

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, February 25, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 25, 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 and Mr. Michal F. Bergeron.

**Committee Member Excused:** Joseph Montesano

**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 February 11, 2015, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** Mr. Hayden announced that the Golden Foundation for Excellence in Education Award for outstanding achievement has been awarded to Norwood High School Teacher, Ms. Jan Cohn. Mr. Hayden congratulated Ms. Cohn and said there will be a reception on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at Norwood High School at 7:00 p.m.

**Appearances:** Student Representatives: Aloonee Adhikari, Saloonee Adhikari, Viktorija Barone, Hannah Doherty, Elizabeth Wagner- Student Representatives were here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the 4 A's (Academics, Activities, Athletics and Arts) at Norwood High School.

Some of the information they shared was:

- Mid-Years are over and the third term has begun;
- 8 of the Tony Nominees this year are from Norwood High School;
- 43 new students will be inducted into the National Honor Society;
- Art in Bloom will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>;
- Fine Arts Festival will be April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>;
- The Drama Program will present Mary Poppins in May;
- MICCA Competition will be March 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>;
- 22 NHS Television students will be traveling to California to compete against

- 100 other High Schools from around the country;
- Girls' Hockey will be playing tonight in the first round of the post-season vs. Dedham;
- Girls' Basketball lost in the first round of playoff's last night;
- Cheerleading placed 4<sup>th</sup> in their competition and will be heading to the regionals.

**Reports:** None.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Balch Field Lights: Mr. Hayden said one of the light poles at the Balch Field is down. Mr. Carroll is working on this, but not much can be done at this point with five feet of snow on the ground. The plan is to have all of the poles inspected to see what needs to be done.

**Policy:** Field Trip Policy Update: Mr. Hayden reviewed the Healthcare/Medical updates with regard to Out-of-Country Field Trips.

**Budget:** FY15 Monthly Budget Update: Ms. Ellis said at this point we are trending normally. The Members received the Snow Removal \$\$\$ 2014-2015 update dated 2/25/2015.

Mr. Hayden then began a discussion regarding \$96,000 in "Pot Hole Money" that we were granted two years ago that needs to be used for Special Education purposes. He reminded that our fleet of Special Education vehicles were purchased 6 years ago through stimulus money we received. He said that two years ago, we replaced 6 vans. We currently have 17 vans, 5 buses and two mini-vans. Mr. Hayden asked the Committee for permission for Ms. Ellis and Mr. Ricciardi to begin looking into replacing and expanding the transportation vans. There was some discussion regarding this request.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to approve the exploration of using the \$96,000 towards improvements for the Transportation Department, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

FY16 Budget Reductions: The Committee Members received the Norwood Public School Preliminary FY16 Budget (dated January 14, 2015 – Pg. 24 Addition); FY15 Budget Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection (dated March 12, 2014); and FY16 Budget Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection (dated February 25, 2015).

Mr. Hayden informed that it is time to begin Operational, Personnel and Additional Reductions towards the goal of balancing the budget.

Operations Reductions:	
Instructional Supplies	\$51,201
Textbooks	\$31,137
Library Books	\$17,849

Conference/Professional Dev.	\$ 5,166
Total	\$165,250

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept the proposed Operations Reductions as presented this evening, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. The Committee voted in favor 3-1.

Mr. Hayden recommended the following Personnel reductions:

Personnel Reductions:	
Elementary (4.0 FTE's)	\$221,152
Middle School	0
High School	0
System-Wide Hire Down Savings (2)	\$ 44,687
Total	\$265,839

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion, for discussion; to cut \$265,839 from Personnel as outlined this evening, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley.

After some discussion, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to withdraw the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to approve the Hire Down Savings in the amount of \$44,687, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Roger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to make personnel reductions in elementary personnel in the amount of \$221,152, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. After some discussion, the Committee voted 2-2 with Chairman Badger and Mrs. Rau-Rogers voting against. The motion failed.

Mr. Hayden said he would be meeting with Finance Commission to make our presentation tomorrow evening at 5:30 p.m.

FY15 Budget Transfer: Ms. Ann Marie Ellis asked that the Committee approve the following transfer:

<b>Transfer From:</b>		<b>Transfer To:</b>	
061215 SCH ADMIN SAL - ATTND OFC	\$800.00	066015 SCH INST SAL - CURR. WKSP	\$800.00
<b>TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip: Mr. Hayden recommended approving a field trip for the 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to go to Canoby Lake Park in Salem, New Hampshire on Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-1.

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation totaling \$336.50 from Bay State Textiles, Inc., which is broken down as follows:

Savage Center:	\$33.00
Balch Elementary:	\$24.50
Callahan Elementary:	\$23.50
Cleveland Elementary	\$78.75
Oldham Elementary:	\$39.50
Prescott Elementary:	\$33.25
Willett Early Childhood Center:	\$19.25
Coakley Middle School	\$38.50
High School:	<u>\$46.75</u>
Totals:	\$336.50

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

At this time, Mr. Hayden wanted to thank the Town, the Buildings and Grounds Crew, and Mr. Ricciardi for doing such a great job throughout this winter with the record-breaking amounts of snow we have had to deal with. So far we have missed five days of school, but other towns have had many more snow days.

**Personnel:** High School Principal Search: Mr. Hayden announced the three finalists who are now taking tours of Norwood High School and meeting with students and parents.

Jonathan Bourn, a Walpole resident currently working as Assistant Principal at Needham High School;

James Forrest, a Norwood resident currently working at Dedham High School as an Assistant Principal;

Michelle Kreuzer, a Walpole resident currently working as a Vice Principal at Milton High School.

### **School Committee Addenda**

Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Bergeron informed that there will be a Math Fair at the Prescott School tomorrow night and *Read Across America* will be Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers informed that the League of Women Voters and the Women's Jr. League will be hosting their first non-profit fair this Saturday at the VFW on Dean Street to network with the Members of the Community.

**Executive Session.** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Gormley made a motion for adjournment at 8:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee