

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 21, 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:** Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of October 7, 2015, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

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

- FY17 Budget Memo from Mr. Thomas McQuaid;
- Board of Selectmen Special Town Meeting Memo; and
- Parent Bus Transportation Letter.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** Mr. Hayden said he would save his announcements for "Late Agenda" as we have lots of appearances scheduled this evening.

**Appearances:** Coakley Middle School Presentation of Math Teams: Coakley Middle School Students Math Teams made a presentation to the Committee this evening.

***Coakley Insider:*** Students were here this evening to update the Committee regarding the Coakley Insider, which is a virtual newspaper (on-line). This Coakley Insider provides information for parents, teaches skills to students, and teaches teamwork to the 120 students involved in this program. This virtual newspaper can be accessed on the NPS website or on *You Tube*.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Another group of students were here this evening to explain how *Math Teams* help the students learn in a variety of ways, adding that they really like

competing against other towns. Last year there were approximately 20 students involved and this year there are approximately 40 students.

The Members again had an opportunity for questions and comments.

The final groups of students were here to explain *Teen Speak Out*. The students explained that the students in this group were trying to promote acceptance of diversity, making sure students feel included, as well as working together to try to solve issues that arise around the building. At this time, there are approximately 15 students in the group.

Ms. Mann explained that they received a grant and have hired a group called Roots and Wings to work with the students and help this program get going.

Dedication of High School Gymnasium Floor: At this point in the meeting, Chairman Gormley welcomed Paul J. Hartnett, Jr., Esquire who was here on behalf of several very grateful alumni of Norwood High School who would like to propose dedicating the Norwood High School Gymnasium Floor in honor of Ken Nolet and Joe Johnson, both very respected, successful and popular former basketball coaches at Norwood High School. Attorney Hartnett informed that this alumni group stands ready to make a \$25,000 contribution to the Norwood Schools' general fund as well as to cover the costs involved in adding the names to the gym, which would be approximately \$5,000. Attorney Hartnett and Chairman Gormley shared a little background on both Mr. Nolet and Mr. Johnson.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to accept the donation without any conditions, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Norwood High School 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni Weekend and 2015 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: Mr. Brian McDonough and Mr. Jack Tolman were here this evening to update the Committee on the Alumni Weekend and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Mr. McDonough thanked former Hall of Fame Members as well as current Members. Mr. McDonough then introduced this years' inductees:

- John Kenney – Class of 1980
- Linda Medwar – Class of 1982
- Mark Kenney – Class of 1982
- Ted Decareau – Class of 1987
- Robyn Gawlak – Class 1995
- Meghan Staffiere Corbett – Class of 2003
- Coach Joe Johnson
- Coach Dom Wheeler
- Coach Giles Parker

Mr. McDonough also informed that there will be a new Award called the Blue and Gold Award for someone who was a big supporter of Norwood High School Athletics. This year's award will go to Bobby Haskell, Class of 1984.

Mr. Tolman was excited to share the itinerary for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Alumni Weekend, which is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend. The highlight of the weekend will be the ribbon cutting ceremony for the NHS Walking Museum, which will be located on the indoor walking track in the gym. This event will be at 12:00 Noon on Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Reports:** SAT & ACT & PARCC – Timeline Update: Dr. Wyeth updated the School Committee on the SAT, ACT & PARCC tests.

With regard to SAT scores, Norwood results as a whole are below the Massachusetts Public Schools results but above the National results. Dr. Wyeth said it is important to know that the Massachusetts standards are very rigorous. Also, fewer students are taking the SAT subject tests.

Dr. Wyeth then reviewed the ACT Test, which was more geared to the High School Curriculum.

Regarding the Advanced Placement Tests, there was a 9% increase in the number of students taking AP's.

Dr. Wyeth gave an abbreviated version of the new SAT Test.

Dr. Wyeth said, regarding the PARCC Testing, a decision will be made in mid-November regarding whether the state will keep the PARCC Testing. The results of the PARCC Tests were generally lower than the MCAS Testing. We should be getting the districts scores some time in November.

Finally, Dr. Wyeth informed that there has been some discussion regarding a new test, MCAS 2.0.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Mr. Hayden said that the dedication ceremony at the Village Center was today. Mr. Hayden read a citation from Representative John Rogers. Mr. Hayden said due to the rain, speeches were shortened but it was still a wonderful ceremony with about 20 people in attendance.

Mr. McDonough and Chairman Gormley said that they were very impressed with the Village Center and were very thankful for the Community's support.

Mr. Hayden showed a quick commercial made by the Balch Students on the day Meteorologist Adam Joseph (Stampfl) visited.

**Policy:** None.

**Budget: FY16 & FY17 Budget:** Mr. Hayden informed that he, Chairman Gormley, and Mr. McDonough made a presentation to the Finance Commission last week. He said there was a very good discussion regarding predictions for budget planning.

Mr. Hayden said it is difficult to build a budget in October for the following year when the new school year is just getting started. The Town would like to have the FY17 Budget ready to submit by Thanksgiving. Mr. Hayden said he has asked the administrators to try to have it shortly after Thanksgiving.

The Members discussed Mr. Hayden asking for a longer period of time to put together a thoughtful plan. Mr. Hayden said he should be able to have a first draft for the meeting after Thanksgiving.

Mr. Hayden said that the Town's free cash has been reduced to \$800,000.00. Mr. Hayden said that we have three Articles on the Warrant and he thought the Committee should prioritize the Articles in case we cannot get the funds for all three Warrants for discussion at the next meeting.

**Old Business: Report of MASC Resolutions Committee:**

*Resolution 1: Regarding High School Starting Times*

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 1, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

*Resolution 2: Poverty and Children*

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 2, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

Mr. Badger made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 3, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 4 for discussion, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

*Resolution 5: Tax Reform Ballot Question*

Mr. Badger made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 5, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Mr. McDonough voted against).

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

Mr. McDonough made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 6, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Mr. Badger voted against).

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

Mr. Badger made a motion to direct our delegate, Chairman Gormley, to vote yes on Resolution 7, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Food Service Update: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee and gave some background regarding Interim Food Service Director, Rhonda Spigel, MA, RD, LDN.

**New Business:** American Cancer Society Relay for Life High School Request: Mr. Hayden asked the Committee to give some consideration to a request from Amanda Giangregorio, Community Manager, Relay for Life to bring the Relay for Life back to Norwood. This event was moved to Walpole during the High School renovation process but would like to move back to Norwood since a majority of participants are from Norwood.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to allow the Relay for Life to return to Norwood High School, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Consent Agenda:**

Acceptance of Five Donations:

- (1) Bay State Textiles donation of \$392.00;
- (2) \$400 from Shaws Supermarket for Prescottt
- (3) \$5,000 donation in memory of Maureen Harrington, former Norwood Middle School English Teacher to help buy books and establish a literacy Resource Room at the CMS;
- (4) \$253.56 donation of gym bags for Freshmen to carry gym equipment from High School PTO
- (5) \$400 from Shaw's Supermarket for the Willett Early Childhood Center.

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Badger said regarding this evening's acceptance of a \$25,000 donation for the agreement to name the gymnasium floor at the High School, the motion that was made this evening was to accept the donation. After some discussion, Mr. Badger made a motion to approve the request to name the High School Gymnasium Floor in honor of Ken Nolet and Joe Johnson.

There was some discussion as to the proper account that this donation should be put in.

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

Ms. Igoe had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Chairman Gormley said Mr. Charlie Parker, who recently passed away, was a 35-year Member of the Norwood Schools. Mr. Gormley shared with the Committee some background on Mr. Parker and said he was a wonderful gentleman who will be greatly missed.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 10:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Igoe.. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee