

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, February 3, 2016

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Chairman, Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers, Ms. Lisa Igoe, Mr. Patrick McDonough and Mr. John Badger (arrived at 7:45).

Administrators Present: Mr. James Hayden, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment. (Ms. Ellis was excused due to illness).

Minutes: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2016, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of a *Report of the Norwood Town-Wide Facilities Management Committee* from Mr. Alan Slater dated January 28, 2016.

Warrants: Chairman Gormley informed that there were warrants to be signed.

Public Forum: Chairman Gormley informed that this was the time in the meeting for members of the public to address the School Committee with items that they would like to see on a future agenda.

Ms. Linda Ledger, Co-Chair of Norwood SEPAC and Jen Wildes, SEPAC Treasurer were here this evening to give SEPAC's Annual Report. They reviewed the goals of SEPAC and then shared their concerns and recommendations.

Ms. Wilde spoke of her concerns of the FY17 Budget and the possibility of the reduction of teachers. She asked that the Committee try their best (and be creative if need be) not to cut teachers.

Announcements: Norwood High School Wins Northeast Regional Broadcast Excellence: Mr. Hayden was excited to update the Committee that the Norwood High School Television Program has won awards in the Northeast Regional Broadcast Competition. *NHS Update* won in the Daily Live Show Category and *Mustang Magazine* won in the Monthly Show Category

Appearances: Coakley Middle School – National History Day Winners: Chairman Gormley welcomed Mr. Terence Martin, History Teacher at the CMS, here this

evening with his students who have won this competition and are moving on to the next round (South Shore Regional Competition in Brockton on March 12th). The students involved in the project titled *Marco Polo and the Silk Road* are James Downing III, Tejasivi (Tej) Aryaputra and Sam Osa-Abgontaen.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. They also wished the students well as they move on to the next round.

Mr. Hayden said we have a High School entry as well. He informed that our student Julia Kiley is submitting again this year as she is determined to beat a girl from Virginia she competed against previously.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McDonough made a motion to move Mr. Bourn (**New Business: High School Program of Studies**) up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

New Business: High School Program of Studies: Mr. Jonathan Bourn was here this evening to share with the Committee the updated program of studies for next year.

- Culinary Arts (New Course) – students will leave course with a ServSafe Certificate;
- German 1 & 2;
- Experiential Art – Standard (New Course);

Mr. Bourn was excited to update that Ms. Kristen McDonnell, Head of Guidance, has worked out a program with Mass Bay Community College for High School Students to be able to take 3-credit college course on-line for \$150.00.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: None.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: None.

Policy: None.

Budget: FY17 Budget Reductions: Mr. Hayden reviewed the 2017 Budget Process to date.

Operational Reductions:	\$185,205.
Personnel Reductions	\$1,491,683.
Additional Reductions:	_____ \$0

Need to cut \$2,023,469

Remaining Reductions	\$346,581
----------------------	-----------

There was much discussion on how to cut the remaining \$346,581.

Mr. Hayden reviewed some additional cuts he and his administration team reluctantly came up with this week.

After some discussion, Mr. Badger made a motion to approve reductions in the amount of \$118,327 as listed in *FY17 Budget Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection*, dated 2/1/2016, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden then began reviewing fees and reduction in buses for grades 7-12.

Mr. Badger said he is not in favor of eliminating buses.

Mr. McDonough also said he is not in favor of eliminating buses for grades 7-12.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said we do not have enough revenue to run our schools without making huge sacrifices and hurting our students.

Mr. Hayden then began reviewing fees for athletics. He then reviewed the results of cutting freshmen sports. In the end it will save approximately \$20,000.

Ms. Igoe said she does not recommend cutting freshmen sports as that will leave too many students without afterschool activities, adding that it will also hurt the JV and Varsity Programs. She also did not recommend increasing fees for athletics or fine arts at this point. She added we could cut sports and fine arts, but we would not then be an accredited High School.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said we are not doing our town any favors by chipping away at our foundation. She said we need to raise our base at this point. The Town and Schools need more money.

There was much discussion regarding the fact that a balanced budget needs to be submitted and that Norwood needs to vote on an override.

Mr. Hayden said the exercise we have worked on over the last couple of meetings is in preparation of Monday's Budget Balancing Committee Meeting. He can show them how much work has been done on reductions to this point. He will let them know that the Committee has discussed cutting freshmen sports or grades 7-12 busses.

Mr. Hayden than reviewed preschool tuitions.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to propose a \$2.00 per hour increase in preschool tuitions, which was seconded by Mr. Badger.

Mr. Hayden said we do not want to overprice our preschool program compared to other preschools in the area.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 3-2 (Mr. Badger and Chairman Gormley voted against).

Ms. Igoe made a motion to revisit the transportation fee for more discussion. which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to increase bus fees by \$50.00 per student, which was seconded by Mr. Badger for discussion. The Committee voted in favor 3-2 (Mr. Badger and Mr. McDonough opposed).

Mr. Hayden updated that we will be filing for Extraordinary Relief for help with our out-of-district placement costs, which keeps increasing for this year.

Mr. Hayden then reviewed personnel decisions made to date. He added more reductions in personnel to bring personnel reductions from \$1,627,978 to \$1,727,906.00.

Mr. Badger made a motion to make the reductions in personnel outlined by Mr. Hayden. There was no second.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to withdraw the following items from the personnel spreadsheet dated 2/1/2016, which was seconded by Mr. Badger for discussion.

- Line item numbers 3 (1.0 Oldham Grade 3 Teacher);
- Line item number 13 (1.0 Prescott Grade 4 Teacher);
- Line item number 24 (.5 School Psychologist).

Mr. McDonough made an amendment to the original motion to withdraw Line item number 17 (SPED High/Middle Sch. Dept. Chair) from the personnel spreadsheet, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted against 3-2.

With regard to the original motion the Committee voted against 5-0.

Mr. Badger remade his original motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations for reductions as outlined on FY17Budget Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection dated 2/1/2016, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers (This will leave an amount of \$177,236 still to go to get to a balanced budget). The Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Ms. Igoe voted against).

Ms. Igoe made a motion to revisit bus fees. Mr. Badger seconded the motion for discussion. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to double bus fees from \$250 to \$500, which will close the budget gap. Mr. Badger seconded the motion for discussion.

Ms. Igoe added that she is opposed to all the cuts and increased fees, but this will be a balanced budget to bring to the Budget Balancing Committee Meeting.

With regard to the motion on the table, and after much discussion, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Mr. McDonough voted against).

Mr. Hayden explained that this is not a final budget yet, and there is still time to revise and recalculate the numbers. He added that we worked very hard on what our budget will look like. Mr. Hayden will present this budget to the Budget Balancing Committee on Monday. He will also put this on the website as our 2nd pass draft.

Mr. Hayden recommended approving the following transfer for the Willett:

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
Acct. 1257 16 Sch. Equip Rep – Willett \$880.77	0969 16 Sch IS/TB –Willett \$880.77
Total to be transferred from: \$880.77	Total to be transferred to: \$880.77

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Old Business: Superintendent’s Evaluation: Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she is collating all the information she has, but is still waiting on two more forms.. Mrs. Rau-Rogers will put together a summary of all the comments and ratings, which will eventually become a public document. She will have a draft for the next meeting.

New Business: Coakley Middle School – MSBA Statement of Interest: Mr. Hayden reminded that over many years we have submitted an MSBA Statement of Interest for the Coakley Middle School HVAC System. Mr. Hayden reminded that we were not accepted for the program this past year, but that he and Mr. Ricciardi, Director of Buildings and Grounds, recommend refreshing the Statement of Interest for the Coakley again this year. Mr. Hayden updated the Committee that the existing all-electric/thirty-nine year (39) year old HVAC System has exceeds its service life and now requires costly repairs when equipment is out of service. HVAC electric costs for this building account for thirty-five (35) percent of the District’s budget in that category. A new HVAC system would improve classroom heating and ventilation while reducing recurring electrical and repair costs to the Norwood Public Schools.

Mr. Badger made a motion to refresh the Statement of Interest for the Coakley Middle School HVAC, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of (9) Eight Donations:

- Women's Community Committee Inc. (2) Two \$200.00 G.C. – Callahan
- Women's Community Committee Inc. (2) Two \$200.00 G.C. – High School
- Women's Community Committee Inc. (2) Two \$200.00 G.C. – CMS
- Women's Community Committee Inc. (2) Two \$200.00 G.C. – LEAD Program
- Norwood Lodge of Elks – (48) Dictionaries for 3rd Graders – Callahan School
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care - \$3,000.00 Employee Donation – Cleveland
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care- \$500.00 Employee Donation – Prescott
- Bay State Textiles – Rebate - \$300.50
- Dedham Savings - \$1,160.00 towards presentation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the donations, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough had the honor and privilege of watching Ms. Molly Uppencamp's civics students participate in a debate program in Boston. Mr. McDonough suggested that we should send the students a congratulations letter on a job well-done.

Mr. Badger had none.

Ms. Igoe had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Chairman Gormley reminded the Committee of the upcoming TEC Legislative Breakfast.

Executive Session: Chairman Gormley informed that there would be an Executive Session for discussion of Superintendent's Contract.

Mr. Badger made a motion for Executive Session at 10:40 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 11:05 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

