

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, October 29, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. John Badger, Chairman, Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers and Mr. James Gormley.

Committee Member Excused: Mr. Joseph Montesano.

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 October 8, 2014, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 2-0-1 (Chairman Badger abstained).

Correspondence: None.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Approval of 2014-2016 School Improvement Plans:

Balch Elementary School: Ms. Jean Selines was here this evening to update with regard to the Balch School Improvement Plan. Ms. Selines reviewed the MCAS scores and then explained that the Balch is piloting new math programs that are aligned with the Common Core Standards. Ms. Selines informed that the Balch has formed a partnership with Fitchburg State College, allowing college students to do their pre-practicum teaching at the Balch. Fitchburg State, in turn, will be providing Balch Staff the opportunity to take two 3-credit courses right at the Balch. Ms. Selines updated that about 35% of the students speak English as a second language. Eighteen languages are spoken at the Balch. There are 40 students who work with the ELL teacher. She then went on to explain that there is a newly formed staff senate. Every Monday morning the students and staff get together to celebrate birthdays and accomplishments and to work together to help everyone at the Balch.

Callahan Elementary School: Mr. Robert Griffin was here this evening to update with regard to the Callahan School Improvement Plan. Mr. Griffin said that 34% of the Callahan qualified for free and reduced lunch, and that many students arrive early for breakfast, which is served at 8:15 a.m. Mr. Griffin said the Callahan welcomed four new teachers this year. Mr. Downs and Mr. Griffin wrote a grant last year, which resulted in the creation of a 450-foot nature trail behind the school. Mr. Griffin thanked his PTO and said they have already hosted two successful programs this year: a book fair and the annual Monster Mash. Mr. Griffin then reviewed the MCAS scores and the Callahan goals.

Cleveland Elementary School: Ms. Nancy Coppola was here this evening to update with regard to the Cleveland School Improvement Plan. Ms. Coppola began by saying that there are 338 students currently enrolled at the Cleveland School, which is a slight decrease from last year. There are 17 classrooms and 50 students receive services in the PLC Program or Resource Room. Ms. Coppola reviewed the School Improvement Goals. The Cleveland has partnered with the Norfolk County Agricultural School this year to plan and create an outdoor classroom, with the help of some parents.

Oldham Elementary School: Mr. Wes Manaday was here this evening to update with regard to the Oldham School Improvement Plan. Mr. Manaday began by thanking Mr. Ricciardi and the Buildings and Grounds Crew as they continue to make improvements within the building. Mr. Manaday informed that there are currently 227 students enrolled at the Oldham in 11 classrooms. Mr. Manaday informed that the Oldham is happy to be the home for the PACS (grades 3-5) Program. Mr. Manaday then reviewed the goals. Mr. Manaday thanked the very active PTO for all they do, which includes the addition of a new basketball court, which they were able to create with the help of the Buildings and Grounds Department.

Prescott Elementary School: Ms. Brianne Killion was here this evening to update with regard to the Prescott School Improvement Plan. Ms. Killion began by saying that there are currently 260 students enrolled at the Prescott in 13 classrooms (with two new students are expected in November). Ms. Killion said that the Prescott houses the PACs Program (grades 1 and 2) led by Special Education Teacher, Ms. Laurel Cawley. Ms. Killion said the Prescott began the new year with one new teacher and one new aide. She then reviewed the MCAS results and this year's goals. Ms. Killion thanked her staff for their dedication, and especially her custodians for keeping the school safe and clean for the students.

Mr. Hayden and the Members had the opportunity to thank the Principals and their staffs for their dedication and hard work.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the School Improvement Plans, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Reports: School Committee Vacancy- November 5, 2014: Mr. Hayden updated that next Wednesday evening there will be a joint meeting of the School Committee and Selectmen to conduct interviews of those who may be interested in filling the School Committee seat that was vacated by Mr. Samargedlis who has moved to Plymouth.

Superintendent's Performance Review: Mr. Badger informed that the Members should go on *TeachPoint* to fill out the Superintendent's evaluation.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Hayden informed that the MASS/MASC Conference is next week.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers nominated Mr. Gormley to attend the MASS/ MASC conference, which was seconded by Chairman Badger. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden said there are 7 resolutions this year and the School Committee should give Mr. Gormley guidance on how the Committee would like to vote on said resolutions.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 1: Greater Transparency And Accountability For Out Of District Placement Costs.

1. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 2: Universal Quality Pre-Kindergarten Access In Massachusetts.

2. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 3: Charter School Reform.

3. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 4: Fingerprinting.

4. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 5: Reinstitution of Earmarking.

4. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 6: Unfunded Mandates And New Testing.

5. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

RESOLUTION 7: Assessment System In Massachusetts.

7. Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden read a proposed by-law change:

1. The following by-law change to Article VIII by adding the following paragraph following the last sentence of subsection 7:

“During the interim period between meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee may take such actions on behalf of the Board as it Deems prudent on matters that require immediate action and shall report Such action immediately to the full membership of the Board of Directors.”

The Committee had an opportunity to discuss this.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to not support this change as written, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden read another proposed by-law change to Article V, subsection 4, to delete the following sentence:

“Division officers shall take office on July 1 following election.”

And to substitute the following:

“Division officers shall take office on January 1 following election. The Division Meeting to elect officers shall be held at or in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Association, or, if a quorum cannot be reached, then as soon as is practical.”

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Policy: None.

Budget: Approval of FY15 Budget Transfer:

TOTAL TRANFER FROM:		TOTAL TRANSFER TO:	
0873 15 SCH IS/TB-OL TEXTBOOKS	\$445.00	0675 15 SCH INST. SAL-Conf./Other OL	\$445.00
TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM	\$445.00	TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO	\$445.00

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The committee voted in favor 3-0.

FY15 Budget Update: Mr. Hayden congratulated Ms. Ellis and her staff as they completed the End-of-Year Report, which was a huge project.

Callahan Boiler Update: Mr. Hayden said they were able to put together the information regarding the project and it was brought to MSBA for their recent meeting. The project total will be \$479,355. A letter has been sent to the Finance Commission for a meeting on Thursday, November 6th at 5:30 p.m. to go over the details.

Committee of 21 Update: Chairman Badger updated regarding the Committee of 21 Meeting from last week, saying there was a lot of conversation and they were able to give the consultants a direction to go in.

Old Business: Mr. Hayden wanted to thank Chief Brooks and some of his officers for helping with the CPR training at our last in-service day.

New Business: Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request to New York, New York: Mr. George Usevich is asking for approval for the accounting group at the High School to travel to New York to go to the Federal Reserve and many other sites to see how the business world works. This trip is scheduled for March 12-15th.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this out-of-state field trip, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Acceptance of Three Donations: Mr. Hayden thanked the Buildings and Grounds Crew and Mr. Ricciardi for the installation of a new kitchen for the LEAD Program here in the savage. The Maciekowski family has donated cookware for the new kitchen.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation in the amount of \$312.50 for the Coakley Middle School Math Team to attend a Math Meet in Mansfield from Central Motors, Inc. of Norwood.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting various school supplies (3 boxes full) from Manuel Andrade and Donna Copponi of ITT Technical Institute.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said Mr. Andrade of ITT Tech would be a great resource to tap into for our schools and as a great option for students to consider after High School. She then reminded everyone to vote!!!

Chairman Badger had none.

Executive Session: Chairman Badger informed that there would be an Executive Session for the following items:

- Approval of Senior Custodians 2014-2017 Memorandum of Agreement;
- Union #50 Negotiations.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion for Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Open Session: Chairman Badger welcomed everyone back to Open Session at 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Senior Custodians Contract for a 3-year period at the rate of 2.5%, 2.5% and 2.5%, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Gormley made a motion for adjournment at 9:00 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

