

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, December 2, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 2, 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 November 18, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

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

-Letter dated November 25, 2015 from John J. Carroll notifying the Committee that the Balch/Coakley Field Lighting Project has been completed.

-Letter from  
regarding Shannon Carey singing the National Anthem before the MIAA

-Invitation from NPA-T inviting the Members to the *2015 Youth Video Club 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Film Festival* on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Norwood High School Auditorium.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** 2014-2016 Callahan School Improvement Plan Report: Mr. Robert Griffin, Principal of the Callahan Elementary School, was here this evening to present the 2014-2016 Callahan School Improvement Plan Report. Mr. Griffin said the Callahan began with 236 Students. He added that they still house the TASC Program for the District, which began with 8 students last year and ended with 11

students. The PTA sponsored four Educational Programs last year and the school had many other programs and activities for the students and their families. Mr. Griffin informed that the Nature Trail is in pristine condition since vandals destroyed the original trail and dozens of families, three landscaping companies and a construction company came together to rebuild it. Mr. Griffin informed that due to the scores of the high-needs students, the Callahan was at a Level II School for the first time ever. He shared with the Committee the plans to work with the high-needs students and their families to make sure they are making progress.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Griffin for all that he's done for the staff, students and families of the Callahan.

2014-2016 Prescott School Improvement Plan Report: Mrs. Brianne Killion, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, was here this evening to present the 2014-2016 Callahan School Improvement Plan Report. Mrs. Killion informed that the Prescott began with 260 students this year. There are currently 13 regular classrooms with an average of 18 students per class. The Prescott houses the PACS Program (levels K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade). Mrs. Killion thanked Ms. Laurel Cawley for her expertise in running a great program with her hard-working staff.

Improvements recently made at the Prescott were:

- New gym floor installed;
- Path behind the school was paved; and
- New LED lighting in the Cafeteria.

Mrs. Killion reviewed last year's test scores and informed that math work time has been increased from 60 minutes a day to 75 minutes a day. Mrs. Killion reviewed how technology is working in and out of school. She said 100% of the teachers use technology as part of their daily plans. She then thanked Mr. Kidd for all his dedication and hard work supporting the Prescott. She also thanked her hard working PTA and School Council for their dedication and commitment.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mrs. Killion for her vision and leadership at the Prescott.

2014-2016 High School Improvement Plan Report: Mr. Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Norwood High School, was here this evening to present the 2014-2016 High School Improvement Plan Report. Mr. Bourn updated that there were 973 students enrolled in 2015. He reminded that Norwood High School has a very diverse student body. Norwood High School has gone from a Level 1 to a Level II School, as many students with disabilities did not meet their testing goals. He added that in many cases, Norwood High School is at or above the state scores. Mr. Bourn reviewed many of the support programs and Guidance Department Initiatives.

**Master Schedule** – Improving schedule flexibility and academic mobility;

**Differentiation** – Expanding teacher repertoires and toolkits to accommodate various learners;

**Response to Intervention** – Creating in-house supports for struggling learners;

**Task Predict Performance** – Analyzing curriculum, instruction and assessment to promote higher order thinking skills.

Mr. Bourn thanked the PTO who paid for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders to take the PSAT's. He was very excited to announce that they will be partnering with Massasoit Community College to allow Juniors and Seniors an opportunity to take a college courses on-line.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Bourn, who has been with us since June and really hit the ground running.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments after each presentation.

Mr. Badger made a motion to approve all three School Improvement Plans, which was second by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Reports: PARCC Results & Spring Testing Plans:** Dr. Wyeth reviewed the data on the hand-out the Members received (*Comparable (DART) Districts that took PARCC*). Dr. Wyeth shared comparisons between Norwood and the following Towns: Milford, Stoughton, Watertown, Falmouth, Westwood and Natick, as well as the State Scores. He said that Norwood did very well with the PARCC Tests and the staff and students should be very proud of these scores.

Dr. Wyeth then shared the schedule for the PARCC Tests that will be administered in the Spring of 2016. Every school, except the High School, will take the PARCC Test but only the Prescott will take it on line. The other schools will take the paper test.

Mr. Badger made a motion to have Mr. Hayden register for the PARCC Test, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Mr. Hayden is inviting the Community to participate in a "Freecycle" Open House of gently used children's clothing and toy swap here at the Savage Educational Center on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 -3:00 p.m. and 6:30-8:00 p.m.

**Policy:** None.

**Budget: FY17 Budget Process:** Mr. Hayden said the remainder of the School Improvement Plans will be presented at the next meeting and then he will present the 2016-2017 Budget after.

**Old Business:** Superintendent's Evaluation: Chairman Gormley said the Members should have received the *End-of-Cycle Summative Evaluation Report: Superintendent*. Chairman Gormley asked Mr. Badger and Mrs. Rau-Rogers to be on the Sub Committee to review

Mr. Badger reviewed that Mr. Kidd will set the new Members up with *TeachPoint* and will give them passwords to get into the program and do the evaluations on-line.

**New Business:** Appointment of Members to Subcommittees for NTA Middle School Scheduling Grievance & Superintendent Evaluation:

Mr. Badger made a motion to appoint Mrs. Rau-Rogers and Mr. Badger to the Superintendent Evaluation Committee and Chairman Gormley and Mrs. Igoe to the Middle School Scheduling Grievance Committee, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Badger had none.

Ms. Igoe said she is looking forward to the Madrigal Banquet this Friday night, adding that this is always a wonderful night.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers informed that the Norwood Historical Society Holiday Tour is this Sunday evening ending with a gathering at the Masonic Hall. This is the Historical Society's main fundraiser of the year.

Mr. McDonough said he will also be attending the Madrigal Banquet Friday evening. He also invited everyone to the Circle of Hope's Luminary Evening on the Town Common Saturday night. He also congratulated Norwood Public Access Television's on the Matt Brown video that NHS students made and submitted to the STN (National) Challenge. The video received 2<sup>nd</sup> Place.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 9:05 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee

