. Cindy Webel, Member – Present

Also present were:

- Mr. David Dunn, Superintendent
- Mrs. Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer

14-217 Mr. Santelli moved that the Board of Education approve the agenda as presented.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs. Bennett, Mr. Knight, Mr. Sams, Mr. Santelli, Mrs. Webel
NAYS: Motion Carries 5-0

BOARD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ON SECURITY

President Bennett reviewed the following list of what area districts are doing for security:

District	Security Director	SRO Information
Cuyahoga Falls	No	Shared & Provided by Police
Woodridge	No	
Nordonia	No (Business Manager)	None
Hudson	No	None
Copley	Security Coordinator – No Law Enforcement Training	
Springfield	No (Business Manager)	1 SRO
Stow	No	MS – SRO HS – SRO
Coventry	No (Operations Manager)	None
Green	None	
Barberton	No	4 Shared with City
Twinsburg	No	2 Shared
Revere	No	1 SRO
Manchester	No	No
Tallmadge	No	No
Streetsboro	No (Athletic Director/Maintenance)	
Akron	Yes (Director of Student Services/Safety)	

Also reviewed were suggestions and/or comments from other administrators:

The police officer does spend 12 weeks in the school teaching our DARE class at the 6th grade, students are able to develop a relationship with the officer and I think it is a strong program that helps students build relationships with the police department.

As far as improving safety measures, we have entirely too many parents coming into the building at dismissal time to pick up their children. Car riders are held in the gym and those parents park their cars and walk into the gym where they collect their kids. The remaining children are then released to their parents in cars after bus dismissal.

Another thing I wondered about, and this is just from my personal experience picking up my children at their school, our buzzer has audio from the outside, but not from the inside out. For instance, if a parent buzzes, it might be nice to ask why they are at the school before they are permitted inside.

As far as security or resource officer, I understand why the issue is being considered. I am not sure how it would truly work having someone at all of our buildings during dismissal.

In general on every occasion we have needed the Norton Police Department (maybe 5 times a year) they have responded quickly and efficiently. On every occasion they have arrived at school in minutes of receiving a call from the middle school.

If we would have any security concerns it would be access into the bldg. and the main office, but that is something I believe is being address with the new school project.

We have called the police on occasion, just for advice, they have been open and willing to speak to us addressing any of our concerns.
Last year the students reported several of their classmates brought drugs into the school, we called the police at 11AM and they were in our bldg. with the drug dogs by 1PM.
I would like a "DARE" like program on social media and the law that could be taught at the 7th or 8th grade level, but I do not know if that is even feasible.
I feel the Norton Police Department does serve the Middle School as a security consultant, each time we have a lock down drill, they walk the building with us advising us on improvements that should/could be made.
I am unclear what a Security Director would do, since there is no one to "direct".
A resource office that may be at Grill or the High School would not be able to help us in an emergency any faster than the Norton Police Department would, do I am not sure if that is a prudent use of funds.
We receive tremendous support from the local police department. In the past couple years we have updated our practices and procedures including Alice Training for all staff.
We have so many needs I am just not sure hiring security personnel is needed.
In the morning police cars are visible in the parking lots, it would be nice if they got out of the car to help direct the traffic, but since it is private property I'm thinking they may not be permitted, but they are present. When we have had residents speeding through the school zone, we have asked the office to monitor specific cars and be visible at specific locations and they always support us through their monitoring.

New discussion :

There is a company located in Cleveland that evaluates school safety. They will provide a preview of security, review plans and give recommendations at a cost of \$24,650. Woodridge hired a retired police officer to review their district.
A Safety Director will cost \$70,000 to \$90,000 (salary & benefits) a year.
MKC will use consultant to help with High School Tech area. CT Taylor use Security by Design to assist with new buildings.
Chief Hete is interested in SRO for district, but funds/grants are non-existent right now. The City of Norton doesn't have extra money; the SRO would be our cost. The Chief is a strong supporter of school – if officer not on a call they do reports in our parking lots.
Use SRO to build rapport – protect 2700 people – Mr. Sams will support anything for security.
Gather more information – have company do presentation – ask more questions.
Mr. Dunn will check to see if the security companies can come to the Committee of the Whole.
Mr. Dunn will survey teachers on security and talk with Chief Hete.
What do we do in the mean time? Ask Chief Hete to have cars here at dismissal – Mr. Dunn will speak with the Chief.

ADJOURNMENT

14-218 Mr. Santelli moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Session at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mr.Knight,Mr.Santelli,Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Bennett
NAYS: Mr. Sams – Motion Carries 4-1

“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.”

Jennifer Bennett, President

Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer