

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, February 26, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Courtney Rau, Chairwoman, Mr. John Badger (arrived at 8:00 p.m.), Mr. James Gormley and Mr. Joseph Montesano

Committee Member Excused: Mr. Paul Samargedlis

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 February 5, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Correspondence: None.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Congratulations on 2nd Place in the “We the People” Team Debate: Ms. Molly Uppencamp, Social Studies Teacher at NHS, was here with approximately a third of the students who recently competed in a debate at Harvard University called “We the People”. Ms. Uppencamp was very proud to announce that her students placed 2nd in the State. Some of the students were happy to share their experience with the Members.

The Member then had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Hayden thanked the students for making Norwood proud and then thanked Ms. Uppencamp for inspiring the students at Norwood High School.

Reports: Ms. Ellis updated that the FY2014 Budget is trending at about the same as last year at this point.

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

Policy: None.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Montesano made a motion to move **New Business** up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

New Business: Approval of the Creation of a Capital Reserve for the Education Cooperative: Mr. Hayden said that the TEC Academy will be moving from Newton to a new location and will be in need of new equipment. This account that they want to activate needs to be approved by 2/3 of the participating Communities.

Mr. Gormley wondered if this item needed to be brought before Town Meeting.

Mr. Hayden said he could check with Town Counsel.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to table, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Acceptance of Two Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Phyllis Halls from the Travelers Employee Giving Campaign in the amount of \$35.00 which is a quarterly donation that Traveler's matches.

Mr. Montesano made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation of an I-Pad from Dana Tomaszewski to the Willett Early Childhood Center.

Mr. Montesano made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Budget: FY15 Budget Reductions: Mr. Hayden began by showing a power point which included a 6 Year School Budget Comparison. He reviewed the increases over the past six years. Mr. Hayden said that we are not being greedy in asking for an increase, but we are trying to meet the demands of running great programs and keeping skilled professionals to help our students reach their potentials. The proposed FY15 Budget is \$40,296,212 and the School Department has been given the task of getting the final budget down to \$37,736,863.

Mr. Hayden continued on saying that raises were given this year, transportation costs rose due to the increased price of gas and the need for bus monitors, Special Educations costs have risen, and Special Education laws require us to have a summer program which will cost about \$70,000. In the past, a federal grant has covered this program, but we were not awarded the grant this year.

Mr. Hayden reviewed the information on the FY15 Budget Reductions Sheet. Dr. Wyeth has reviewed anticipated enrollment for next year and some changes have been recommended. Dr. Wyeth has explained that these cuts will affect our students learning experiences.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve reduction recommendations from pages 3 and 4, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mr. Hayden then reviewed where personnel changes are being recommended.

At this point, the Committee Members agreed to continue this process at tomorrow night's scheduled Budget Sub Committee Meeting so that everyone can have some time to think about other ideas.

Old Business: None.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairwoman Rau had none.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 8:35 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