

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, May 20, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Ms. Lisa Igoe and Mr. Patrick McDonough.

Committee Member Excused: Chairman, John Badger and Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers.

Administrators Present: Mr. James Hayden, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment.

Mr. Gormley, acting as interim Chairman, welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting.

Public Forum: None.

Appearances: Award Presentation – National School Development Council Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning Award: Mr. Hayden introduced two Norwood High School Students, Saihariharan Nedunchezian and Shannon Geary and shared with the Committee Members many of their impressive accomplishments. Mr. Hayden then presented both students with the National School Development Council Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning

Mr. Gormley said at this point, he would suspend the meeting in order to have the School Choice Public Hearing.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to suspend the meeting for the Public Hearing, which was seconded by Mrs. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

2015-2016 School Choice Public Hearing: Mr. Hayden began the Public Hearing by explaining that Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 76, Section 12B requires that the Norwood School Department enroll non-resident students unless the School Committee votes by June 1, 2015 **not** to participate in the School Choice Program.

Based on the following reasons, the Superintendent recommends that the Norwood School Committee vote **not to participate** in the School Choice Program during the 2015-2016 school year.

- (1) Enrollments in Norwood are increasing; have been relatively volatile at certain grades within particular schools; and shortly will be reaching capacity enrollments for existing school sites. Choice students, once enrolled, are the system's responsibility until graduation (or age 22 for SPED students) and may pose overcrowding.
- (2) The income stream for choice students is on a declining scale with less income per pupil this year than last year.
- (3) Norwood would be subsidizing the cost of educating each choice student in that our per pupil expenditure is above the maximum allowable reimbursement.
- (4) A student may enroll as a regular education student (with \$5,000 as reimbursement); then apply for a team evaluation; and SPED services exceeding \$5,000 would be paid entirely by the Norwood Public Schools.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation to not participate in School Choice for the 2015-2016 School Year, which was seconded by Mrs. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

At this point, Mr. Gormley informed that the regular meeting would resume.

Minutes: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of Wednesday, May 6, 2015, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Tom Scott, head of the Superintendent's Association sent information regarding where the legislature is at this point regarding the Kindergarten Grants. The Members received a copy.

Warrants: Mr. Gormley informed that there were warrants to be signed.

Announcements: None.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to move **Old Business** (Abrahms Report) up in the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Old Business: Abrahms Report – Action Plans: Mr. Hayden said that he is planning break down the Abrahms Report in sections and to share the action plans. Ms. Alexander was here this evening to discuss the Special Education part of the report. She clarified sections of the report that had some inaccuracies. She then shared her action plans for next year. She said that both teachers and paraprofessional aides would be receiving the same professional development training and staff would receive more training on writing "required goals" instead of "desired goals" in IEP's. Ms. Alexander said that the auditors from the Abrahms group wrote their report from interviews. She said that no one interviewed her or anyone in her office.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Alexander and her team for preparing for a couple different audits while at the same time trying to do their jobs.

Mr. Riccardi was here to review the section of the Abrahams report with the Committee that pertains to Buildings and Grounds. Mr. Riccardi share with Committee all the duties the custodians do. During the day (6-2:30 shift) the custodians do not have the opportunity to clean the building. That is done by the afternoon/evening shift. Mr. Riccardi said that he figures how many custodians are needed by the footage of the buildings. The Abrahms report stated that we had 3 more custodians than we actually need. Mr. Riccardi disputed that statement. Mr. Riccardi said he feels that they got a superficial look at our system; they did not go out during snowstorms to see how things got cleared up, they did not check out any fields, and he also said they never checked out classrooms from the Buildings and Grounds view.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Riccardi and his staff for all they do to keep our schools running on a daily basis.

The Members had an opportunity to thank Mr. Riccardi and Ms. Alexander for the hard work they and their departments do every day.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McDonough made a motion to move High School Fundraising Proposals (High School Road Signs) – (4) A’s & Global Citizen’s Club Fundraiser up in the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Igo. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Ricciardi discussed the request of the High School PTA and the Global Citizen’s Club to have (1) a fundraiser (raffle) every year to name the front driveway and the back driveway after the raffle winner, and (2) name the road in front of the High School *4 A’s Way* in honor of George Usevich’s time at Norwood High School

After some discussion, Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the request for named street signs around the High School, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Reports: None.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda and Budget: Mr. Hayden said as we get close to the end of the fiscal year, he and Ms. Ellis are checking everything and we are, at this time, about \$25,000 in the plus. Mr. Hayden said he is getting ready to order the math books, and especially the manuals, before school ends so he can get them in the teachers’ hands before they leave for the summer.

Mr. Hayden then shared with the Committee the areas of concern he has at each level.

His recommendation is that if we end up with some extra money, he would recommend adding staff in the following areas:

Willett Developmental Learning Center;
Prescott 3rd grade overcrowding;
Balch School (class sizes).

The Committee members had an opportunity to discuss Mr. Hayden's recommendations.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendations if money becomes available at town Meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Policy: None.

New Business: Approval of the Education Cooperative Collaborative Agreement: Mr. Gormley reviewed the Education Cooperative Collaborative Agreement with the Committee and said that a vote needed to be taken this evening on the three proposed amendments to the current TEC Agreements.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve proposed amendment to restructure the Membership Fee, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the proposed amendment regarding Article VI – Method of Termination of TEC, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the proposed amendment in Article VI, Section 8.10. f., which will reiterate the phrase "including obligations for post-employment benefits", which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Norwood Public Schools Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Hayden said that the Strategic Plan is something that he would like to have the full Committee here to work on together. There was some discussion regarding the goals.

Dr. Wyeth reviewed the three levels of priorities with the Committee.

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Hannaford Grocery Store in the amount of \$1,000 to the Cleveland School.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to accept this donation with gratitude, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Approval of One (1) Out of State Field Trip: Mr. Hayden recommended approving an out-of-state field trip for the Extended Day Program to go to Canobie Lake Park in New Hampshire on August 6, 2015.

Ms. Igoe made a motion to approve this field trip, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough informed that Friday is the seniors last day of school. He wanted to publicly thank all the teachers he has had over the years as well as all the other teachers for their commitment to the Norwood Schools. He said that this system has the “best of the best” teachers. Mr. McDonough then said that he did attend the presentation of *Mary Poppins* last week and said it was amazing. He added that it was one of the best things he’s ever seen. Mr. McDonough thanked Mrs. Jody Smith and the cast and crew for a great job.

Ms. Igo had none.

Mr. Gormley informed that he was so happy to attend the Honors Night last night and loved listening to the accomplishments of the 20 seniors honored. He was also happy to see all the juniors, sophomores and freshmen. He said we have a very talented group.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 8:50 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee