

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, August 27, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. John Badger, Chairman, Mr. James Gormley, Mr. Joseph Montesano (arrived at 7:20 p.m.) and Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers.

Committee Member Excused: Mr. Paul Samargedlis.

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: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2014, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rodgers. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Correspondence: Chairman Badger acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-Letter from Thomas Maloney, Chairman of the Finance Commission dated July 28, 2014;

Mr. Hayden recommended discussion regarding this letter during the Committee of 21 update.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Host Families for Students from Spain: Mr. Hayden informed that host families are still needed for the students who will be arriving from Spain in early September. For those that are interested, please call Cindy Derraine at the High School or check out the Facebook page.

Appearances: None.

Reports: Summer Cleaning & School Projects Ready for Opening of School: Mr. Paul Ricciardi updated the School Committee regarding the summer cleaning and school projects that were completed in order to be ready for the opening of school on September 2, 2014.

His crew had 46 days over the summer to get these schools clean and ready for the start of school.

Some of the projects the Buildings and Grounds crew accomplished are as follows:

The Coakley Middle School had lockers moved from the Savage to the CMS boys locker room and then they were painted. The Oldham kitchen and gym were painted. The Prescott replaced the cafeteria floor, the stage floor and the kitchen floor. The High School did a re-lamping of the High School lights in the auditorium, which was a huge undertaking without a catwalk. He said some heavy machinery and a large ladder just barely made it through the front door and it took 4 guys to move the ladder around. He was pleased to say the project was accomplished. The Savage Center keyless entry system was completed and video cameras have been added.

Mr. Ricciardi added that with all the indoor projects that were completed, there was not enough time get the outside of all the schools ready for the first day. They are working hard on the outsides now.

Update on Technology for 2014-2015 School Year: Mr. Joseph Kidd updated the School Committee on Technology projects for the 20214-2015 School Year.

Mr. Joe Kidd was here to update on the work the Technology Department has been doing over the summer. Mr. Kidd thanked the Technology Staff for their hard work. Some of the projects that have been accomplished are:

- Computer labs reimaged;
 - Data reporting and rollover of student information from last year;
 - Getting student information ready for the new year;
 - Wireless upgrades at Elementary Schools and the Coakley Middle School;
 - All 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade classrooms now have smart boards;
 - Completed some system upgrades;
 - Worked closely with Buildings and Grounds Department on video camera project;
- Ran professional development for teachers.

Mr. Ricciardi said that working with Mr. Kidd and the Technology Department is a pleasure and Mr. Kidd is a great addition to the Norwood Schools.

Mr. Hayden thanked both departments for their hard work and dedication over the summer.

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

Policy: Draft of Social Networking Policy to be Reviewed by Sub-Committee: Mr. Hayden said this is something he would like the Policy Sub Committee to review to see if any changes need to be made.

Ms. Rau-Rogers and Mr. Badger offered to work on this item.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to add Mrs. Rau-Rogers to the Policy Sub Committee, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Budget: FY15 Monthly Budget Update – July 31, 2014: The Members received the FY15 Monthly Budget Report dated July 31, 2014 in their packet.

FY15 Projected Personnel Budget – July 31, 2014: Mr. Hayden and Ms. Ellis updated the Committee with regard to the FY15 Projected Personnel Budget as of July 31st.

FY15 Circuit Breaker – Estimate: Mr. Hayden and Ms. Ellis reviewed the Circuit Breaker reimbursement figures which are expected to be between 71 and 73 percent. (\$1,396,596 - \$1,435,937).

Old Business: Friday Night Light Game Neighborhood Meeting Update: Mr. Hayden said that Mr. Usevich and Mr. Ricciardi arranged for a neighborhood meeting that was held on August 6th at 6:30 in the High School Library. Mr. Hayden said that 4 neighbors came to the meeting and two local newspaper reports were present. There was a presentation and then there was an opportunity for discussion. The neighbors' concerns were addressed. Overall, Mr. Hayden said it was a positive meeting.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Football and Field Hockey night games as all the steps for successful events have been met. This motion was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

New Business: Committee of 21 Update: Chairman Badger reviewed the Committee of 21's vote to hire an outside consultant and their hope that the cost of \$30,000 for the consultant would be split 50/50 between General Government and the School Department. The Finance Commission voted to appropriate the General Government share of \$15,000 out of the fiscal 2014 Reserve Account.

There was some discussion regarding the Committee's opinion to vote on

Mr. Hayden recommended working together on this

Mr. Gormley made a motion to examine where the School Department can find an extra \$15,000, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers wanted to know why a Special Town Meeting has not been called for regarding this item. She said that with a bare-bones budget, there is no extra money and nowhere to get the money without taking it from something else. Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she would vote no.

Mr. Badger said he believes the schools are budgeted inappropriately and he thinks that we can possibly get a handle on this with the help of a consultant. He added that this is not a bad move for the school system. He said that he believes this consultant will not say the school district is spending money foolishly or doing something wrong and maybe some good plans can come out of going this route.

Mr. Gormley amended his motion to examine where an extra \$15,000 can be found and approve this split should the Superintendent be able to find the funds without taking away from the students. Mr. Montesano seconded this motion. The motion was approved 3-1 (Mrs. Rau-Rogers voted against).

Strategic Plan Update: Mr. Hayden and Dr. Wyeth updated with regards to an end of the year meeting he had with his administrators to review the 2013-2014 School Year. Mr. Hayden said that the MCAS results are due in very soon. Mr. Hayden reviewed all the businesses in Town that have worked closely with our schools.

Appoint Superintendent's Evaluation Sub-Committee: Chairman Badger and Mr. Gormley were on the last Evaluation Committee. Mrs. Rau-Rogers said that Sub Committee has worked well in the past. Chairman Badger and Mr. Gormley will remain on that Sub Committee.

Acceptance of Three Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended approving a donation from the Andrew & Ernest J. Boch Memorial Fund in the amount of \$500 for the Cleveland Elementary School.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended approving a donation from the Andrew & Ernest J. Boch Memorial Fund in the amount of \$500 for the Willett Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended approving a donation from Lifetouch Portraits to the Willett Early Childhood Center in the amount of \$652.00 for participating in the Spring Portrait Program.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Personnel: 2014-2015 Staff Hiring & Personnel Changes Report: Mr. Hayden updated that there was a *New Teachers' Meeting* this week for 23 new teachers. Mr. Hayden said that some staff members have made moves within the system. There are still a couple of positions to fill and he has interviews scheduled for two positions tomorrow. Mr. Hayden said there are new suspension rules that have

come out recently that highly recommend no out-of-school suspensions. Mr. Hayden is trying to come up with a plan (which may include more para-professionals) to make this work. He will update the Committee on this item as soon as he has a plan.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairman Badger had none.

Executive Session: Chairman Badger informed that there would be an Executive Session for Unit 50 Negotiations Update.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Montesano made a motion for adjournment at 8:50 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee