

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

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

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

**Committee Member Excused:** Mr. James Gormley.

**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 February 25, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. 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 invited Mr. Jonathan Bourn to this evening's meeting to introduce him to the Committee and Community as the new Norwood High School Principal. Mr. Bourn thanked Mr. Hayden, the Committee, as well as the students, staff and parents who come to meet him during his visit to the High School. He said he looks forward to getting started. Mr. Badger said although we will all miss Mr. Usevich, we look forward to working with Mr. Bourn.

**Appearances:** None.

**Reports:** Snow Removal Costs: Mr. Hayden said, at this point, we are \$352,000 over the snow removal budget. He again thanked the Town and our Buildings and Grounds Crew for their tireless efforts this winter. Mr. Hayden also informed that crews have begun clearing fields for spring sports.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Athletic Field Update: Mr. Hayden said he has no further update yet.

**Policy:** None.

**Budget: FY16 Budget Reductions:** Mr. Hayden updated that the proposed FY16 Budget that has been put together is a level serviced budget totaling \$41,788,091. The final figure the School Department has been given for a balanced budget is \$39,353,830, which means that \$2.5 million dollars now needs to be cut. With regards to state aid, there was an increase of \$482,824. Mr. Hayden said that the GIC estimates came in \$218,000 higher than estimated. Mr. Hayden also reminded that one of Kindergarten grants has not been funded for FY16. Mr. Hayden was prepared this evening to show what \$2.5 million dollars in cuts would look like.

Mr. Hayden began by discussing the following fees: bus fees, athletics, fine arts, preschool, lunch and High School parking. There was much discussion regarding these fees.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to give the Superintendent permission to look into increasing bus fees and to bring back information to the Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron (for informational purposes). The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to table eliminating buses, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Montesano made a motion to allow the Superintendent to explore increasing Athletic Fees, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers, for discussion purposes. The Committee voted in favor 3-1. (Mr. Bergeron opposed).

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Rau-Rogers said none of these cuts are acceptable to anyone on this Committee. She then said that at this time, the School Committee needs to make the nauseating cuts, and added that this school system is the backbone of this Town and it will be devastating.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to allow the Superintendent to explore the Fine Arts Fees, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 3-1 (Mr. Bergeron opposed).

There was some discussion but no motions made regarding:  
-Preschool;  
-Kindergarten tuitions; and  
-Closing a school.

Mr. Hayden then reviewed proposed reductions (Operations).

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to approve proposed Operations Cuts for a total of \$196,900, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden reviewed more proposed cuts (Additional Reductions), in the amount of \$97,100.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to accept Additional Reductions, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden said the next part is the part that breaks his heart. He reminded that 80% of the budget is personnel, so that is where a bulk of the cuts will have to be made. The following is a breakdown of possible reductions:

**-Elementary** – 11.0 FTE's            \$629,150  
(4 new positions and 7 existing positions)

**-Middle School** – 9.0 FTE's            \$568,784  
(9 existing positions)

Chairman Badger asked the Superintendent to explore changing the High School Clubs to become fee based.

**-High School** – 7.0 FTE's            \$479,331  
(7 existing positions)

**System-Wide**

Hire Down Savings            \$ 45,132  
(2 retirements)

3.0 Instrumental Music Teacher    \$233,790

Circuit Breaker Estimate        \$300,000

Mr. Hayden said of the 30 positions, 26 are existing positions.

Mr. Hayden said what we will be voting for this evening is not level services, but below level services. The next Budget Balancing Meeting is March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Hayden said he will not stop working to try to bring this budget to level services.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to present this budget of \$39,353,830 as outlined on the FY16 Budget Reduction Sheets, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mr. Gormley was excused from this meeting).

Chairman Badger said he has the utmost faith in our Superintendent and Administrators to try to lessen the damage done by this budget.

**Old Business:** Chairman Badger gave an update on the Committee of 21. The Consultants have received the special education information they asked for. They received information from 10 of the 13 Towns they requested information from. The consultants are still waiting on information from the Town

**New Business:** Acceptance of Five Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from ExxonMobil Corporation (Kalmed, Inc., 499 Washington Street, Norwood) in the amount of \$500.00

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from the Bay State Federal Saving Charitable Foundation Annual Scholarship for the Norwood High School Class of 2015 in the amount of \$500.00.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Norwood Boosters Club in the amount of \$234.95 for the purchase of a steel shot put toe board for the Indoor Track Team.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from the High School P.T.O. in the amount of \$18,000 for Staff Stipends for an S.A.T. Prep Course.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting \$21.50 from the Callahan School PTA to take care of a book keeping issue as the check went to the wrong school.

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

Out of State Field Trip: Mr. Hayden recommended approving an out-of-state field trip for the T.V. Program students to attend a trip to San Diego from April 1 – 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

**Personnel:** Update on High School Principal Search: Mr. Hayden introduced Mr. Bourn earlier in the meeting.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Bergeron said he and his wife attended a Math/Science Fair at the Prescott last week. He said it was a wonderful and inspiring evening. Mr. Bergeron then said he attended a play written by one of our

students, Jessica Gregorio called *Stay Tuned*. He said it was also very wonderful and inspiring. Finally, he got to go to the Oldham and read to the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students in Mr. Maffee's class for *Read Across America*. He was very impressed with the students, saying they all knew the difference between fiction and non-fiction. He is happy to see so many good things going on in our school system.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers apologized for the colorful words she used during the frustrating budget reduction portion of this evening's meeting. She then invited the public to attend Candidates' Night on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairman Badger said the strength of this district is and always has been our teachers. The onus is now on the remaining teachers to pick up the pieces.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for adjournment at 9:25 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee