

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, February 11, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. John Badger, Chairman, Mr. James Gormley, Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers, Mr. Joseph Montesano and Mr. Michal F. Bergeron.

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. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of January 28, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Badger acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-Letter from the Board of Selectmen dated February 11, 2015 which informs that the Board of Selectmen has approved the request to submit another SOI for the replacement of the Coakley Middle School HVAC system.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Student Representatives: The Student Representatives had a conflict this evening and will be added to a future agenda.

Reports: Mr. Joseph Kidd, Director of Technology, was here this evening to present the NPS Technology Status Report to the Committee.

Mr. Kidd informed that he and Mr. Jack Tolman put together a video to show how technology is being used in the classrooms of the Norwood Public Schools. The Committee had the opportunity to watch the video this evening.

Mr. Hayden and the Committee thanked Mr. Kidd for a wonderful video as well as for his Department's hard work and dedication to the Norwood Public Schools.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden shared two of the history projects from groups of 8th grade students at the Coakley Middle School, which were submitted for National History Day. The topic for this year's History Competition is "Leaders and their Legacies". The students must come up with an idea, create a thesis, do the research and put the project together. This project helps prepare the 8th grade students for the rigors of High School. Mr. Hayden said that he is so proud of the History Department, students and staff at the Coakley Middle School, adding that one of our students moved on to the National Competition last year, winning a \$1,000 scholarship. Mr. Hayden ended by saying that Norwood students shine and are eager to learn.

Policy: Technology Acceptable Use Policy: Mrs. Rau-Rogers reminded that the Committee received the updated version of the Technology Acceptable Use Policy. The Members have had an opportunity to review this policy.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the revised policy, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: FY15 Monthly Budget Update: Mr. Hayden updated with regard to the FY15 Monthly Budget. Mr. Hayden said we are on track at this point, but there have been some significant snow removal costs. Mr. Hayden also informed of some 9C cuts, which equals a \$53,000 decrease from a State Grant to make up for the state's deficits. We use this grant for some of our Kindergarten paraprofessional aides. Mr. Hayden said we are not cutting staff, but will have to absorb this somewhere in the budget.

FY16 Budget Balance Committee Report: Chairman Badger and Mrs. Rau-Rogers reviewed with Committee the report from the FY16 Budget Balancing Committee's first meeting last week. The Town's estimated revenue is about \$170,000,000 and the Budget requests add up to about \$173,000,000. This is about \$3,000,000 over the budget. The next meeting will be on March 4th.

Mr. Hayden added that the two areas of unknowns are: State Aide (Chapter 70 money) and the estimates for the GIC Health Insurance Plans. Hopefully we will have more information within the next month or two.

FY15 Budget Transfers (2): Ms. Ann Marie Ellis asked that the Committee approve the following transfers:

Transfer From:	Transfer To:
0964 15 SCH IS/TB- Oldham Inst. Sup \$730.00	0675 15 SCH Inst Sal-Conf/Other-OL \$730.00
TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM: \$730.00	TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO: \$730.00

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Transfer From:	Transfer To:
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0873 15 SCH IS/TB-Oldham Textbooks \$1,990.74	1261 15 Sch Equip Rep-Oldham \$1,990.74
TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM: \$1,990.74 TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO \$1,990.74	

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

Old Business: Capital Outlay Update: The Members received a copy of a letter to the Capital Outlay Committee from Mr. Gormley and Mr. Hayden with our Capital Outlay requests:

- Buildings and Grounds - \$381,235
- Food Services - \$270,068
- Technology - \$203,000

Mr. Gormley said the total for Capital Projects for FY16 is \$854,303.00.

TEC Legislators Meeting Update: Mr. Gormley updated the Committee with regard to the TEC Legislators Meeting.

Committee of 21 Data Gathering Update: Mr. Hayden said the Abrahms Group has finished up interviews with the Transportation Department this week. Mr. Hayden added that they are still waiting for information from some of the comparable towns. Mr. Hayden said he thinks they are almost done with their data gathering and a report should be forthcoming.

New Business: Coakley Middle School Statement of Interest (New HVAC System): Mr. Hayden informed that the Selectmen have voted to continue with the Statement of Interest for the replacement of the Coakley Middle School HVAC System. Mr. Hayden said the cost will be somewhere in the area of \$7.7 million dollars.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to resubmit the Statement of Interest for the Coakley Middle School HVAC System, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2015-2016 School Year Calendar: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 School Year Calendar (with the minor changes that were discussed), which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Acceptance of Two (2) Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Bay State Textiles from the donation bins, which he added are shoveled out at each school. This month's donation is broken down as follow:

Savage Educational Center	\$25.75
Balch Elementary	\$37.75
Callahan Elementary	\$45.25
Cleveland Elementary	\$95.75
Oldham Elementary	\$33.00
Prescott Elementary	\$32.75
Willett Elementary	\$27.50
Coakley Middle School	\$31.00
Norwood High School	<u>\$72.25</u>
Total:	\$401.00

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Mr. James J. Hines in the amount of \$750.00 to fund an After-School Art Program at the Cleveland Elementary School.

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

Personnel: High School Principal Search Update: Dr. Wyeth updated that the Search Committee is still in a very confidential state of progress. They began with over 40 applicants. The Search Committee (which consists of 11 people) reviewed the paper application packets and 20 have been narrowed down to 9 candidates who are now being interviewed. The Committee hopes to finish up the interviews, deliberate, and move forward three strong candidates to the Superintendent after vacation.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Bergeron was really impressed with the technology report this evening. He said that what our students are learning is amazing. Mr. Bergeron said his daughter and wife recently attended the Early Childhood Fair for local families to learn about the services available in our Community. They told him Carole Poirier and Christine Tomasello did a wonderful job putting this fair together.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers wished everyone a wonderful vacation.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairman Badger wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day and a great vacation with hopefully no shoveling involved!!

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Gormley made a motion for adjournment at 8:10 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee