

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, October 7, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015. 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 September 22, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mr. Badger abstained).

**Correspondence:** Chairman Gormley acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Board of Selectmen Notice of Fall Town Meeting – Monday, November 16, 2015
- Invitation to the Village Center Open House on October 21, 2015.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Opening of the Village Center: Mrs. Carole Poirier was here this evening to thank the School Committee for their support of this project. She also expressed her sincere thanks to Steve Merritt and the Norwood Housing Authority, as well as our Buildings and Grounds Crew. Mrs. Poirier sent a special thanks to her husband for putting all the furniture together for her.

Balch Elementary School Students – Describe their day with Meteorologist Adam Stampfl: Mr. Hayden welcomed Balch Students Ally Inzodda (Grade 5) and Luigi Gentile (Grade 5) to this evening's meeting to share with the Committee about their visit from Norwood native and former Balch student, Meteorologist Adam Stampfl (Adam Joseph). The kids explained how exciting it was to have a real television crew in the school. Balch Principal, Ms. Selines, told the Committee when asked why he became a meteorologist, Adam said it was because of his teachers at the Balch

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to move the Churchman Productions LLC donation up in agenda, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Balch School from Churchman Productions, LLC in appreciation for allowing film crews to chronicle Meteorologist Adam Stampfl's early years at the Balch.

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

**Old Business:** Review of Callahan Boiler Replacement Project: Mr. Hayden welcomed Mr. Ricciardi to update the Committee on the status of the Callahan Boiler Project.

Mr. Ricciardi said that his crew had their training on the new boiler last Monday and the Callahan Boiler is now ready to go. Mr. Ricciardi said the total project came in at \$335,097.00. MSBA reimbursement is \$147,774 for a total project cost to the Town to date of \$187,323.00 Town Meeting approved \$500,000 for the project so there will be a return to the Town of \$261,388.00.

The Members had an opportunity to thank Mr. Ricciardi and his team for a job well done.

**Reports:** Science & High School MCAS Presentation: Dr. Wyeth updated the Committee regarding Science and High School MCAS results.

Grade 10 ELA 91% Proficient;  
Grade 10 Math 80% Proficient;  
Grade 5 Science & Technology Engineering 57% Proficient;  
Grade 8 Science & Technology Engineering 42% Proficient;  
Grade 9/10 Science & Technology 80% Proficient;

After sharing the results, Dr. Wyeth showed the comparison between non-disabled and disabled students and explained that he has had discussions and will be working on better ways to administer the test for those who are learn differently.

Dr. Wyeth updated that Ms. Paula Alexander had a guest speaker come in for Professional Development for our staff this morning on the topic of different learning styles and the schools then had breakout sessions in the afternoon brainstorming on ways to teach different learning styles. Dr. Wyeth said it's a challenge that's on the table and we are up for the challenge.

Mr. McDonough asked if we could look into how other towns with better scores prepare for testing, as we need to do something to increase the scores at this point.

Dr. Wyeth informed that we are still waiting on the results from the PARCC Testing.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** None.

**Policy:** None.

**Budget:** FY16 Budget: Ms. Ellis updated that there are a lot of encumbrances yet to be processed, but at this point in the budget there are no anomalies to look at.

Mr. Hayden informed that there were two budget transfers this evening.

The first transfer is for \$2,000.00 to be transferred from the CMS Math Textbook Account to the CMS Instructional Supplies Account.

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

The second transfer is for \$6,000.00 to be transferred from the Balch Textbook Account to the Balch Equipment Account to help set up a new 2<sup>nd</sup> grad classroom.

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

**New Business:** Warrant Articles for November Town Meeting: Mr. Hayden discussed the following proposed Articles:

**ARTICLE** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$150,000 to be used to commission a Long Range building Study from qualified bidders for the future needs of the Norwood Public Schools,

**OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO.**

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

Mr. Hayden welcomed Mr. Joseph Kidd to this evening's meeting through Google Hangout (on-line) as he could not attend the meeting in person. The Committee was able to hear Mr. Kidd's thought's on the School System's outdated IPass Student Information System. Mr. Kidd said that our system is no longer SIF compliant. Mr. Kidd said this will be a huge undertaking as far as conversion, training and transfer of information goes.

Mr. McDonough welcomed Mr. Kidd and shared his excitement of being able to have a guest appear at the meetings through technology, adding that this is a first.

**ARTICLE** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$145,000 to the School Department for the purchase of a Student Information System that will integrate student data, parent communications, Special Education data, employee attendance, and fee collection activities in an integrated user friendly information system, in order to comply with State mandates.

**OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO.**

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this Article, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to amend Article, to say that this will be to bring the Student Information System up to State Mandates, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

With regard to the original motion on the table, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

There was some discussion regarding the costs to update all our textbooks.

Mrs. Igoe asked if the money that does not need to be used towards the Callahan boiler and will be returned to the Town could be used towards the new Student Information System or for textbooks.

Mr. Hayden said it is not money sitting in an account that we can borrow and cannot be allotted for something else.

Mr. Badger made a motion to add an Article for the 2015 Special Town Meeting to see if Town Meeting will raise and appropriate \$137,375 for new math books for grades 9-12 and for History Books for Grades 10 and 11, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

MASC Resolutions for November Annual Meeting: Mr. Hayden informed that the MASS/MASC Conference will be in Hyannis in November.

Mr. Badger made a motion to nominate Mr. Gormley as Norwood's delegate, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Chairman Gormley suggested the Members review these resolutions and the Committee can vote on them at the next meeting.

*Resolution 1: Regarding High School Starting Times*

*Resolution 2: Poverty and Children*

*Resolution 3: Tying Test Scores to Chapter 70 Funding*

*Resolution 4: Support for an equitable and sustainable placement program for students covered under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act*

*Resolution 5: Tax Reform Ballot Question*

*Resolution 6: Membership of a School Committee Member on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education*

*Resolution 7: Relative to the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessments for Kindergarten Students*

**Consent Agenda:**

Acceptance of Four (4) Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting the following three donations: (One donation was moved to the beginning of this evening's meeting).

- Donation of 13 large zipper pouches from "Thirty-One" filled with School Supplies from Laura Goldberg of Norwood;
- Donation of \$1,780.00 from the Norwood High School PTO for the purchase of a General Machinery Left Tilt Cabinet Saw.
- Donation of \$300.00 from Keith Fogarty to assist with Drama production expenses.

Mr. McDonough informed that he was in one of the classes last year (CAD Class) that will be benefiting from the donation.

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

**Personnel:** CMS National History Day Club Stipend: Mr. Hayden said that due to the change in the Middle School Schedule, there is no time to do research and planning for the National History Competition, adding that there is still a lot of interest in it. So he is requesting permission for \$1,277.00 stipend for a twice a week session over 20 weeks.

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

**School Committee:** Mr. McDonough said he hopes the whole School Committee has a say in the new Facilities Manager position. He said he has a lot of questions regarding that process. He then congratulated Ms. Sarah Griffin, a teacher at the High School on the birth of her new baby girl, Grace McDonough Griffin. In the wake of another recent school shooting, Mr. McDonough feels very confident in the NPS staff and Police Department on our safety procedures but would like a review of procedures.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Ms. Igoe had none.

Mr. Badger had none.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 9:35 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