

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

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 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, 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: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to move *Appearances* up on the Agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Appearances: Art Department Graphic Art Project: Ms. Saquora Lowe-McLaurin of the High School Art Department was here this evening with her students Connie Tang (Gr. 10) and Justin DeJesus (Gr. 10) to share some of the accomplishments in the Art Department, specifically to update with regards to a project of creating a new logo for the Norwood Public Food Service Logo. The students explained how it was to work for an actual client (Mrs. McLucas, Director of Food Services) doing digital designs. The winner was Justin DeJesus. He explained the process he went through and said that he looks forward to continuing with art through High School and also when he goes to college.

Mrs. McLucas said she is very proud of the new logo and it will be put on the school menus as well as on the food service truck. She said it was a wonderful experience working with the students.

Correspondence: Mr. Hayden acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from Peter Varitimos, NYS Board Member, informing that a plaque will be dedicated in honor of Fernando Morales and presented to his family on June 20th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.

- Letters from students with thoughts and ideas about the FY16 Budget; and

-Letter from the Selectmen dated March 11, 2015 notifying of the Special Town Meeting scheduled for May 11th (Articles need to be submitted by April 14th).

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

Public Forum: Chairman Badger informed that this was the part of the meeting where members from the public could come before the School Committee to share their concerns or ask for an item to be added to a future agenda.

Mr. Edward Ferris, a parent of two children in the Norwood Schools, said there seems to be a need for better communications regarding the budget. He said he doesn't know why the budget isn't laid out in a 5-year plan. Mr. Ferris said the Schools have a lot of support in this Town, the School Department just needs to ask for help.

Mrs. Jody Smith, a resident of Norwood, a teacher and President of the Norwood Teachers' Association said this budget problem isn't just a school problem, but it is a community problem. She said whether residents have students in the system or not, it is the responsibility of every single resident to make sure this school system is the best it can possibly be.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to suspend the Public Forum rules, which was seconded by Mr. Bergeron. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Chairman Badger suggested that if anyone in the public truly wants to support the Schools and really wants to make a difference, please consider becoming a Town Meeting Member. He added that although it is a little late for the up-coming election, people can still be a write-in for Town Meeting Member.

Mr. Ferris added that there is currently a committee that is working to get 7 residents on Town Meeting as write-ins.

Announcements: None.

Reports: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: At the next meeting on April 8th, Mr. Hayden said we would be participating in Student Government Day where students from Norwood High School will shadow a School Committee Member for a mock School Committee Meeting. Mr. Hayden invited the Members to meet him at the High School in the morning to meet the students and plan the agenda before the evening's meeting.

Mr. Hayden informed that the Fine Arts Festival would be on April 14th and 15th from 6-8 in the gym at the Savage Center.

Policy: None.

Budget: Budget Balancing Committee Update: Chairman Badger and Mr. Hayden updated the Committee regarding the recent Budget Balancing Committee Meeting. Mr. Hayden said original forecasts have been very conservative. Mr. Hayden said he has been able to firm up some of the forecasts. Also, the School Department and the General Government side have worked collaboratively to restore some money:

School Department:

-Increasing receipts from the Bust Transport revolving fund:	\$100,000
-Inc. Circuit Breaker reimb. (with MOA of \$1,45,000)	\$150,000
-Anticip. Additional hir-down savings (\$63,000 MOA)	\$150,000
-Additional revolv. Funds offsets (to be determ. Which funds)	\$100,000

General Government:

-Increasing distrib. From AMR receipt fund	\$150,000
-Reduce FY16 Stabilization Fund	\$130000
-Transfer from FY15 Refuse Removal	\$ 50,000
-Transfer from FY15 Interest on Debt	\$ 50,000
-Transfer from FY15 Bond Principal	\$ 10,000
-Transfer from FY15 Bond Premium	\$ 70,000

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to restore three Elementary Teachers: Grade 2 at Oldham, Grade 5 at Callahan and Grade 4 at Prescott, totaling \$192,026 which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to restore a .4 For. Lang. .6 ELL Teacher, a 1.0 Guidance Counselor; a 1.0 Librarian and a 1.0 Technology Education teacher at the Coakley middle School, totaling \$268,153, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to restore a 1.0 English Teacher 1.0 Social Studies Teacher; 1.0 Science Teacher, 1.0 Library Secretary; 1.0 Paraprofessional; Advisors for Clubs and Activities; and Summer Guidance in the amount of \$264,716, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to restore 3.0 Elementary Instrumental Music Teachers, totally \$233,790. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to revise the out-of-district tuition estimate to increase by \$150,000, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to revise the hire-down line item to \$150,000, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Bergeron made a motion to increase the Circuit Breaker estimates by \$150,000, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to increase the Revolving Fund offset to \$300,000, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve a \$50,000 increase in Extended Day offsets, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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FY16 Budget Update:

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for a revised bottom-line FY16 Budget figure of \$39,483,830, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden said there will need to be a Public Hearing on the FY16 Budget and he proposed April 29th as the date.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to schedule the FY16 Budget Public Hearing on April 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Savage Educational Center, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

There will be a regularly scheduled School Committee Meeting on April 29th following the Public Hearing.

FY15 Budget Transfer: Mr. Hayden and Ms. Ellis recommended the following transfer:

TRANSFER FROM: _____ **TRANSFER TO:** _____

0679 15 SCH IS/TB – Clubs & ADV. SHS \$375.00 **0714 15** SCH. INST. SAL – SP. ED AID \$375.00

TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM: \$375.00 TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO: \$375.00

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

Old Business: Committee of 21 Update: The Abrahms Group has sent two portions of the report to Mr. Hayden to review for accuracy. Mr. Hayden said the final report should be completed soon.

Snow & Ice Cost Update: Mr. Hayden updated that snow and ice costs are \$401,000.

New Business: The Education Cooperative FY16 Budget: Mr. Gormley updated the Committee regarding the TEC FY16 Budget, saying the bottom line figure is \$7,193,000.00. Mr. Gormley reminded that TEC moved into their new facility in Walpole this past year. He added that grants are down and professional development fees were down. TEC has continued to make changes in Technology with additional Chrome books and interactive Smart Boards. Mr. Gormley said the Norwood Schools are very fortunate to be part of the TEC Community.

FY16 Capital Outlay: Mr. Hayden and Mr. Gormley attended the Capital Outlay Meeting last week and Mr. Hayden updated the Committee with regards to that meeting. Mr. Hayden said he is still trying to find a way to buy new math textbooks and he will keep the Committee posted regarding his progress.

Acceptance of Six Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Bay State Textiles from the bins located at each school:

Savage Educational Center	\$ 14.50
Balch Elementary	\$ 9.25
Callahan Elementary	\$ 39.50
Cleveland Elementary:	\$ 34.50
Oldham Elementary	\$ 6.50
Prescott Elementary	\$ 5.50
Willett Early Childhood Center	\$ 5.51
Coakley Middle School	\$ 8.75
Norwood High School	<u>\$ 12.50</u>
	\$136.76

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a grant from The Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Norfolk District Attorney in the amount of \$945.65.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Norfolk District Attorney in the amount of \$250.00 to be used for the post prom.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a joint donation from Boch Toyota and Reebok International for two \$1,000 Toyota BOKS Activation Grants for the Oldham & Balch Schools to set up and run a before school program that fosters healthy activity and nutrition habits.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Steward Healthcare System, LLC in the amount of \$8,000.00 to assist in funding the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in the schools.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Target (Take Charge of Education) for Norwood High School, in the amount of \$54.86.

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

Mr. Hayden shared a letter from LEAD Program teacher, Rob Ladue thanking and acknowledging the following businesses that have partnered with the LEAD Program to provide vocational experiences to the students in the class:

- Republic Plumbing;
- Marriott Residence Inn, Norwood;
- Norwood Theatre;
- Meals on Wheels, Norwood;
- Rocky's Ace Hardware, Walpole;
- Norwood High School Library;
- Kohl's - Walpole;
- Women's Community Committee and the Norwood Thrift Shop;
- and the Norwood Senior Center.

Mr. Hayden thanked these businesses publicly and said that the LEAD Program continues to look for new businesses to work with.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley said the Norwood High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is accepting nominations for new inductees.

Mr. Bergeron said we recently received a great donation from Mobil Gas on the corner of Railroad Avenue and Washington Street and he will now be buying his gas there and suggests other consider doing the same. Mr. Bergeron also said the Town Accountant and Finance Commission should be thanked for their hard work and dedication, adding that they are not the bad guys. They are doing the best they can.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she pays attention to comments she has read on social media. She clarified some of the misconceptions regarding how the School's budget is put together every year. She informed that the Town asks the Schools for their Budget priorities which are aligned to the School's 5-year plan. The Town doesn't give the School side a bottom line figure until after the Budget is put together. She also reminded that vendor supply costs and utility costs are going up. She also responded to a comment written in one of the newspapers regarding professional development. She informed that professional development is a vitally important piece, which is mandated by the State. Mrs. Rau-Rogers said it will cost \$41,000,000 to run this school district appropriately in FY16.

Mr. Montesano said this was his last meeting, and it has been a pleasure serving on the Board, adding that he may run again some day.

Chairman Badger thanked Mr. Montesano for his service and said it would be very nice to see him serve again. Chairman Badger then wished Mr. Bergeron good luck on Election Day.

Mr. Bergeron said regardless of the results of this election, Norwood will be very well served.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for adjournment at 9:20 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee