

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

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2014. 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 and Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment.

Minutes: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: None.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: None.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Gormley made a motion to moved **New Business**, #1 and #2 up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

New Business: Approval to Submit MSBA Statement of Interest for Callahan School Boiler: Mr. Ricciardi, Director of Buildings and Grounds, was here this evening for two reasons. First he wanted to publicly thank Paul Burgoine, custodian at the Prescott Elementary School, who noticed water on the floor in the cafeteria yesterday morning before 6:00 a.m. He was able to contact Mr. Ricciardi, Steve Eckhardt of Jacobs Plumbing, Chris Folan and Rich Barsomian and their crew who were all there within minutes of being called. They zoned in on the problem, which was a very old pipe located underground. There was no heat in that area of the school. They were able to move 5 classrooms and the cafeteria to other parts of the building by 8:00 a.m. Mr. Ricciardi said these guys were so dedicated and made sure that the school did not have to be closed. Then he thanked them again for all their preparations and hard work during last night's snowstorm to make sure the schools were all able to open safely this morning with a delayed opening.

Mr. Ricciardi then updated with regard to the boilers at the Callahan Elementary School, saying that the boilers are so far gone that they probably won't make it another year and the service company that repairs them won't guarantee their work anymore. Mr. Ricciardi was here this evening for an approval to submit a Statement of Interest for this item in the Accelerated Repair Program. He updated that the entire project will be approximately \$321,000.

Mr. Hayden explained that, if approved, MSBA could reimburse up to 50%.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to submit the Statement of Interest for the Callahan boilers to MSBA's Accelerated Repair Program, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Ricciardi for all his efforts and dedication to keeping the schools up and running safely.

Review of District Determined Measures & Progress To-Date: Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Jill Milton updated regarding the District Determined Measures and Progress. Dr. Wyeth updated that District Determined Measures are measures of student learning, growth and achievement related to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that are comparable across grade or subject levels district-wide. Dr. Wyeth also added that a Committee will soon be put together to:

- Identify a team of administrators, teachers, and specialists to focus and plan the district's work on DDM's;
- Provide clear communication to educators, school board members, and other stakeholders about the development and use of DDM's;
- Create a collaborative process to involve educators in the district in the process of researching and/or developing DDM's;
- Complete and inventory of existing assessments used in the district's schools and assess where there are strengths to build on and gaps to fill;
- Discuss with the district's educational collaborative and other district partners, their interest and capacity to collaborate around identifying and evaluating assessments that may serve as DDM's;
- Plan for DDM implementation (e.g., administration, scoring).

Dr. Wyeth compared the new District-Determined Measure System to the MCAS tests. Teachers will have training on the rubrics and scoring systems.

Mr. Hayden said that unlike the MCAS, the results will be available immediately so that changes can be made right away.

Ms. Jill Milton gave an explanation of the Math Standards, assessments, rubrics, etc. Ms. Milton explained that the DDM's are meant to show progress and growth in students.

There was some discussion regarding this item.

Reports: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, was here this evening to give an overview of Google Apps for Education. Mr. Kidd explained that Google Apps for Educators have been available for teachers since November. There has been some after-school training and training will continue for interested staff members. Students in grades 8-12 will be given accounts after e-mail accounts are set up for them. There are free on-line collaboration tools for staff and students. Mr. Kidd would like to send an informational letter and parent consent forms home for students under 13 years of age so parents can make a decision whether their child can participate or opt out.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to send the parent consent forms home for students under 13 years of age, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. After some discussion, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Policy: None.

Budget: FY14 Budget Summary Report – December 2013: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to file report, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Evaluation System: Mr. Hayden reviewed the Mid-Cycle Formative Assessment Report goals and updated the Committee as to whether the goals are on target or not.

Mr. Hayden than asked if the School Committee could reactivate the Superintendent's Review Committee to discuss remuneration.

Mr. Samargedlis said that in the past, the whole Committee has met in Executive Session.

Chairwoman Rau said that we will put that item on for Executive Session at the next meeting on February 5th.

Approval of Two Out-of-State Field Trip Requests: Mr. Hayden asked the School Committee to approve the following out-of-state field trips:

Mr. George Usevich, Principal of the High School, requested approval for the Madrigal Choir and Concert Chorale to participate in the Spring Tour in New York City and New Jersey on April 10-13th, 2014.

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

Ms. Ann Mitchell, Interim Principal of the Middle School, requested approval for the 7th and 8th grade SEARCH students to visit Gettysburg, Amish Country and Philadelphia on April 8-12th, 2014.

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

Acceptance of Four Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Palombo of Walpole of a baritone horn and a valve trombone for the High School Band.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of \$200.00 from the Women's Community Committee Inc. to offset costs of supplies for the classroom.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of 366 Kindergarten Whiteboard Lap Disks, valued at \$3,024.00, from John and Pauline DiSangro.

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

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of \$120.00 (\$30.00/quarterly) from Travelers Employee Giving Campaign and Ms. Phyllis Halls.

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley's grandson is in the 8th Grade History Competition and Mr. Gormley has enjoyed talking with him and his friends about old-time baseball stories.

Mr. Samargedlis said the Town Wide Meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday evening. Mr. Samargedlis said it is a good collaboration between Town Committees.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairwoman Rau had none.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger 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