

NORTON BOARD OF EDUCATION- 14-22
Special Session of September 8, 2014

President Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Conference Room and lead 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

14-219 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

Rachel Beecher – representative from MKC – Discuss committee responsibilities and instruction procedures for the building committees.

14-220 Mrs. Webel moved that the Board of Education approve the following resolution approving construction documents and authorizing the commencement of the bidding process for the new athletic complex:

WHEREAS, MKC Associates, Inc., the Architect for the Project has submitted Construction Document Stage submissions for the New Athletic Complex; and

WHEREAS, this Board has reviewed the submissions and deems them proper in all respects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Norton City School District, Summit County, State of Ohio, that:

Section 1. Approval of Construction Documents. The Construction Document Stage submissions referenced in the preambles to this Resolution, in the form now on file in the office of the Treasurer, are hereby approved.

Section 2. Authorization of Bidding. The Board of Education authorizes the commencement of the bidding process for the work referred to in the preambles to this Resolution in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.46.

Section 3. Approval and Execution of Related Documents. The President or Vice-President and Treasurer of this Board and the Superintendent, or such other School District officials as shall be designated by those officials, as appropriate, are each authorized and directed to sign any certificates or documents, and to take such other actions as are desirable, advisable, necessary or appropriate, to consummate the transactions contemplated by this Resolution.

Section 4. Prior Acts Ratified and Confirmed. Any actions previously taken by School District officials or agents of this Board in furtherance of the matters set forth in this Resolution are hereby approved, ratified and confirmed.

Section 5. Compliance with Open Meeting Requirements. This Board finds and determines that all formal actions of this Board and any of its committees concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Board or committees, and that all deliberations of this Board and any of its committees that resulted in those formal actions were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with the law.

Section 6. Captions and Headings. The captions and headings in this Resolution are solely for convenience of reference and in no way define, limit or describe the scope or intent of any Sections, subsections, paragraphs, subparagraphs or clauses hereof.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from and immediately upon its adoption.

Mr. Santelli seconded the motion.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – No Meeting

Policy – No Meeting

Community Engagement – Meeting on September 15, 2014

Technology & Instruction – No Meeting

Ken Trump - National School, Safety, and Security (Conference Call) – Presentation regarding services his company offers for reviewing school safety.

Operations – Board President, Mrs. Bennett reviewed information that was requested at prior meeting: Information from area districts:

<i><u>District</u></i>	<i><u>Security Director</u></i>	<i><u>SRO Information</u></i>
Cuyahoga Falls	No	Shared and 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)	
Wadsworth	No	Shared Cost with Wadsworth. Wadsworth does have a security monitor – salaried at \$26,000-\$32,000 for 184 days.
Northwest	No	Shared Cost w/Canal Fulton
Chippewa	No	1 Provided for 3 Years by Police Department at no cost. This year district pays 1/3 of cost.

Staff comments and suggestions:

- “Doors that lock consistently and more cameras would improve security.”
- “I would like to see employee swipe cards to enter the building at the elementary level. I do NOT feel we need a safety director nor do I believe we need a security officer/on-duty policeman.”
- “In regards to security in our school, I feel we need security in AM and PM for bus arrival/dismissal.”
- “Norton Schools currently have a good security system in place. Employees are properly trained and I do not feel hiring a Security Director is justified or necessary.”
- “What, or who, would a security director direct? The teachers? The administrators? The students? I think it’s ludicrous to propose adding a new administrative position without having any sort of description or any data to support it. What could a security director have done to prevent someone from wandering onto a bus? Unless that director planned to have armed guards in front of each bus, the answer is “nothing.” A security director can’t predict or prevent any possible threat to our schools. Additionally, even having a resource officer in the district won’t do anything to protect our schools—unless that resource officer coincidentally happens to be in the right place at the right time. Please don’t waste the district’s money without a non-value added position. It’s our job to educate the students, and while they are in our care, protect them, too. But no one—a

security director, a principal, a teacher, a parent, or a student—can prevent all forms of attack. All the training in the world isn't going to prevent evil."

- "Why has security become such a big issue all of a sudden? I thought we were making improvements all of the time."
- "We thank the members of the board for feeling the need to evaluate our current emergency and safety procedures, and we also thank those on the board for understanding the fiscal situation of the district. As in any home, business, or school, security can always be improved. However, there is no need to spend large amounts of money that we do not have."
- "Thank you for considering comments from the staff. I know that there are a few things that are a concern to many people and I too have some small concerns. The main concern to me is that we really do not talk about security of the school very often. Example...I believe as a staff we should have at least talked about making sure the building is secure and making sure watch for signs. I know sometimes things will happen and there really was no way of seeing it coming and you can be as secure as you think you can be and someone will find that hole in the armor. I think a resource officer would be a good idea but how much you would need them on a daily basis is a valid question. I would like to see us have a resource officer just to force us to have continued awareness in the school."
- "A school resource officer makes more sense than an administrator to oversee security."
- "We feel the "isolated" incident at Cornerstone was dealt with quickly and effectively with the training we have all received. Each one of us are eyes, ears and advocates for our students especially when it comes to safety. Reviewing the incident at Cornerstone we believe the intruder was dealt with appropriately than those involved should be commended. We all strive to improve daily on our mission to educate and keep our children safe."
- "We feel funds available for safety will be better spent on securing the buildings. We have an entrance/exit that is monitored throughout the day, however who ever enters must pass through "student areas" to enter the office. The other frequently used entrance/exit is the gym area where latchkey parents from our school and others (mentioning that because we do not recognize/know the parents) who have physical access to our building. It is our opinion that a physical barrier between our children and the general public be more of a priority than a security staff member."
- "In addition to physical safety, we would also like the heat to be addressed. We have more children on inhalers due to the heat and breathing issues than ever before. More children showing signs of heat related illness. Is there a calamity day temperature for heat similar to the cold temperatures?"
- "Mr. Dunn, I appreciate that you would like our input. It concerns me that we have a board member that poses a security threat himself. I've seen him around in the police jeep at dismissal times, and he just sits there and stares. Personally, I feel uncomfortable or threatened when he is on school property. It's creepy."
- "As a concerned parent and teacher, I would feel more secure with a police presence in our buildings."
- "As a veteran teacher, it is evident that security has been increased in Norton Schools over the past several years. The doors to the schools used to be unlocked. When guests would enter the building, they often wandered the halls looking for the office. After the Columbine incident, security began changing. Now that our office is located at the main entrance, the building is more secure than it's been."
- "Is there an issue with our security?"
- "The police presence in our schools seems to have increased. I often see officers doing a "walk through." I feel very safe in our school, and I do not see the need to spend money on an unnecessary position."
- "The safety of my students and my colleagues is important to me. I feel like our local police department does a great job at being present in or around the building. As a teacher, I feel adequately trained to handle situations to the best of my ability. We cannot predict when things will happen. The best we can do is be prepared to think quickly and clearly if it does. I'm not sure hiring personnel is necessary, but I'd like additional training."
- "Does the Board already have an officer in mind for the position?"
- "Currently the NPD has an excellent response time to school emergencies."
- "What special training in the school environment would the officer possess?"
- "I read an article from The Norton Post on the internet this week. It saddens me that our board is getting into heated discussions about security. I feel like our focus should be education. And not just what we're expected to teach. I think we need to teach our students about safety. There has to be a better way to solve this issue than spending money we don't have or by fighting about it. I've been in Norton Schools for a number of years, and this is the first time I've ever heard anything negative about our board."
- "I like the idea of having someone evaluate our security needs. I hope the board of education carefully weighs our limited finances when making this decision."

- “I feel like Ken and the administration at our buildings have provided us with training that support the safety and security of our schools. Hiring someone to focus solely on security seems like a good idea, but would there be enough work for that person? What would they do during the summer?”
- “When you ask how I feel about security, I think of safety. I’m confident that all of us work to keep our students safe on a daily basis. We create safe environments in our classrooms where students feel comfortable. Besides the security of the school, we have a lot of other safety issues to worry about, such as allergies, students with disabilities or illness. If we worry about the safety of the students, we need to focus where some of these students come from. Their home environments aren’t the greatest, and coming to school is the safest place they can be. I think we need more training on how to handle student issues—whether it’s physical health or mental health or social health—we need to know how to handle those situations.”
- “We need to bring the drug dogs through more often.”
- “I’ve worked in a couple different high schools, and the only high school that had a resource officer was an inner-city high school with a minority population of over 99%. Some of the issues that this officer dealt with included a pit bull attacking a parent in the parking lot, students stealing staff member’s cars, and two parents fighting in front of the school. Even with those issues, I never felt unsafe whether the resource officer was available or not. That being said, there’s never been any issues even close to that in the years that I’ve worked here. I have never felt unsafe, and I feel 100% confident that even my children in the system are completely safe. I have no concerns about safety. A bigger concern of mine for the use of resources would be to address the increased amount of testing requirements.”
- “As the secretary to a building and the person who lets people in the door, I would feel more comfortable if there was audio attached to the camera system. When the speakers are on, I can hear noise outside but I cannot understand what the people are saying. There is no audio for them to hear me.
- I also feel the new alarm button should be out where I could push it. Most of the time, the principal is not in the office. I would be the first person to know if there was an intruder and I would be the first person the intruder would come across.”
- “I feel an officer for security would benefit for AM and PM dismissal only. I also feel it could be more than one person’s duty.”
- “Has the district asked for officer to volunteer to see if there is a real need for this position? Full time or part time? How would one officer cover ALL buildings? How would this be funded? What would the position pay?”
- Will this position be filled from the Norton PD? Will this leave the force one officer down? And will they need to hire someone? More money on the taxpayers.”
- “Has a ‘rent-a-cop’ possibility been looked into?”
- “Please NO school board politics. We are trained professionals and do whatever is needed for the safety of EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY.”
- “We believe a full time security officer is NOT needed. Having the presence of an officer during AM and PM dismissal is appreciated. We feel this can be down when the officers are not on call during their regular shift.”
- “Our school district can’t afford to pay an officer or director \$70,000-\$90,000.”
- “At the elementary level, having an officer in the building, walking the halls, is a distraction.”
- “In terms of safety of our students, the high temperature of our classrooms on hot days is unsafe.”
- “My thought is a consultant firm would be valuable. More teacher training would be helpful.”
- “I’ve never felt unsafe while at work, nor have I ever heard my students say they felt unsafe. As a matter of fact, any time the topic of ‘lockdown’ is discussed, several of my students have commented on how safe they feel at school.”
- "Not necessary for a security officer to be in building."
- "There are much better ways to spend \$70-90,000 a year in our district."
- "What is the point of having a security officer rotating to different building, what are the chances that an officer be in the right building when there is threat?"
- "If the district has that kind of money, they should invest in a locking device for every teacher's classroom in the district."
- "No need for an officer, the money should be spent on redoing middle school and elementary buildings main doors and offices to make them more secure."
- "I feel safe in my building"
- "How can we afford a security officer?"
- "Would want to see money invested in improving our offices, doors, windows, etc,"

Safety Committee will be established to meet with staff and review options and suggestions. Mr. Dunn met with the City of Norton Administrative Officer Valerie Carr and Mayor Zita to share with them information we have on SRO's. They are not sure how City Council feels about this. They will have discussions with council. Mrs. Bennett reiterated how important safety is but we need to be fiscally responsible.

Mr. Sams - Review what happened and how important this is – he cares about safety and having the right tools. Still feels we need something and understands the concerns about the costs – taking step back, best for all of us. Thanks for the comments – doesn't know what the answer is but doesn't want to give up.

Mr. Dunn will put together committee to begin looking at safety it will be administration led by Mr. Caldwell. He will also continue discussions with the city.

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

PERSONNEL

- 14-221 **Mr. Webel** moved that the Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the elimination of the follow position:

Educational Assistant I at Grill Elementary currently held by Norita Blue, AM Preschool Class (3 hours).

Mr. Santelli seconded the motion.

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

- 14-222 **Mr. Sams** moved that the Board of Education upon recommendation of the Superintendent approve the creation of the following position:

Educational Assistant I at Grill Elementary for 6.25 hours per day.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

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

ADJOURNMENT

- 14-223 **Mr. Santelli** moved that the Board of Education adjourn the Special Session at 7:12 p.m.

Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: AYES: Mrs.Webel,Mrs.Bennett,Mr.Knight,Mr.Sams,Mr.Santelli
NAYS: 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."

Jennifer Bennett, President

Stephanie Hagenbush, Treasurer