

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee - Budget Sub Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Thursday, February 27, 2014

A Budget Sub Committee Meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Thursday, February 27, 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 (arrived at 8:30 due to work commitment).

**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.

**Budget:** The School Department has been given the task of cutting \$2.4 million from the FY15 Budget and the School Committee Members have reconvened this evening to work on a plan.

Mr. Hayden began with a quick overview of the power point presentation that was shown at last night's School Committee Meeting, which compares the School Budget increases over the past six years.

Mr. Hayden said he feels these proposed cuts are the best that he and his Administration can come up with, but they will dismantle this School System.

The Members shared their fears of the reality of these cuts.

There was much discussion about the importance of trying not to cut teachers even if it means eliminating Athletics and the Music Program.

Chairwoman Rau said it is important for Town Meeting to realize that the Department of Education does not compare Norwood to our surrounding towns (i.e. Walpole, Dedham, Canton, Westwood), but to towns like Agawam, Milford and Stoughton.

After much discussion, Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to cut all Athletics, Music, and grades 7-12 transportation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley for discussion.

Mr. Badger had some questions regarding the budget he would like to review with the Superintendent.

Mr. Samargedlis withdrew his motion until after Mr. Badger's questions were reviewed.

Chairwoman Rau said the time has come for the town to review ways to generate new revenue.

Mr. Hayden informed that even if we cut Athletics, Music, and transportation for grades 7-12, we will still need to cut another \$61,000.00 to get to the bottom line.

Mr. Badger asked Mr. Hayden to come up with another list of cuts of what \$900,000 looks like without losing Athletics, Music and grades 7-12 Transportation so as to have another list to compare with.

Mr. Hayden said he would work on another option and e-mail it to the Members for review so that the Chair and Mr. Samargedlis can bring these two options to the Budget Balancing Committee Meeting on Monday night.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to make the necessary cuts to balance the FY15 budget with existing revenues, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

The Committee agreed to cancel the Saturday morning Budget Sub Committee Meeting.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 9:15 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