

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, November 5, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 5, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. John Badger, Chairman, Mrs. Rau-Rogers; Mr. James Gormley, Mr. Joseph Montesano and newly elected Member, Mr. Michael Bergeron.

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

**Minutes:** Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of October 29, 2014, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Correspondence:** Mr. Hayden informed that he has received a resignation letter from Mr. George Usevich, Principal of Norwood High School.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances: Approval of 2014-2016 School Improvement Plans:**

Mr. George Usevich, Principal – Norwood High School: Mr. Usevich began by sharing many of the accomplishments of the 4 A's (Academics, Activities, Athletics and Arts) at Norwood High School this past year. He was very proud to announce that Norwood High School ranked as a Level I School as a result of this past years good MCAS scores. He added that he and his staff continued working on NEASC recommendations in preparation of the Five-Year Report that was due in March. Mr. Usevich thanked Theresa Drummey who chaired the NEASC Committee and for all the deadlines she had to meet. At the April Meeting the Commission accepted Norwood's Report and Norwood High School's accreditation continues.

Some of the other programs and initiatives Mr. Usevich was proud to update the Committee on were:

Grad Point (on-line learning program);

Advisory Program

Practice SAT Test for sophomores;

Communication with parents (90% of parents are registered on I-Parent).

Mr. Usevich then reviewed all the goals and improvements throughout the different departments at the High School.

Mr. Usevich thanked the School Committee, Administration, his staff, the parents and everyone he has worked with over the years for the success of Norwood High School and the 4A's at Norwood High School. He ended by saying that he loves his job.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the Norwood High School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden said, like Coach Bill Belichick, Mr. George Usevich is going out on a winning season! At this point in the meeting, Mr. Usevich received a standing ovation.

Mr. Badger wanted to back up for a minute and welcome and introduce the newest School Committee Member, Mr. Michael Bergeron, who is at this evening's meeting, but won't be voting as he hasn't been sworn in yet.

Ms. Jackie Mann, Principal – Coakley Middle School: Ms. Mann was here this evening with Ms. Deborah Romeo, Vice-Principal for Curriculum Instruction and Mr. Brian Scully, Vice-Principal for Discipline.

Ms. Mann began by highlighting some of the significant areas of growth, then reviewing some of the enrichment programs that are offered after school, and then she explained what the SEARCH Program is. She then reviewed the priorities outlined in the School Improvement Plan:

- Literacy;
- STEAM;
- Meeting the needs of all students;
- Community Relations; and
- Social Emotional Needs.

Ms. Mann explained that they are working hard to have a positive climate and explained that both staff and students need to understand the core values of respect and responsibility, which need to exist to have that positive climate.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

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

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to move SEARCH Out-of-State Field Trip up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**New Business:** Approval of SEARCH Out-of-State Field Trip Request to Williamsburg, VA: Ms. Mann highly supports this program and is very happy that the students can select their own research projects to go along with this trip. The Students need to keep a GPA of 80 or above in order to qualify.

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

**Reports:** Mr. Hayden said the Members received, this evening, another piece to the Superintendent's Evaluation to review.

The Members received copies of the Town Meeting Warrant Article. The Norwood Public Schools have Article 12, which is the Callahan Boiler.

Mr. Hayden and Mr. Ricciardi will be having a conference call with MSBA tomorrow morning and then there will be a Finance Commission Meeting tomorrow night.

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

**Policy:** None.

**Budget:** FY15 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis was not able to be here this evening as she was not feeling well, but Mr. Hayden informed that we are managing well so far and are working within the budget.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** High School Visioning and Principal Search Process: Mr. Hayden said that the students and staff were asked to fill out a questionnaire on what their vision is for the future of Norwood High School.

There will be a meeting for parents and the community to attend at the High School for feedback.

The job will be posted around Thanksgiving and the interest pool will be narrowed down to the top three candidates. The hope is to have someone selected by some time in February or early March.

Acceptance of Three Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from the Norwood Bank of a new vision-testing machine for the Coakley Middle School (\$2,500.00).

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 informed that in honor of the Norwood Bank's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the employees of the Bank have been authorized to donate \$125.0 to the charities of the choice. One employee chose the C.M. Callahan School as their donation choice.

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 accepting a donation of 4 new sets of floor hockey goalie pads from the Joe Curran and the Kibby Fund.

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

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Gormley had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers welcomed Mr. Bergeron. She said she is very excited about all the good things going on at the Coakley Middle School this year.

Mr. Montesano also welcomed Mr. Bergeron.

Mr. Bergeron said he is delighted to be here.

**Executive Session:** Chairman Badger informed that there would be an Executive Session for Union #50 Negotiations.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Montesano made a motion for adjournment at 8:55 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

