

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, July 8, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. 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 and Mr. Patrick McDonough.

Committee Member Excused: Mr. John Badger

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: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2015, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Norwood Day Committee requesting permission to use the lower Coakley Field on Friday, September 11th for fireworks;

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

- The Members received a small slip of paper with instructions to on how to log on to their new gmail accounts.
- The Members received a layout of the new Norwood Mustangs Banner that is hanging in Norwood Center celebrating the baseball team's State Championship win.
- Mr. Hayden reminded that last year the football and field hockey teams hosted successful evening games at the High School and have requested to do so again this year. Mr. Hayden said that the football team will be playing under the lights on Friday, September 18th vs. Wayland and the Field Hockey Team will play under the lights on Saturday, September 19th vs. Dedham. Mr. Hayden said that both teams will follow the same procedures as last year as far as security and consideration for the neighbors.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Norwood Housing Authority Collaboration “Village Center”: Mrs. Carole Poirier was at this evening’s meeting to update the Committee on a wonderful collaboration between the Norwood Public Schools, the Norwood Housing Authority, and the MA Department of Early Education and Care – CFCE Grant. Mrs. Poirier informed that she approached the Norwood Housing Authority to see if they may have space for preschool programs for 2, 3 and 4 year olds, as well as an ESL program for preschoolers. The Housing Authority graciously donated a home on Roosevelt Avenue to begin a “Village Center”. The Housing has also agreed to paint and renovate the house to the specifications needs. Eventually there will be parent groups added in the evening as well as a “clothing swap” as young children don’t wear out clothing, they outgrow clothing.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: None.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden said at the May 20th meeting, the Committee agreed to the TEC changes. Mr. Gormley just needed to sign the document outlining the changes this evening.

Policy: None.

Budget: FY15 Budget: Ms. Ellis began by thanking all the ladies in her department as well as Mary O’Brien in the Payroll Department for helping her close out the 2014-2015 School Year. She updated the Committee saying that we did very well pinching pennies this year and we ended with a balance of approximately \$130,000.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis for pulling this off. He added that we are at the point of making decisions about the vans.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to purchase vans up to \$96,000 for replacement of older vans, which was seconded by Chairman Gormley for discussion. After some clarifications that the money has to be used for a project, not personnel, the Committee voted in favor 4-0.

State Budget Update: The Committee received *A Changing Metric: Low Income vs. Economically Disadvantaged (revised July 6, 2015)*. Mr. Hayden informed that the “Low Income” data have been used for a wide range of purposes:

-School Nutrition;

- Chapter 70;
- Federal entitlement allocations (district and school);
- State grant awards;
- Assessment reporting;
- Accountability system;
- School building reimbursement rates;
- Research projects – consistent across states.

Mr. Hayden shared this information because it affects next year’s budget and, he added, he wants to make sure the Norwood Schools get all the assistance we are entitled to get.

Mr. Hayden then said tomorrow, both branches of government will be voting on the budget. Mr. Hayden said there is no way to

Old Business: Cafeteria Contract: Mr. Hayden informed that the Cafeteria Contract that has been voted on needs the Committee’s signatures this evening.

New Business: Acceptance of Four (4) Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended the Committee accept a donation of \$2,000 from the Women’s Community Committee, Inc. to fund the Roots and Wings Teen Speak Out Program at the Coakley Middle School for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended the Committee accept an anonymous donation of \$3,305.83 for books, games, bookshelves, etc. for the Village Center.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended the Committee accept a donation from Bay State Textiles, Inc. for the Spring Contest between schools. Mr. Hayden informed that the Cleveland School brought in the most donated pounds of textiles and won \$300.00. The other schools won the following amounts:

Callahan Elementary	\$150.00
Oldham Elementary	\$100.00
Savage Educational Center	\$ 25.00
Prescott Elementary	\$ 25.00
Balch Elementary	\$ 25.00
Coakley Middle School	\$ 25.00
Willett Early Childhood Center	\$ 25.00
Senior High School	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total:	\$700.00

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Bay State Textiles for the month of May in the amount of \$623.05.

Balch Elementary	\$ 43.50
Callahan Elementary	\$ 55.50
Cleveland Elementary	\$130.50
Oldham Elementary	\$ 51.00
Prescott Elementary	\$ 47.00
Willett Early Childhood Center	\$130.55
Coakley Middle School	\$ 36.00
Senior High School	\$ 72.50
Savage Educational Center	<u>\$ 56.00</u>
Total:	\$623.05

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

School Committee Meeting Dates 2015-2016 School Year: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

During the discussion, Mr. McDonough made a motion to change the name of the *Winter Recess* back to its former name of *Christmas Break* on the School Calendar, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers.

Mrs. Rau-Roger's only suggestion was to put this item on an agenda for a meeting with a full Board to avoid a tie, which would mean the motion failed.

The motion was amended to state that Mr. McDonough would like to have the School Calendar (change *Winter Recess* back to *Christmas Break*) added to the next agenda.

The Committee voted 2-2 so motion failed. (Mrs. Rau-Rogers and Chairman Gormley voted against).

Mr. McDonough asked if this could still be brought up at the next meeting.

Ms. Rau-Rogers explained to Mr. McDonough that he could make another motion at the next meeting with the full Board if he wanted to.

With regard to the original motion to approve the 2015-2016 School Committee Meetings, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Personnel: Mr. Hayden informed that the Members each received *2015-2016 Open Positions to be Filled*, to fill the Members in on staffing. They will receive another update at the next meeting in August.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough said he hopes the School Calendar will be put on the next agenda and he hopes his fellow Members will vote in favor of changing *Winter Break* to *Christmas Vacation* and then we can all move on to bigger issues.

Ms. Igoe congratulated Coach Kevin Igoe and the Norwood High School baseball team on their amazing State Championship win.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers congratulated the baseball team and thanked the Old Colonial Café who has generously agreed to display the trophies for all to see in their restaurant for the summer.

Chairman Gormley congratulated the baseball team and coaches, adding that there hasn't been a state championship for Norwood Baseball since 1943. The excitement they generated throughout the town was wonderful to see. Chairman Gormley congratulated the organizers of the 4th of July Parade as he knows it wasn't easy to put together this year. Chairman Gormley then wished everyone a wonderful summer.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 8:05 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee