

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, February 24, 2016

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 24, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Chairman, Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers, Mr. John Badger, Ms. Lisa Igoe and Mr. Patrick McDonough.

Administrators Present: Mr. James Hayden, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment; and Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Finance and Operations.

Minutes: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2016, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Save the Date invitation for the *Day on the Hill* hosted by MASC on April 26, 2016 at the State House in Boston;
- Letter from the Board of Selectmen inviting Mr. Hayden and Mr. Riccardi to their meeting on March 8th to discuss the CMS HVAC project; and
- A handout with information regarding tax over-rides.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee on the success of the high School INVENTeam project. Mr. Hayden was excited to update the Committee that the invention worked!! The snow removal invention did work during the last snowstorm and Mr. Hayden was able to go on-line and see it in action.

Mr. Bourn updated that the INVENTeam had their mid-cycle review for the grant and said the kids did a great job. Also, Senator Markey sent a citation to the INVENTeam. Mr. Bourn ended by saying that the team has been invited to MIT (to the Eureka Fest) in June to present their invention. He thanked Mr. Kidd, the Buildings and Grounds Crew, Dr. Wyeth, and the Superintendent as well as the Town for supporting these kids and helping them get this invention up and running.

Appearances: High School Scholarship – AV Rodriguez Memorial: Mr. Jonathan Bourn updated that the proposed AV Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship is a one-time scholarship, but there is interest in making it an annual scholarship. Mr. Bourn read the criteria for applicants and explained that by taking action this evening, we can make this scholarship available to the current senior class.

Chairman Gormley asked Mr. Bourn if the donor is remaining anonymous.

Mr. Bourn said they would prefer to remain anonymous.

Chairman Gormley asked Mr. Bourn to convey the Committee's thanks.

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

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to move New Business: High School Procedures for Allocating Funds from Donations up in agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

New Business: High School Procedures for Allocating Funds from Donations: Mr. Bourn updated the Committee that donations have been received in honor of the Nolet/Johnson Gym Floor. Mr. Bourn said he will work with the PTO and School Council to use some of these donations in a way that will benefit as many students as possible.

Mr. Hayden read the names of the donors and the amounts that were donated, which totaled \$32,625.00.

Mr. Badger made a motion to approve the donations in the amount of \$32,625.00 and to disperse the money as Mr. Bourn has stated. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Reports: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden said he had one late agenda item to cover. He said that during the very cold stretch recently, there was some pipe problems at the Cleveland Elementary School. He said that there was a great effort from Buildings and Grounds to get it all cleaned up and back on track. Mr. Hayden said that this has prompted him to change the priority item for the Capital Outlay memorandum to be the Cleveland flooring instead of the Oldham.

Mr. Hayden added that money can be saved on the exterior work on the Coakley Middle School portables by redoing the trim and kickboards instead of the entire exterior. This will change that figure from \$100,000 to \$45,000.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the revision to the Capital Outlay request, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mr. McDonough abstained).

Policy: None.

Budget: FY17 Budget Balancing 2nd Pass and Finance Commission Presentation (February 11, 2016): Mrs. Rau-Rogers updated that at the last Budget Balancing Meeting, the following additions were added:

Additions to the bottom line related to State Aid:

State Cherry Sheet Revenue increases	\$ 244,980
State Cherry Sheets Charges increase	(174,418)
Increases to the bottom line related to State Aid	<u>1,264</u>
Increases to the bottom line related to State Aid	\$ 71,826

Additions to the bottom line related to Shared Costs:

Reductions in the budgeted cost of Group Insurance	\$ 400,000
Reductions in the budgeted general insurance cost	\$ 40,000
Reductions in the budgeted Blue Hills tuition cost	\$ 25,451
Establishing the Reserve Fund for the Fiscal 2017 Budget	<u>\$(125,000)</u>
Increase to the bottom line related to Shared Costs	\$ 340,451

Total additional funds for Schools and General **\$ 412,277**

Mrs. Rau-Rogers updated that with these changes, the new new final budget figure is \$40,823,311.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers explained that \$150,000 will go towards a building study and \$300,000 will go to the schools, but it will need to go on the Special Town Meeting in May. Mrs. Rau-Rogers said they discussed the pros and cons of an override and added that overall it was a very productive meeting. Mrs. Rau-Rogers deeply appreciated Mr. Plasko's comments on how tight many departments are with Budget Balancing.

FY17 Budget Reductions Review: The Members received the FY17 Budget – Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection dated Wednesday, February 24, 2016 (2nd Pass) with a new Final Budget in the amount of \$40,823,311. Mr. Hayden updated that between previous cuts and the additions to the budget discussed this evening, we can add back items in the amount of \$539,516.

Some of the areas Mr. Hayden suggested changing were:

- Change the bus fees to \$300.00 (reduce from \$500.00) per student with a family cap of \$750.00;
- Reduce the Preschool Tuition increase from \$2.00 per hour

- to \$1.00 per hour;
- Add a Math Teacher and English Teacher at the High School;
- Add two Elementary Teachers at the Balch;
- Add one Elementary Teacher at the Oldham;
- Add one Elementary Teacher at the Prescott;

There was much discussion regarding adding back more staff or alleviating the some of the fees.

After much discussion, Mr. Badger made a motion to add \$100,000 to Account P1440, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to restore Line # 3 in the amount of \$52,820 and Line #13 in the amount of \$55,288 back into the budget, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to accept \$300,000 and use it towards the FY17 Budget, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendations.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to bus fees a \$750 family cap.

Ms. Igoe rescinded her motion.

Mr. Badger rescinded the original motion

Ms. Igoe made a motion to have a family cap on buses at \$750.00, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to eliminate line item 31 to (increase bus fees by \$200), which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to change the increased preschool tuition by \$1.00 per hour (instead of \$2.00 per hour), which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to reinstate one math teacher and one English teacher at the High School, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to approve the remainder of the Superintendent's recommendations as outlined on Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection dated

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 (Line item 1, 7, 9, 11), which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden will go back to his team to eliminate the \$15,320 that the budget is currently over. Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis for all her hard work and added that there is still work to be done.

Mr. Hayden recommended the following Budget Transfer:

Transfer From:	Transfer To:
6110 1256 to SCH Equip REP – CMS \$600.00	6030 0931 16 SCH IS/TB – CMS Inst. Supp. \$600.00

Total to be Transferred From: \$600.00 TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO: \$600.00

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: None.

New Business: Suburban Coalition Resolution: Chairman Gormley read a proposed resolution calling for full funding of the foundation budget review commission in the immediate future.

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

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of (2) Two Donations:

-Women’s Community Inc. (2) Two \$200.00 Gift Cards – Cleveland School;

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda:

Mr. Badger had none.

Ms. Igoe had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers read the description of the AV Rodriguez Memorial, which she thought was beautifully written. She said it’s a beautiful description of how this Town was built by immigrants and said the changing culture is something to be celebrated. She said that everyone should plan on voting on March 1st.

Mr. McDonough said the INVENTeam received an award from Mr. Markey for being on of the 14 finalists in the Country. Mr. McDonough said they are truly a remarkable group of kids. Mr. McDonough then said at a recent meeting he had with Mr. Hayden he learned that our nurses did not want to give Narcan to students, which contradicted an article in today's newspaper.

Mr. Hayden said he did not say the nurses are against Narcan, and Mr. Hayden shared with the Committee the Clinton Foundation announcement offering free Narcan to every High School in the country. Mr. Hayden said he has had a conversation with Jill Driscoll about this. He added that the reality is that the Safety Officers are at the High School five days a week and at the Coakley Middle School a few days a week and they carry Narcan with them in their vehicles. Mr. Hayden said the nurses have gone for the training and you can't always believe what you read in the paper.

Mr. McDonough said he respectfully disagrees with the Superintendent regarding what was stated in the office meeting.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to discuss this item in Executive Session under *Personnel* at the next meeting. Chairman Gormley asked for a second to the motion. There was no second.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she doesn't think there needs to be a motion, but that Chairman Gormley can ask to put it on a future agenda.

After some discussion, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion at 9:45 p.m. for a five-minute recess, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee will be back to open session after the recess. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to enter back into open session at 9:55 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Executive Session: Mr. Badger made a motion for Executive Session at 9:55 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Chairman Gormley informed that there would be an Executive Session and that the Committee would be coming back to Open Session for the sole purpose of Adjournment.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

