

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, March 12, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Courtney Rau, Chairwoman, Mr. John Badger, Mr. Paul Samargedlis and Mr. Joseph Montesano

Committee Member Excused: Mr. James Gormley

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. Montesano made a motion to approve the School Committee Minutes of February 26, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the Budget Sub Committee Minutes of February 27, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Rau acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-A letter from JSC/YCN Transportation dated March 11, 2014.

Chairwoman Rau updated that the Budget Balancing Sub Committee Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night has been postponed and has not been rescheduled as of yet.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Norwood High School Student Representatives: Saloonee Adhikari, Griffin Flaag, Michael O'Donnell and Kaushik Suryanarayanan, students at Norwood High School, were here this evening to update the Committee regarding the 4 A's at Norwood High School (Academics, Activities, Arts and Athletics).

Middle School National History Day Presentation: Ms. Jennifer Orlinski, Social Studies Department Chair, was here this evening to share a presentation with the Committee regarding the Middle School National History Day.

Three students were here with Ms. Orlinski to share some information of what their projects were about.

Declan Kohlsaar created a website about concussions in the NFL.

Alessandra Varon created a documentary about censorship in China.

Delia Bartucca created an exhibit on the Easter Rising in Ireland.

Some of the students will be moving on to the State Competition.

Mr. Hayden said that this is the 3rd year our students have participated in this competition, adding that the students have continuously made our Town proud.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: Mr. Hayden informed that last night there was a wonderful presentation by John Mattleman called “The Secret Life of a Norwood Teenager”. Mr. Hayden said John captivated over 150 parents in the audience talking about topics like drug use, suicide, and knowing your teen.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: Chairwoman Rau informed that she will not be able to attend the next scheduled School Committee Meeting on March 26th due to a conflict. The School Committee decided to reschedule the meeting instead of having the meeting without the Chair. The new date will be announced after the Members coordinate their schedules.

Policy: None.

Budget: Mr. Hayden began by reviewing the Summary of Accounts. He the said that at the recent Budget Balancing Committee there were questions raised about the Salary Account. He reviewed that the account request increased 10% for many reasons, adding that this account is not just for teachers’ salaries. This account includes:

- Teachers Salaries – (raise increase at 2.5%);
- Step Increases;
- Unit B;
- Paraprofessionals;
- Summer School (lost a Federal Grant);
- Longevity;
- Stipends (Clubs: Elementary, Athletic, Lunch Stipends); and
- Stipends (for paraprofessionals who get their masters degrees).

There was some discussion regarding the accounts and the increases.

Mr. Hayden reviewed three additional money sources that totaled \$955,249,00.

Mr. Samargedlis thanked Mr. Hayden for the endless hours and the many times he has reviewed, line by line, all the accounts trying to find ways to make this budget work.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis and Dr. Wyeth for all the hard work they have done throughout this process.

The Members received a packet with updated information regarding Kindergarten tuitions. He added that two half-day kindergarten classes would need to be added for families who cannot afford full-day Kindergarten. Busses would need to be added in the middle of the day. The School Committee agreed that the amount of money that would be brought in would not be worth the repercussions that would be felt.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to put the kindergarten information on the website to support the School Committee's vote for not charging kindergarten tuitions as a way to resolve the FY15 Budget, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to put the Preschool information on the website to support the School Committee's vote for not changing the preschool programs tuitions, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Hayden then reviewed the information he put together of possibly closing a school (Balch or Callahan). He could possibly save approximately \$500,000.00. He reminded that a new apartment complex has been approved behind the Oldham and others are on the horizon for this town. If we had to reopen a school and bring it up to code, it would cost a lot more than what we could save. Mr. Hayden said he would not recommend this option.

Mr. Samargedlis voted to support the Superintendent's recommendation of not closing a school as a way to resolve the FY15 Budget, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Hayden recommended the following items to be taken off the list of cuts:

- Cleveland – Grade 5 teacher;
- Prescott – Grade 3 teacher;
- Put in a revision of the House Master Plan (have two Vice Principals, one which will be in charge of discipline and one in charge of instruction) (This is a similar set-up to Natick, Needham and Framingham);
- MCAS remediation;
- One Paraprofessional at the Willett;
- Instrumental Music;
- Librarians;
- Custodian;

If music is not eliminated, Mr. Hayden recommends the following fees:

\$75.00	Elementary
\$100.00	Middle School
\$150.00	High School
\$300.00	Band
\$250.00	Summer Musical

If Athletics are not eliminated, Mr. Hayden recommended the fees increase from \$150.00 per sport per season to \$300 per sport per season.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to put personnel on hold at this time to review Circuit Breaker numbers and possible Extraordinary Relief Claims that might bring some relief to Norwood Schools. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

There was some discussion regarding Medicare reimbursements. Ms. Ellis informed that Medicare reimbursement for 2013 was \$170,761.82 which all goes back to the Town side.

Mr. Montesano suggested looking into the schools' electric bills to see if there was a way that some of those bills can be lowered.

At this point, the Superintendent went back to proposed cuts.

After much discussion and much regret, the Committee voted on the following items.

Mr. Badger made a motion to increase fees for Athletics and Fine Arts as indicated on version 3 of the Budget Reduction Sheet, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to eliminated MCAS remediation and a paraprofessional position at the Willett Early Childhood Center, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Badger made a motion to eliminate bussing for grades 7-12 as well as the after school busses, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Badger made a motion to continue this process after the next Town-Wide Budget Balancing Committee Meeting which will be rescheduled hopefully for another day next week, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

The Committee will still need to eliminate another \$1,099,373.00.

Ms. Ellis gave a update on FY14 Budget through February 28th saying that at this point, there is an anticipated deficit of approximately \$313,018.33.

There was some talk about putting unanticipated out of district special education costs on a special town meeting warrant.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Approval of the Creation of a Capital Reserve for The Education Cooperative: Mr. Hayden said he has looked into this item and the reserve is funded by left-over budgeted money and the School Committee has the ability to vote on this item.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the creation of a Capital Reserve for The Education Cooperative, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Approval to Refresh the Statement of Interest to the MSBA for the Coakley Middle School New HVAC System: Mr. Badger made a motion to refresh the Statement of Interest to the MSBA for the Coakley Middle School New HVAC System, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Request from Senior Custodians to Begin Negotiations for Successor Contract: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to respond with a letter asking for more time before beginning negotiations, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Personnel: Mr. Hayden announced that Mr. James Tighe has been hired as the new Football Coach after two rounds of applications. Mr. Hayden wished him well.

Mr. Hayden also informed that our Athletic Director, Mr. Brian McDonough, has given his retirement letter after 12 years in Norwood. Mr. Hayden said Mr. McDonough has done a fine job of heading up our Athletics.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Montesano had none.

Mr. Badger said that he was very surprised about Mr. McDonough's retirement and wished him well as he goes out on top.

Mr. Samargedlis had none.

Chairwoman Rau had none.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Rau informed that there would be an Executive Session for negotiations and a legal item.

Mr. Badger made a motion for Executive Session at 10:29, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 10:45 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee