

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, November 20, 2013

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Courtney Rau, Chairwoman, 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.

Minutes: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of November 6, 2013, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chairwoman Rau informed that there were warrants to be signed.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Mr. Hayden announced that he has recently been notified by the National College Board that Norwood was one out of 477 Schools in the United States that have been recognized for an increase in AP classes as well as an increase of students with a 3.0 or better exam score. Mr. Hayden presented Mr. Usevich and Mr. Kane with a plaque.

Appearances: Special Education Report: Ms. Paula Alexander, Director of Students Services, was here this evening to update with regard to special education services. Ms. Alexander reviewed the current programs that are district-wide:

- LBLD – (Language Based Learning Disabilities);
- PLC – (Pragmatic Learning Center);
- PACS – (Practical Application of Curriculum and Skills);
- TASC – (Therapeutic Academic and Supportive Classroom);
- LEAD Program- (Live, Engage, Achieve and Develop: 18-22 year olds).

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

2012-2014 Balch School Improvement Plan Update: Ms. Jean Selines, Principal of the Balch Elementary School, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the Balch School. Ms. Selines began by saying that the 2012-2013 School Year was a very good year culminating with the Balch 100 Year Anniversary

Celebration. Ms. Selines thanked Mrs. Helen Abdellah Donahue, Mr. Andy Cialetta (former Balch Principal) and Mrs. Patty Wheeler (current Balch teacher and former Balch student) for all their help in pulling this celebration off. Ms. Selines said the students and staff enjoy the diversity of the population at the Balch. She added that presently 33% of students at the Balch speak English as a second language. She reviewed the MCAS results, reviewed some of the academic and enrichment programs, and then thanked the very hard-working PTO for their dedication.

There was an opportunity for questions and comments.

After some discussion, Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Balch School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2012-2014 Callahan School Improvement Plan Update: Mr. Robert Griffin, Principal of the Callahan School, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the Callahan Elementary School. Mr. Griffin began by speaking about the unexpected loss of a beloved and wonderful teacher, Andrea Sullivan. He thanked the Norwood Community for all their kindness and support during this sad time. He updated that there are currently 244 students this year. He updated on the many activities already underway by the very active and dedicated PTO. He then reviewed:

- Common Core Transition;
- First and second grade reading program; and
- 2013 MCAS Improvements;

There was an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Callahan School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2012-2014 Prescott School Improvement Plan Update: Ms. Brianne Killion, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the Prescott Elementary School. Ms. Killion began by updating that the Prescott School currently has 241 students this year with 13 classrooms. There is an average of 18 students in these classes. The Prescott currently houses the PACS class for grades K-2. Ms. Killion reviewed her new staff members and thanked Mr. Joe Kidd for all his guidance and help in the technology area. Ms. Killion updated that ELA continues to have strong numbers and then reviewed plans to improve math scores. Ms. Killion reviewed the many events sponsored by the PTO. She ended by thanking the staff, PTO and School Council for their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the Prescott School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2012-2014 Norwood High School Improvement Plan Update: Mr. George Usevich, Principal of Norwood High, was here along with Mr. Sean Kane, Vice-Principal of Norwood High School, to update the Committee with regard to Norwood High School.

Mr. Usevich started by thanking the School Council and PTO for their hard work and dedication in supporting Norwood High School. Mr. Usevich then said that work continues on the NEASCE highlighted recommendations in preparation for the March 1, 2014 Five Year Progress Report. There are committees reviewing these recommendations. Also, work continues to develop and implement a formal mentor program in which every student has an adult member of the school community, in addition to their school counselor and dean, who knows the student well and personalizes each student's educational experience.

Mr. Kane explained they are working hard to ensure student academic success through all four years of high school.

Mr. Usevich also was very proud to say that Norwood was one of only 33 High School in Massachusetts that were honored by the National College Board. His goal is to stay on this list for next year.

There was an opportunity for questions and comments.

There was some conversation regarding options for students when planning life after Norwood High School. Mr. Kane said he would love to one day have a career councilor at Norwood High School to help students see all the options available to them besides a four year college.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Norwood High School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Reports: Mr. Hayden informed that TEC was the sole proposer for the on-line classes. He passed around the proposal for Members to review.

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

Policy: None.

Budget: Approval of FY14 Budget Transfer:

| <u>Transfer From:</u> | | <u>Transfer To:</u> | |
|--------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 0964 14 Sch IS/TB-Old IS | \$1,071.50 | 0675 14 Sch Inst Sal-Cof/Other OL | \$1,071.50 |
| TOTAL TO BE TRANS. FROM: | \$1,071.50 | TOTAL TO BE TRANSF. TO: | \$1,071.50 |

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 096914 Sch IS/TB-Wil Ins Sup | \$407.10 | 1334 14 Sch Cont Fees-Dues | \$407.10 |
| TOTAL TO BE TRANS. FROM: | \$407.10 | TOTAL TO BE TRANSF. TO: | \$407.10 |

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1440 14 Sch SPED – Tuitions | \$69,325.00 | 0941 14 Sch Adm- Legal Settlem. | \$69,325.00 |
| TOTAL TO BE TRANS. FROM: | \$69,325.00 | TOTAL TO BE TRANS. TO: | \$69,325.00 |

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Finance Commission Request for FY14 SPED Out-of-District Budget Update: Mr. Hayden said that when there is a final document, he will forward it on to the Finance Commission.

Finance Commission Request for FY14 Personnel/Salaries Budget Update: Mr. Hayden said he will send a letter to the Finance Commission and let them know we are currently working on this information.

Mr. Hayden also informed that Mr. Maloney is the new Chair for the Finance Commission.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of 47 dictionaries for 3rd graders from Perry Siegel and the Norwood Elks.

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

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to create a new committee to bring in some stakeholders to assist in creating some new after school athletic programs for our younger students, which was seconded by Mr. Badger.

There was much discussion as to how this would come under the School Committee purview. Dr. Wyeth suggested that this is a town-wide community issue.

After some discussion, the motion failed 2-3 (Mr. Samargedlis and Mr. Montesano voted in favor).

Mr. Samargedlis made another motion for the School Committee to reach out to stakeholders in the Community to find a way to bolster the Norwood Public Schools Athletic Programs, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano.

After more discussion, Mr. Samargedlis withdrew his motion.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda:

Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Samargedlis had none.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Rau informed that there would be an Executive Session for negotiations.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 9:45 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 10:20 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