

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, April 6, 2016

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Chairman, Ms. Lisa Igoe, Mr. Patrick McDonough, Mrs. Myev Bodenhofer and Mrs. Michele Eysie Mullen.

Administrators Present: Mr. James Hayden, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Finance and Operations.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Hayden and Chairman Gormley welcomed the High School Students who were chosen to participate in Student Government Day to this evening's meeting.

Appearances: Student Government Day: The following students participated in Student Government Day

- Surya Adeleye, Superintendent of Schools (Gr. 9);
- Allison Silletti, School Committee (Gr. 10);
- Roberto Bernal, School Committee (Gr. 12);
- Alessandra Varon, School Committee (Gr. 10); and
- Maya Hall, School Committee (Gr. 10).

The students met with the Superintendent earlier in the day to pick topics that are important to Norwood High School that would be discussed at the Students' School Committee Meeting, which was held before the regular School Committee Meeting.

The first order of business was to introduce the National History Day Winners from the Coakley Middle School. The following students were selected at the Regional Competition to compete at the State Competition on April 9th.

National History Day Winners:

<u>Students Moving On:</u>	<u>Project Titles</u>
James Downing, Tejasvi Aryaputra, and Sam Osa Agbontaen	Marco Polo and the Silk Roads
Anthony Capodilupo, Jake Mannering, Sean Chisholm, Dan Gruber, Lars Boothroyd	Yeager Breaks the Speed of Sound
Sonika Dhakal, Sophia Serratore, Angela Sharra, Sahuti Adhikari, Priscilla Zhang.	Alexander the Great

The Committee Members congratulated all the competitors and wished them good luck at the next level.

High School Graduation: The Students' School Committee Meeting resumed with the Student School Committee Members discussing the topic of High School Graduation and whether or not the seniors' future plans should be announced at the Graduation Ceremony. Each Committee Member had an opportunity to share their thoughts regarding this matter, whether it be in favor or against.

After much discussion, the students made a motion that today's discussion be presented to the faculty at Norwood High School. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.

At 8:50, the Norwood School Committee resumed its regular meeting.

Minutes: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016 with the minor changes that were outlined, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0-2 (Ms. Bodenhofer and Ms. Mullen abstained.)

Correspondence: Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Response letter to March 21st Letters from Mr. Roger Ferris;
- Norwood League of Women Voters;
- Board of Selectmen Letter on Town Meeting Warrant Articles.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Mr. Hayden announced that Norwood High School's head of Guidance, Kristen McDonnell, is receiving the Golden Foundation Award this evening and Dr. Wyeth is there on behalf of the Norwood Public Schools. Mr. Hayden said Ms. McDonnell is very deserving of this Award.

Reports: None.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to move Superintendent's Report down in the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Policy: None.

Budget: FY17 Budget work with Finance Commission March 31, 2016: Mr. Hayden updated that the budget that was submitted for FY17 will include 10.8 FTE's more than this year for a grand total of 468.6 Norwood Public School Employees.

Mr. Hayden took time during the meeting to thank the custodians and the buildings and grounds crew for all their help Monday during elections and a snowstorm for keeping the walkways and parking lots cleared for the voters. Mr. Hayden said it was a successful election thanks to all the behind the scenes workers.

Old Business: Report on Town Capital Outlay Meeting March 30, 2016: Mr. Hayden updated that there have been some updates to our Capital Outlay requests, saying that the Coakley Portable Classroom (trim) project has been scaled back to \$45,000. There is also a proposal for the Cleveland tile project. When the pipes burst during February vacation, the Cleveland project was moved up on the list. Most of this project can be done during the summer. The Finance group is discussing this item now. The Balch kitchen equipment (replacement) has been scaled down to \$59,000.

Mr. Hayden then updated that we have a Food Service RFP out, and once the proposals are in we will share the information with the Committee. If we like what the proposals are, then we will move forward. But if we do not like the proposals, then we will advertise for a Food Manager.

Snow & Ice Update: Mr. Hayden updated that one more bill came in to bring our snow costs to \$85,000.

New Business: Proposed 2016-2017 School Year Calendar: Mr. Hayden began by saying the purpose of the School Calendar is to let parents know when school is in session and when there are half-days and days off. On the back of the calendar is the schedule of holidays.

Mr. McDonough asked if there has been any thought to changing the start times of school, as there are some other communities that have implemented later start times.

Mr. Hayden said that there would have to be a community discussion before considering this idea.

Mr. McDonough said that he still feels very strongly regarding reinstating the Christmas Break wording back into the front page of the Calendar.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to change *Holiday Recess* to back to *Christmas Break*, which was seconded by Ms. Bodenhofer for discussion.

Ms. Igoe said that no matter what it says on the calendar, her family still calls it Christmas Break, but she feels that the last change voted on to call it *Holiday Recess* was a good compromise to include all religions.

Ms. Bodenhofer said that this is one of the first pieces of papers all families get as they enter the schools. She said with the diversity of cultures here in Norwood she believes *Holiday Recess* is appropriate.

Ms. Mullen said she is in favor of the traditional naming of a holiday, but feels that we have bigger issues at hand and suggests that we leave it alone. She said she is worried about a Civil Liberties lawsuit and would rather not have that happen.

Chairman Gormley said he feels it's a distraction, and we have spent too much time on this item. What we call it is not as important as how we celebrate it.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted against 4-1. (Mr. McDonough opposed).

Ms. Igoe made a motion to accept the calendar as is for the 2016-2017 Calendar Year, which was seconded by Ms. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Mr. McDonough opposed).

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden said he has contacted Mr. Glen Kutcher to set up a time for this Committee to get together and have some training, as Mr. Ferris, in his complaint, suggested.

Mr. Hayden asked the Committee if we could agree on an evening or Saturday time for this meeting, which would be about 3 hours long in the middle to end of May.

There was some discussion regarding times and dates. Mr. Hayden said he would put together a few times for the Committee to try to agree on.

Mr. Hayden suggested adding a School Committee Meeting on May 9th before Town Meeting in the High School Library at 6:30 p.m. in case there need to be any last-minute updates before Town Meeting.

Chairman Gormley informed that this Committee needed to vote on a Vice-Chair for the School Committee to fill the Mrs. Rau-Roger's vacancy. He asked for volunteers.

Ms. Igoe volunteered for this position.

Mr. McDonough said he would also volunteer to be co-chair and listed his reasons why he believes he would be a good candidate for this position.

Mr. Hayden explained that Mrs. Rau-Rogers was the Vice-Chair and any vacancies between elections need to be filled by a vote of the Committee until June.

Mrs. Bodenhofer nominated Ms. Igoe for the position of Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe.

Mrs. Mullen nominated Mr. McDonough for this position, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

Both Mr. McDonough and Ms. Igoe shared their experiences and reasons why they feel they would be good candidates for this position.

Mrs. Mullen said it's difficult because this group has not worked together yet and it's hard to make this kind of decision on the first night together.

With regard to the nomination for Ms. Igoe as Vice-Chair, the following voted in favor: Mrs. Bodenhofer, Ms. Igoe and Chairman Gormley. Mr. McDonough and Mrs. Mullen abstained. With three Members in favor and two abstentions, Ms. Igoe was voted as Vice-Chair with a majority vote.

Mr. Hayden updated that on April 12th at 5:30; he and Mr. McDonough will be meeting with Union 50 and would like to add another Committee Member to join the meeting. Mrs. Mullen said she would be available to join that meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of (1) Donation/Rebate: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting the following donation/rebate in the amount of \$193.50

Bay State Textiles:

Balch School	\$15.00
Callahan School	\$19.50
Cleveland School	\$42.25
Oldham School	\$28.50
Prescott School	\$25.25
Willett ECC	\$ 2.75
Middle School	\$23.25
High School	\$26.00
Savage Center	<u>\$11.00</u>
Total	\$193.00

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

Personnel None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough welcomed Mrs. Bodenhofer and Mrs. Mullen and said it's not easy to be on this Committee, but time will fly by. He said he looks forward to working with them both going forward. Mr. McDonough thanked all the voters for coming out on a very snowy election day.

Chairman Gormley announced that the MICCA Festival was this past weekend and the following groups won awards:

NHS Choral Ensembles, Director, Jennifer Hartnett

GOLD Madrigal Choir
GOLD: Muses (Women's choir)
SILVER: Concert Chorale
SILVER: Concordia (Men's choir)

NHS Instrumental Ensembles, director, Steven Conant

SILVER NHS Wind Ensembles
SILVER NHS Orchestra

CMS

SILVER Honor Band, Director Sean Lee
SILVER Honor Chorus, director Sara Seals
BRONZE Honor Orchestra, director Craig Chisholm

Elementary

SILVER Elementary Honor Band, director Elana Lorance & Larry Smith

Mrs. Bodenhofer thanked the Committee for the warm welcome.. She congratulated the High School Students for a great job this evening and wished the Coakley Middle School History Students well as they advance on to the next level.

Ms. Igoe welcomed the new members this evening and she then thanked Mrs. Rau-Rogers for all the hard work she has done on this committee over the years. Ms. Igoe congratulated the High School Student Government Students on a great job tonight and wished the Coakley Middle School History Students good luck as they move on. Ms. Igoe also informed that the Fine Arts Festive is scheduled for April 12th and April 13th in the Savage Center Gym.

Mrs. Mullen thanked Mr. Hayden and the Committee for a warm welcome this evening, adding that she already feels comfortable. She is looking forward to rolling up her sleeves to get going on the important issues. She thanked Cathy Connor Moen and her staff for continuing to "knock it out of the park". Mrs. Mullen also congratulated the High School students that were here this evening for a great job.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjourn 9:10 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee