

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, May 6, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 6, 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 Mr. 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 April 29, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Badger acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-An invitation from the Memorial Day Parade Committee inviting the School Committee Members to march in the annual Memorial Day Parade.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Award Presentation – National School Development Council Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning Award: Chairman Badger informed that one of the students had a conflict this evening with play rehearsal. This item will be added to a future agenda.

Reports: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee that with some good financial planning from Ms. Ellis and with some great help from Mr. Ricciardi and Ms. McLucas, the Balch walk-in project at the Balch should be able to be completed this summer.

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

Policy: None.

Budget: FY15 Budget Update & Status of Warrant Article 16 for the Purchase of K-5 Envisions Math and Larson Big Ideas National 2014 Math Program Gr. 6 & 7:

The Members received the Budget Summary By Function Report as of April 30th and Ms. Ellis reviewed where the School System is at this point.

Mr. Hayden said he understands the Finance Commission has voted not to support Article 16 but the Selectmen have voted in favor of Article 16. That would leave this item for a Town Meeting vote without really knowing where funds will be coming from.

Mr. Hayden said that new math books are his top priority at this point. Larson wants the payment in full up front. Pearson will allow us to make the purchase of the program in four installments of \$58,031.65. Mr. Hayden's recommendation is to show the town that we have done everything in our power to purchase these books, including putting off purchasing new vans.

Mr. Hayden recommended withdrawing Article 16 and to plan on spending \$60,000 for the Larson Program and the first payment of \$58,000 for the ision Program from the pot hole money or from other available funds with the intent of going to Special Town Meeting in the fall for the remaining monies.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation to withdraw Article 16 for discussion, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she feels that new math books are a critical component for our teachers to teach, adding that we have new Town Meeting Members recently voted in to support the Schools so let them support the schools.

Mr. Hayden said we will be getting funds for a new walk-in at the Balch, a new drive way in front of the Coakley Middle School, and snow and ice removal costs have been much higher than anyone could have ever predicted.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said that these are all critical items and show the problem with not enough revenue coming in to the Town.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Mrs. Rau-Rogers opposed).

FY16 Budget: Mr. Hayden said the Members have received a hand-out for FY16 Questions and Answers. This handout has been added to our web site, and Mr. Hayden said he wants Town Meeting Members to have it so that they can begin to understand the budget.

Old Business: Abrahams Group Presentation to Committee of 21 May 4th: Chairman Badger updated regarding the Committee of 21's meeting last night and the report from the Abrahms Group.

Mr. Hayden reviewed the report and he corrected a report in the Norwood Record this week. He said for the most part, our students are at average and above average levels despite the changing shift of the needs of the students and the shift in staff due to state and federal requirements.

Chairman Badger said that, although the Committee of 21 voted in favor of this report, he did not vote in favor. He said that the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Director, Administrators, etc. have all worked tirelessly to get all requested information to the Abrahms Group. Chairman Badger said \$30,000 was spent for a collaborative effort to solve problems, but Chairman Badger said that the Town side did not cooperate with sharing of the information that was requested for some reason.

Mr. Hayden said this report will be posted on the school website.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said her original conclusion to this study was that there was no additional, useful information gathered. She had concerns regarding their special education portion of the review and Mrs. Rau-Rogers wondered if they even knew the special education laws and regulations. She said she is getting the same feed back from community members. Mrs. Rau-Rogers said at this point, without additional revenue, there is not a lot we can do at this point.

Mr. Hayden said there will be another meeting on Monday, June 8th and he will be reviewing updates to the Strategic Goals and, adding those to the FY16 Potential Academic & Operational Initiatives.

New Business: Appointment of School Committee Representatives for Contract Negotiations with Norwood Food Service Association: Chairman Badger asked for volunteers to begin negotiations with the Food Service Association.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers volunteered, as she has been involved in these negotiations previously.

Mr. McDonough volunteered.

Mr. Hayden suggested Mr. McDonough wait until after graduation to begin working on negotiations.

Mrs. Igoe said she would be happy to serve but wondered if she had a conflict as she worked as a nurse at St. Catherine's.

Mr. Hayden suggested she make a phone call to check on this question.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to appoint Mrs. Rau-Rogers to serve for the negotiations with Food Service Department. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Final Report of the DESE Coordinated Program Review: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee on the recent Program Review, saying that there were a couple of recommendations, but for the most part, he was very proud.

Dr. Wyeth read the findings on Civil Rights. Out of 27 standards we had recommendations on two of those items. We have Health and Wellness for Juniors and Seniors, but Health/Physical Education and Wellness must be implemented for all grade levels. Dr. Wyeth said the upper classes at the High School haven't always required Physical Education and this item will be addressed and implemented in the fall.

The other item was the wording in the Coakley Middle School Handbook regarding two items:

- discipline for special education students; and
- clarification of anti-discrimination policies which will also be implemented in the fall.

Dr. Wyeth thanked Carole Poirier for all her hard work preparing for these recent evaluations.

NAEYC Accreditation: Mr. Hayden congratulated the Willett School for passing their NAEYC Accreditation. They have been preparing for this since last spring and a review team came out the end of March last year. We were commended on the following items:

- Relationships;
- Assessment;
- Health;
- Teachers;
- Families;
- Community Relationships; and
- Leadership and Management.

Acceptance of Two Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Bay State Textiles, Inc.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation in the amount of \$500.00 from the Harvard/Pilgrim Mini Grant Program on behalf of Prescott parent Siva Hamsagadda.

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Ms. Igoe informed that Ms. McGrory sent her an invitation to a Sculpture Show for this coming Saturday. Also, she received an e-mail from the Post Prom Committee asking for volunteers next Thursday afternoon to help decorate the gym for the Post Prom event.

Mr. McDonough reminded that *Mary Poppins* is this weekend and he will be going to see it as his cousin will be performing in it. He then thanked all the teachers in the Norwood Schools for all their hard work and dedication as this week was Teacher Appreciation Week.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Gormley made a motion for adjournment at 8:35 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee