

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, June 17, 2015

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 17, 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.

New Business: Mr. Hayden informed that at this evening's meeting the Committee will vote on the new Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Secretary.

Election of Chairperson: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for Mr. Jim Gormley to be the new Chairperson, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of Vice Chairperson: Mr. Badger made a motion for Mrs. Rau-Rogers to be the Vice-Chairperson, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of Secretary: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for Mr. James Hayden to be Secretary to the School Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: None.

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

Minutes: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of June 3, 2015, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Mr. Hayden complimented the Callahan Community of students, teachers, parents and PTO Members for coming together to fix the vandalized nature trail.

Appearances: Student Handbooks: Elem. Middle, High School: Mr. Usevich was here for the very last times before his retirement to review six proposed wording changes in the High School Student Hand book.

After reviewing the changes, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve said wording changes to the Norwood High School Student Handbook, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

High School Grading Policy from Numbers to Letter Grades: Mr. George Usevich and Ms. Kristen McDonnell were here this evening to update the Committee as to their recommendation to change the grading policy from numbers to letter grades. They explained that by doing this, the grading system will more easily align with college standards.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Ms. McDonnell then explained the proposed changes to the NHS Retention Policy:

- Grade 9 - minimum of 20 credits (formerly 16 credits);
- Grade 10 - minimum of 45 credits (formerly 40 credits);
- Grade 11 - minimum of 70 credits (stays the same);
- Grade 12 - minimum of 100 credits (stays the same).

Student Handbook: Coakley Middle School: Ms. Jackie Mann was also here to review the proposed changes to the Middle School Handbook. She said it was quite a process and with the past turnovers at the Middle School, this was quite overdue. The staff and School Council took their time to make the appropriate changes. Ms. Mann said the theme is *Every Student, Every Minute, Every Day*.

Mr. Scully update the Committee with regard to the tiers of discipline, academic contracts and behavioral contracts.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the changes to the Coakley Middle School Handbook, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden informed that there were no changes to the Elementary Handbooks this year.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the Elementary Handbooks, which were seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Reports: Ms. Jill Milton was here this evening to explain to the Committee that with the approval and purchase of the new math program, EnVision 2.0, they will be donating the other pilot math books to St. Catherine's and Plymouth Public Schools. The outdated surplus material will be donated to a woman who will be travelling to

areas of the world that have been devastated by natural disasters to help get the schools up and running again.

The new teacher manuals will be given out before the end of the school year so the teachers can bring them home to review before the new school year begins.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the plans for the distribution of the surplus math materials, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Dr. Wyeth updated that the new Math textbooks for grades 6, 7 and 8 have arrived and they will also be donated similarly to the elementary surplus books.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the plans for the distribution of the surplus Middle School math materials, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Milton also updated the Committee with regards to the Norwood Summer Math Program. She explained how to access the on-line math program. When the students entering grades 1-6 return to school in the fall, their summer math logs will be collected by their new classroom teachers and sent to Ms. Milton by Thursday, September 10th. Ms. Milton will prepare participation certificates for each student.

Dr. Wyeth reviewed the information members received in their packets regarding 2015 Summer Reading Requirements and Book Lists for all levels.

Dr. Wyeth thanked Ms. Milton for all her time and efforts in planning the summer math program.

Dr. Wyeth also updated the Committee regarding the *Position Paper- Executive Summary* received from Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, Inc. regarding conditions and considerations for a new generation of student assessments in Massachusetts.

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

Policy: None.

Budget: FY15 Budget Update: Ms. Ann Marie Ellis updated the Committee with regards to FY15 Budget, saying that the Members have received the standard projections as to how we will be closing out 2015. Ms. Ellis explained that the utility projections are off by \$100,000 thanks to the unusual winter we had.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis and her Department for working hard to get all the bills paid and for the detail involved in checking and cross-checking every item.

Ms. Ellis then updated the Committee with regard to FY16 Budget, saying that on April 29th, the Committee had voted on the 4th set of reductions (5th vote) and she found one item that was taken twice and made a line remiss. (A guidance line item).

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to use \$165,000 from the School Committee Reserve Account (P1017-16) and \$865.00 from School Equipment Rep-Willett Account (P1257-16) totaling \$165,865.00 to buy back 3 instructors (1) Balch, (2) Prescott and (3) Kindergarten for a grand total of \$165,865.00, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to use \$2,000 from School Copier Supplies – SHS (P0891-16), \$1,000 from SHS Computer Supplies (P0900-16); and \$1,000 from School Equipment Rep – SHS (P1255-16) to balance out the School IS/TB – SHS Guidance I.S. for a grand total of \$4,000.00, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Old Business: Committee of 21 Update: Mr. Badger, Mrs. Rau-Rogers and Mr. Hayden updated with regard to the Committee of 21's last meeting. The Committee has put together a Facilities Committee to research and study the needs in Town. The Committee of 21 will not be meeting again until September.

New Business: District Determined Measures Progress Report: Dr. Wyeth explained that District Determined Measures help teachers keep track of growth impact of the students (high growth, moderate growth or low growth). Dr. Wyeth said that this is part of the teacher evaluation system. The members received a sample of an elementary level DDM in their packets this week.

2015 Summer School Committee Meeting Dates (July 15, 2015 & Aug. 26, 2015):

After some discussion, Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to change the proposed scheduled meeting from July 15th to July 8th and August 26th, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Acceptance of Two (3) Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of \$7,940.00 from the Blue Hills Bank Charitable Foundation Educator's Micro Grant Program – 2015. (To participate in WBZ-TV Schools WeatherBug Program).

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a grant of \$5,127.00 from Blue Hills Bank for a Special Education Math Program for the Callahan School.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation (not a grant) of \$1,700 from the Committee to Elect Patrick J. McDonough Committee for the Norwood High School Robotics Class. Mr. Hayden also informed that Dr. Crowley is at MIT this week defending our High Schools students' invention, which was to be able to keep snow off the roof of our new High School.

Mr. McDonough said this program is a program he went through and he believes strongly in.

Mr. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1. (Mr. McDonough abstained).

Executive Session: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Open Session: Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to reconvene at 9:55 p.m.

Cafeteria Contract: Mrs. Rau-Rogers informed that they have successfully agreed upon a 3-year agreement for our Food Service employees that consist of a 2.5 % increase and substitutes pay will increase 25 cents.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve Food Service Contract, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Superintendent Contract: Mrs. Rau-Rogers informed that the Committee has agreed to a 2.5% increase retroactive for the 2nd year of the Superintendent's 3-year contract, which is retroactive to July 1, 2014.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the Superintendent's contract, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough had none.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers wished everyone a great last week of school and then she sent congratulations to the Baseball team on their win tonight. They are on to the States on Saturday..

Ms. Igoe also sent her congratulations to the Baseball team and wished them good luck on Saturday at the States at Holy Cross on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Ms. Igoe also said she enjoyed the beautiful graduation ceremony. She wished good luck to Class of 2015 and to Mr. George Usevich on his retirement.

Chairman Gormley sent his congratulations to the 8th graders who will be moving on to the High School. He also thanked everyone who has contacted him regarding his grandson's accident. Chairman Gormley thanked Ms. Igoe for using her contacts to get him the best care possible.

Personnel: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 10:10 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee