

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, September 22, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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: Ms. Igoe made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mr. Badger abstained).

Correspondence: Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of an e-mail sent to Ms. Igoe and forwarded to the full Committee from Mr. Neil Larrivee dated September 22, 2015

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

Public Forum: None.

Appearances: High School Students Present 4 A's for Committee: Hannah Benson, Daniel Chiaravallotti, Brian McDonough and Sally Trieu were here to update the Committee regarding Academics, Athletics, Arts and Activities at Norwood High School.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: K-5 Math Envision Report: Ms. Jill Milton, Math Specialist, was here this evening to update the Committee on the current status with regards to the new math program, Envision. The teacher manuals were distributed back in June so the teachers could have them over the summer and the teachers received professional development the first week of school. The goal is that everything is right for every learner. She said that this is a very vigorous program with lots of visuals and interactive learning. Ms. Milton feel this was the best program for Norwood because of the Home-School Connection, adding that parents can use the student log-in and find a daily video reviewing the current day's lessons. There will be another half-

day professional development regarding lesson planning for the Envision program on October 7th.

Special Education Report and Future Plans: Ms. Paula Alexander, Director of Student Services, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to current trends in Special Education. Ms. Alexander began by stating that 701 students are currently enrolled in Special Education in the Norwood Public Schools. She said we are doing everything we can to make sure we are in compliance in every area. Ms. Alexander added that the Willett population is growing “like wildfire”.

The Members received in their packets newly designed brochures for the following programs:

- HEROES Program (Helping Each Other Reach Outstanding Educational Success);
- LBLD Program (Language Based Learning Disability Program);
- LEAD Program (Live, Engage, Achieve and Develop);
- PACS (Practical Application of Curriculum and Skills);
- PLC (Pragmatic Learning Center); and
- TASC (Teaching Academic & Social Curriculum).

Mr. Hayden said he appreciates Ms. Alexander and her staff for all they do to assess the needs of new students and to get them settled and to the point that they feel comfortable enough to begin the learning process.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden said he received a news flash from Mr. Jack Tolman regarding some awards our Norwood T.V. students and classes have received recently from the 2015 Alliance for Community Media - Northeast Video Festival. The shows that received Awards were:

- The Collaborative Engineering Project w/ Dr. Crowley;
- Norwood Fire – Code Red;
- Interview with the mother of missing child, Molly Bish.

Mr. Hayden said our students and staff are really showing what they are made of.

Mr. Hayden then reviewed a draft *Request for Qualifications for a School Facilities Study for the Norwood Public School District* that he would like the Members to look over and share any changes/additions they would like to see. Mr. Hayden shared the timeline.

Mr. Hayden then asked the Committee to sign a transfer that was voted on previously for stipends for volleyball coaches and Grad Point Manager as the Grad Point Manager was incorrectly written in as “Coach”.

Policy: None.

Budget: FY16 Budget / **Personnel:** **Middle School Staffing:** Mr. Hayden reviewed that as a result of last year's budget deliberations, the Middle School went to a Grade 7/8 Team instead of having two 7th grade teams and two 8th grade teams. He explained that the schedule was redesigned to allow more time for teachers to meet students by dropping the long block once a day and instead adding a 27 minute Mustang Block to be used by teachers for extra help, tutoring and music instruction (RTI help). The 8th grade group, which had 729 students last year, now has 764.

Mr. Hayden said that he is proposing that we add an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher who would also teach two Spanish classes and a .4 Physical Education teacher.

Ms. Mann said she believes the schedule puts the students in front of teachers more, and we are going to move forward with the process and see how the schedule goes this year. Ms. Mann said she responded to Mr. Larrivee regarding his concerns and she apologized for the delay in getting back to him regarding his concern that 8th grade music lessons were cut from 3 days to 2 days in a 6-day cycle.

The Members supported Ms. Mann in her efforts to keep the needs of the students as her primary focus.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the additional requested staff of a 1.0 ELL/Spanish Teacher and a .4 Physical Education teacher, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Mann for all the great communications she sends out to families on a regular basis.

Mr. Hayden said, at this point, there is a need for a few more AP Psychology books. Mr. Bourn worked with the Foreign Language Department Head and was able to come up with a way to get the books with the following transfers:

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
0842 16 SCH IS/TB. SHS Foreign Lang. \$319.00	0852 16 SCH IS/TB Soc. Stud. TB \$469.00
0913 16 SCH IS/TB SHS P.E. Inst. Surp. \$150.00	

Ms. Igoe made a motion to approve the transfer of \$469.00 for additional AP Psychology textbooks, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Old Business: **Sub-Committee Assignments:** Chairman Gormley thanked the Members for stepping up and volunteering for these committees. He will share the list once it is complete.

New Business: Committee of 21 Report: Chairman Gormley and Mrs. Rau-Rogers updated the Committee regarding the recent Committee of 21 Meeting. The Committee of 21 was very interested to hear that we were interested in another facilities study to look ahead for the next 15 years. The Committee agreed that a new study will help us decide what path to head down with. The C-21 voted in favor of an RFQ. She added that Westwood just completed a study and it was in the ballpark of \$166,000.00.

Strategic Plan Priority Projects: Mr. Hayden said the Members received a copy of the Power Point Presentation that was put together for the May 21, 2015 Town Meeting Presentation. He said our revenues are not increasing at the rate that our needs are. We need to have a vibrant curriculum that meets the needs of our students.

Mr. Hayden suggested asking Town Meeting to pay for the remaining portions of our new math textbooks at Fall Town Meeting. He said he also needs to have new software to tie information together for easier sharing. He asked the Members to think about these items for a potential town meeting in November.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Bay State Textiles, which was broken down as follows:

Balch Elementary	\$45.00
Callahan Elementary	\$20.50
Cleveland Elementary	\$49.50
Oldham Elementary	\$16.00
Prescott Elementary	\$28.50
Willett Early Childhood Center	\$49.51
Coakley Middle School	\$21.50
High School	\$50.50
Savage Educational Center	<u>\$21.00</u>
Total	\$302.00

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

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough congratulated the NHS baseball team as they were honored at Fenway Park last night. He really enjoyed *Into the Woods* and loved seeing his cousin in the performance.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Chairman Gormley said he and his wife really enjoyed *Into the Woods* this past weekend. The talent that was on display was amazing. Chairman Gormley sent his congratulations to Maura Smith and her family for their hard work on the show.

Ms. Igoe agreed that *Into the Woods* was amazing. Ms. Igoe then congratulated the sports teams that are doing so well and then gave her thanks to Mrs. Mann for coming this evening and updating the committee.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 9:15 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Roger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee