

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, September 22, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 22, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. John Badger, Chairman, Mr. Paul Samargedlis, Mr. James Gormley, Mr. Joseph Montesano and Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers.

**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 September 10, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** None.

**Reports: School Safety Plan:** Mr. Hayden and Chief Brooks updated the Committee with regard to School Safety. Chief Brooks said that there has been a complete sight survey on all of the public schools in Norwood as well as St. Catherine's. Other parts of the safety plan include:

- All police cars (marked and unmarked) carry keys to get into all the schools.
- Many of the windows have been treated with glaze to prevent breaking.
- All the schools' video surveillance cameras can be viewed at the Police Station.
- A training video is in the process of being made to share with the students and staff to show what will happen during a school crisis.
- Also, all of the police will do a walk-through at all the schools so that everyone will be familiar with the layouts of each school.

Mr. Hayden informed that this information will be going out to families in the near future.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments

Summer Reading & Math Presentation: Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Jill Milton updated the Committee with regard to Summer Reading and Summer Math programs. With regard to the new Summer Math, Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Milton said they hoped for more participation, but were very pleased with those students who did participate.

With regard to Summer Reading, Dr. Wyeth said that he was very happy with all the books that were read and all the wonderful projects that went along with the books that were read. Dr. Wyeth and Mr. Hayden were very happy to share some of the students' work with the Committee.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Special Education Report and Future Plans: Ms. Paula Alexander updated the Committee with regard to Special Education and future plans. Ms. Alexander said that Norwood services over 600 students both in district and out-of-district. Mrs. Alexander said that whenever possible, we try to transition students to the least restrictive environment when the students are ready. She said that the LEAD Program, which services the 18-22 population, will be expanding this year with more jobs and training in the community and the addition of a new stove as well as a washer and dryer that was donated from Sam's Appliance, thanks to Mr. Ricciardi. These new appliances will be used by the students in the LEAD Program to work on life skills.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Accountability Status Report: Dr. Wyeth and Mr. Hayden updated the Committee with regard to accountability data, which was recently released. Most of our schools are in level I or level II. The High School is now in level I.

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

**Policy:** None.

**Budget:** FY15 Budget Update: Mr. Hayden said that all the Members should have received the monthly reports in their packets. Mr. Hayden informed that the Circuit Breaker was estimated to be \$1.4 million dollars and the actual reimbursement was 72% (\$1,399,320.00).

Letter from Mr. Robert Thornton regarding FY16 Budget Planning Process: Mr. Hayden said we have received a letter for submission deadlines for the FY16 Budget.

Letter from Board of Selectmen regarding Special Town Meeting Articles: There is a Special Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014. Mr. Hayden said he needs no action from the Committee this evening but he would like to bring the Callahan boiler project to the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Hayden will be having a

telephone conference with MSBA and Mr. Ricciardi tomorrow to refine the numbers. He is confident that we will be getting 50% reimbursement.

**Old Business:** Signing of Unit A Memorandum of Agreement regarding High School Stipends: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to resign the MOA with one clarification, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mrs. Rau-Rogers abstained).

**New Business:** Topics for Future School Committee Meetings: Mr. Hayden reviewed items he will be placing on future agendas.

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Samargedlis said this would be his last School Committee Meeting, as his family has gone through some big changes and he needs to be with his family more now. He was proud to say his son, Luke was born this weekend. He added that life has thrown some challenges to his family and he has moved out of town to be closer to his 6-year-old nephew who is going through a big battle of his own. Mr. Samargedlis said Joe and Betty Curran were instrumental in his life and he will always be thankful for that. He said he enjoyed serving on the School Committee with all past and present members. Mr. Samargedlis thanked his mother, father and siblings and especially his wife and kids for always supporting him. He has been so happy to be a part of this Committee and will really miss it.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said she wishes Paul and Michelle and their beautiful, growing family the best going forward.

Mr. Hayden said Mr. Samargedlis' passion, love of this town and his moral compass will be missed.

Mr. Gormley said when he first started on the Committee, he remembers Mr. Samargedlis reaching out to him to help get started and he appreciates that very much.

Chairman Badger said that it will be very strange for him as Mr. Samargedlis has always been on the Board while Mr. Badger has been here. As we begin to talk about the FY16 Budget, Mr. Samargedlis' expertise and passion to find as much money as possible for the students will be truly missed. His contributions will be very difficult to replace.

Mr. Badger asked that Vice-Chair Samargedlis end this evening's meeting.

**Executive Session:** Vice Chairman Samargedlis informed that there would be an Executive Session for the following items.

-Building Custodians Negotiations Update; and  
-School Secretaries Negotiations Update.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 9:00 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for adjournment at 9:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee