

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, April 8, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 8, 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, Ms. Lisa Igoe and 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 March 25, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0-2 (Ms. Igoe and Mr. McDonough abstained).

**Correspondence:** Mr. Hayden acknowledged receipt of correspondence from some students who explained how they would like their education maintained.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:**

**Appearances:** At this point in the meeting, Mr. Hayden welcomed the Norwood High School Students who were chosen to participating in today's Student Government Day.

Laura Ailing, Superintendent of Schools (Gr. 11)  
Marlene Antas, School Committee (Gr. 11)  
Latajah Brown, School Committee (Gr. 11)  
John Caprigno, School Committee (Gr. 11)  
Helly Patel, School Committee (Gr. 11)  
Beth Tobio, School Committee (Gr. 11)

Mr. Hayden met with the students earlier today to plan this evening's agenda.

Some of the issues the students chose to discuss were: budget, merging of schools and grades, PSAT's, tax income, teacher cuts and fundraising. The students were able to share their thoughts and ideas regarding these topics.

The Members helped the students get discussions going, encouraged the students to make motions, and also put motions to votes.

Mr. Hayden and the School Committee Members thanked the students for their interest in Town and School Government and wished them well with the end of the school year.

At this point in the meeting, Chairman Badger welcomed Mr. Patrick McDonough and Ms. Lisa Igo to their first School Committee Meetings as new members.

Math Presentation: Ms. Jill Milton and Mr. John Casali were here this evening to update the Committee with regards to Math. Ms. Milton said she works with teachers from Kindergarten to grade 5. Ms. Milton reviewed the changes over the last few years. She said in May of 2014 an Elementary Math Program Review Committee was formed comprised of 50 teachers. The Committee chose 3 programs they wanted to pilot (this current year). There were monthly elementary Math Program Review Meetings, parent presentations and communications, and feedback. EnVision was the recommended program the Committee has chosen. Ms. Milton then shared some of the feedback from staff regarding the EnVision Program and did an overall review of the EnVision Math Program.

Mr. Casali, Math Department Chairperson for Grades 6-12, was here to update the Committee with regard to Math in the upper grades. Mr. Casali said the current textbooks are not aligned with the current Common Core Standards. He said they would like to get new textbooks for grades 6 and 7 for September 2015. The following year he would like to replace textbooks for grades 8 and 9 and the following year replace the other grades. He said they have narrowed it down to the following three textbooks:

- Pearson
- Big Ideas Math
- Glencoe.

Mr. Casali said that the choice has been narrowed down to *Big Ideas Math* and *Glencoe*. He reviewed which programs other towns are using as well as the pros and cons of each program that he was able to put together from teacher feedback.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Wyeth wanted to take a moment to thank Ms. Milton and Mr. Casali for the hard work they have done in researching the right product for our students. Dr. Wyeth added that all these programs are aligned to the Common Core, and some have more bells and whistles than others, but the parent piece is very important to the right program.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to move Dr. Mike Crowley and Summer School (J1.) up on the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**New Business:** Summer School: Dr. Mike Crowley was here this evening to update the Committee regarding Summer School. Dr. Crowley said this would be his 10<sup>th</sup> year as principal of the Summer School Program. He added that this program is funded through summer tuition fees and is totally self-sufficient. There has been no increases for all Summer Academy courses for the past 8 years (\$208.00). This year's summer academy will be broken down into 4 sections:

- Summer Matters;
- Enrichment offerings;
- Middle School and High School Summer Academy;
- Grad Point on-line course.

Mr. Hayden thanked Dr. Crowley for the great job he's done with the Summer School Program over the years.

Dr. Crowley updated the Committee with regards to his High School classes who entered into a National Competition called *Invent Teams*. They submitted a proposal from the Norwood High School Robotics and Engineering Program and the proposal was one of 35 in the country to be accepted. Dr. Crowley will be moving into a dorm at MIT for a week to see if his team's proposal will be narrowed down to the final 15. The final 15 will be chosen to win \$10,000 to create their inventions.

The Members asked Dr. Crowley what the invention proposal was.

Dr. Crowley said that during the snow storms of this past winter, they noticed snow drifts on the roof over the front of Norwood High School over ten feet tall. His students did research on how the snowdrifts accumulated and said that they came up with an idea to develop an awning that would be deployed during snowstorms that would assist with this problem.

The Committee wished Dr. Crowley and his students well as they proceeded on in the Competition.

**Reports:** None.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** None.

**Policy:** None.

**Budget: FY16 Budget:** Mr. Hayden began by saying that after the Committee made changes at the last meeting, he and Ms. Ellis continued reviewing the entire budget to make sure everything is accurate. They reviewed the personnel list from top to bottom and found a formula problem related to the Kindergarten Grant that was taken away. The money pieces lined up, but the FTE's didn't match up, which equals a 1.2 FTE increase. Mr. Hayden also then explained that the bond premium on the Town side was \$20,000 more than planned. Mr. Hayden said with these changes, he would ask the Committee to keep a math teacher at the Middle School, which would be able to accommodate those students who wanted to take algebra.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to reinstate a math teacher according to the FY16 Budget Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection sheet dated March 25, 2015, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Potential Special Town Meeting Warrant Article: Mr. Hayden began by saying that we estimated Snow Removal expenses this year at \$40,000.00. With this extraordinarily difficult winter, we were off the mark quite a bit. Mr. Hayden would like to have an article for the upcoming Special Town Meeting to assist with this expense.

Ms. Ellis reminded that we voted to take \$15,000 from that account for the Committee of 21 request for Consultant Fee.

**ARTICLE** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$403,182.67 to the School Department for winter storm related costs which exceed the FY15 budget due to an extraordinarily difficult winter. Said costs include overtime payroll, contractor plowing, sand/salt, deicers, snow blower repair, shovels, and other equipment used to address snow and ice conditions, **OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO.**

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the warrant for Snow Removal Article for Special Town Meeting as it is, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley.

There was some discussion regarding the \$15,000 fee and whether we should add \$15,000 to the warrant for Snow and Ice as well as the \$15,000 Consultant Fee.

Mr. Hayden said that he feels that with all the sharpening of pencils and with \$500,000.00 added from the Town side and another \$500,000.00 added from the School side, plus trying to add a new math program, he wanted the members to consider that maybe we should try to find the \$15,000.00 within our budget

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made an amendment to her motion to increase her original motion by \$15,000, which was seconded by Ms. Igo. The amendment failed 1-3-1.

At this point, the Committee voted on the original motion for the original article number of \$403,182.67 which motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Ms. Ellis informed that a new bulletin from the DOR just came out saying that Towns will be able to amortize snow and ice removal over the next three years.

With regard to the new Math programs, Mr. Hayden said that he was trying to find a way to see if the Town can help with the purchase of the new math program textbooks. Mr. Hayden said the publisher for Pearson submitted an option for breaking the payments down into two payments.

**ARTICLE** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide \$291,133 to be used to purchase the Pearson enVision Math 2.0 Program for Grades Kindergarten through grade 5 and purchase the Larson Big Ideas National 2014 Math Program for grades 6 and 7, **OR TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION RELATIVE THERETO.**

Mr. Gormley made a motion to submit the Article for math textbooks, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Approval of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from *Hannaford Helps School Program* for Norwood High School in the amount of \$180.00.

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

Approval of Out of State Field Trip: Mr. Hayden said there was a request from Mr. George Usevich, Principal of Norwood High School, for approval for an out-of-state field trip for Grades 10-12 Drama students to attend the 2015 New England Drama Festival in Camden, Maine, April 23-25, 2015.

Mr. Hayden said he wanted to give a huge shout-out to Jessica Gregorio who has wrote, casted, directed and submitted this play, which has been entered into this competition.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this out-of-town field trip request, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-2.

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Gormley announced that a joint presentation of Mary Poppins, the musical (Middle School and High School students) will be at Norwood High School on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> (Mother's Day weekend).

Ms. Igoe thanked those who came out to vote this year. She invited the public to the Acapella Night at Norwood High School this Thursday evening, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Igoe said she was excited to inform that the U-Mass Lowell Hawkapella group will be there, including her son Christopher.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers welcomed Ms. Igoe and Mr. McDonough to the Committee, adding that it is nice to have new voices chiming in to the meeting discussions.

Mr. McDonough thanked the voters who came out to vote this week. He also thanked his parents for all their support and then he wished Mr. Bergeron well, saying he ran a classy campaign. Mr. McDonough said he will be at the Mary Poppins musical as his cousin will be performing.

Chairman Badger announced the upcoming Fine Arts Festival at the Savage Educational Center April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>; and the Annual Art in Bloom at the Morse House April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for adjournment at 8:50 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