

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, June 25, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**New Business:** Mr. Hayden welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting. He explained that the first order of business was to vote on a new Chairperson.

Election of Chairperson: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to nominate Mr. John Badger to serve as Chair, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers.

There were no other nominations.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Badger made a motion to nominate Mr. Paul Samargedlis to serve as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano.

There were no other nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of Clerk: Mr. Montesano made a motion for Mr. James Hayden to serve as Clerk, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers.

There were no other nominations for Clerk.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of School Committee Secretary: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to nominate Mrs. Donna Doliner to serve as School Committee Secretary, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers.

There were no other nominations for School Committee Secretary.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Minutes:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of June 11, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers received a request from Mr. Miller at the Recreation Department to use the Coakley Middle School lower field for the Norwood Day Fireworks on September 12, 2014.

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

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Global Citizenship Program Certificate Presentation: Mrs. Cynthia Derrane, Department Head of the Foreign Language Department, and Mr. George Usevich, Principal of Norwood High School, were here this evening to seek approval on the implementation of a new Global Citizenship Program. Ms. Derrane explained this program would have two parts. The first part would be in the form of a club that would be open to all students. The second part is the Global Citizenship Certificate Program in which students would need to be accepted into this part of the program and would spend the year working on building their portfolios.

Ms. Derrane explained that the Global Citizenship Program will help the students embrace the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and assist with thinking and problem solving. She said this year the staff would be willing to move forward with this program with no stipends.

There was some discussion as to future funding.

Mr. Montesano made a motion to approve the Foreign Language Department's Global Citizenship Program for grades 9-12, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Out-of-State Field Trip Request to Spain –o April 17-26, 2015: Mrs. Cynthia Derrane informed that the Spanish students heard so much excitement and buzz about the recent Italy trip that many have requested that a Spanish trip be planned. She is here this evening to request permission for an out-of-state field trip to Spain for 10 days (April 17-26, 2015). Ms. Derrane informed that this would be a smaller group of 21 students and 4 chaperones.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve this out-of-state field trip, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Norwood Football Friday Night Game Request – October 10, 2014: Coaches and captains from the Norwood High School Varsity Football Team and Varsity Field Hockey Team were here this evening, along with Members from the Norwood Football Parent Group and Friends of Norwood Field Hockey Group to seek approval for a night football game and a night field hockey game this fall.

Michael Kane, senior football captain, and Samantha Hayes, senior field hockey captain, spoke on behalf of the group. They requested approval for a night football game on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> (vs. Wellesley) and a night field hockey game, Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (vs. Dedham). The captains said that in researching this idea, they have found out that there have been no night games at the High School in over 10 years. They also informed that Norwood Bank has agreed to fund the evening and that this weekend would be used as a cancer fund-raiser to coincide with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers said that there is a Norwood High Reunion that weekend and that could be worked into the reunion weekend if this is approved. Mrs. Rau-Rogers asked if the neighbors have been notified yet.

Mrs. Susan Kane and Mrs. Holly Whelan, co-Presidents of the Norwood Football Parent Group, said that they were waiting for approval before approaching the neighbors.

The Committee had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns. All of the Members were excited about the idea of night games, but also didn't want to disregard the neighbors' concerns regarding this idea.

Mr. Hayden said these student athletes are pioneers, and if this is done correctly, they could be paving the way for future night games. Mr. Hayden said he would like to suggest that Mr. Usevich and the new Athletic Director, Mr. Longley, get together to work out details, check with the opposing teams, and reach out to find out what the concerns of the neighbors are. He would like to have this all done prior to the next School Committee Meeting for an update.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the evening games pending that the Principal and Athletic Director check with the opposing teams and reach out to the neighbors for their concerns, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Reports:** 2013-2014 Technology: Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, was here this evening to present the NPS Technology Report for 2014.

Mr. Kidd shared some of his Department's accomplishments this year:

- Technology Committee convened for second straight year with a focus on teacher professional development and student expectations, as well as elementary student device planning.

- Presented level-funded budget this year with expansion of services to our customers through review and consolidation of systems. (resulting in decreasing spending).

- District able to purchase technology that teachers requested through various grant-funding resources including many SMART Boards and projectors, iPads at the Prescott, computers for the high school robotics program, and a mini laptop for the reading program at the Coakley Middle School.

Mr. Kidd then shared the strategic planning and budgeting items that were not able to be accomplished:

- Development of a Community-Based Technology Advisory Committee;
- Development of a 1:1 Student Device Committee for the High School;
- Instructional Technology Specialist Position in the FY15 Budget.

Mr. Kidd then shared the next steps for strategic planning and budgeting:

- Continue to review all aspects of our budget and continue to find ways to save money that can be reinvested into expanded use of technology;

- Work with technology committee starting in the fall to continue to implement the technology plan; and

- Continue to advocate for the installation of instructional technology positions in our schools.

Some of the other areas Mr. Kidd reviewed were:

- Facilities and Business Technology;
- Network Infrastructure;
- Hardware, Software, Support;
- Student Hardware;
- Teacher and Classroom Hardware;
- Service and Support.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept the Technology Report, which was seconded by Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Kidd for all he does for the Norwood Schools, adding that his enthusiasm is shared by his entire department.

Mr. Kidd said he has a great team to work with.

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

**Policy:** Approval of Background Checks Policy (ADDA): Mr. Hayden updated that this updated policy is regarding fingerprinting of employees who will be working with children. He said he recommends the Committee approve this update.

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

Approval of CORI Policy (ADDA-R): Mr. Hayden recommended approving this policy.

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

**Budget:** FY14 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis updated the Committee regarding the FY14 Budget. She informed that as of this time, there is a positive balance of \$48,431.95, but added that it is just a snapshot in time.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept this report, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Old Business:** Signing of 2013-2015 Agreement between Norwood School Committee and Norwood Food Service Association: Mr. Hayden said this agreement has already been approved, but that the Memorandum of Agreement needs to be signed this evening.

**New Business:** 2014 Summer School Committee Meeting Dates: Mr. Hayden said that we need to vote on a Summer schedule of meetings this evening, adding that he would like to set a date for a retreat to review where we are going as a school system and a community.

The dates that Mr. Hayden proposed are:

- Wednesday, July 16th at 7:00 p.m.; and
- Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m..

After some discussion, the Committee agreed to change the July meeting to Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hayden suggested a retreat date of Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Summer Schedule and retreat date, which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from the Norwood Women's Junior Club Co-President/Treasurer Karen Burg in the amount of \$1,500 for the Visual Arts Department at Norwood High School.

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

**Personnel:** Coakley Middle School Vice Principal Search Update: Mr. Hayden updated that he is still working closely with Ms. Mann to fill this spot.

**School Committee Addenda;** Mr. Montesano had none.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers thanked everyone for their support over the past two years and said she is glad to hand the Chair over to Mr. Badger's very capable hands.

Mr. Samargedlis had none.

Mr. Gormley congratulated Mr. Badger on becoming the next Chairman.

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

- Building Custodians Negotiations Update:
- School Secretaries Negotiations Update:
- Union #50 Negotiations Update.
- Special Education mediation.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:55 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Montesano made a motion for adjournment at 9:20 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee

