

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, May 28, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 28, 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; Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment; and Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Finance and Operations.

Minutes: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Emergency School Committee Meeting of May 12, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the minutes of the School Committee Meeting of May 14, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Mr. Hayden and Chairwoman Rau recently attended a NEASC Meeting and they were happy to update that the report from NEASC was that they were very pleased with many of the changes at Norwood High School. Chairwoman Rau reviewed some of the areas that were highlighted.

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

2013-2014 School Choice Public Hearing: Mr. Hayden recommended that we do not participate in the 2013-2014 School Choice for the following reasons:

- Norwood has continuous movement of enrollment;
- The income stream is on a declining scale; and
- The per-pupil costs do not match.

Mr. Badger made a motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation to not participate in School Choice, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to move *New Business - #2 High School Fundraising Proposals* up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. George Usevich, Principal of Norwood High School, was here this evening with Mr. Brian McDonough, Director of Athletics and Ms. Catherine Connor-Moen, Director of Fine Arts, to discuss some fundraising ideas to assist with the costs of Athletics and Fine Arts as the fees have doubled from \$150 per sport to \$300 per sport beginning next year.

Ms. Catherine Connor-Moen proposed an idea of selling gold star plaques, which will be placed, on the arms of the chairs in the Alberta Fine Arts Center. The costs for the stars would be \$100 for families and \$250 for businesses.

Mr. Brian McDonough said he is very concerned about the \$300 fee with no cap and what the repercussions will be for families that are struggling. Mr. McDonough updated saying that this year, there are 932 participants (50% of student body) in sports this year. The Athletic Department collected over \$119,000 in user fees last year. There are 126 students this year receiving waivers of fees based on the free and reduced lunch program.

Mr. McDonough shared some of his fundraising thoughts:

- To allow naming rights;
- Sell sponsor banners for the gym and the football field;
- Use 3rd party vendors to do soliciting for advertising (website, etc.).

At this point, Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the ideas of fundraising, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

The Members then had an opportunity for questions, comments and idea sharing.

Reports: Mr. Hayden informed that he has received a report from Mr. Conti and Mrs. Keegan regarding a cooperative teaching program in which High School Students volunteer at the local elementary schools and were able to participate in assisting the teachers. There were nine seniors who participated in this wonderful program and Mr. Hayden said he hopes these nine students consider coming back and finding a teaching career in Norwood some day.

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

Policy: None.

Budget: FY14 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis updated the Committee regarding the FY14 Budget to date. The snapshot balance as of this week is a positive balance of \$30,703.94.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis and her team for keeping track of all the moving parts of this budget.

Mr. Samargedlis took this opportunity to thank Superintendent Hayden for steering this school system through a very tough budget process.

FY15: Chairwoman Rau informed that Mr. Hayden has made sure that the FY15 Budget power point is on the School website now and she hopes the Town Meeting Members will have a chance to view it before tomorrow night's Town Meeting.

Old Business: Chairwoman Rau said that with regard to the creation of a new Committee of 21 that will review the School Department's finances, she has chosen three representatives and will announce who they are at the next public meeting.

New Business: Approval of The Education Cooperative Collaborative Agreement: Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the Agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Badger.

Mr. Gormley gave a quick overview of what TEC is and what towns participate in TEC.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

At this point the Committee

MASC Training for New School Committee Members: The Members received a flyer regarding MASC Training.

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

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation in the amount of \$1,072 for a Scholarship in Memory of Lance Corporal Richard B. Murphy (Class of 1966) who was killed in action while serving with the Marine Corps in South Vietnam on 6/15/68.

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

Personnel: Athletic Director Search Update: Mr. Hayden announced that Mr. Jonathan Longley, current AD in North Andover, has been chosen as our next Athletic Director. He is very enthusiastic and ready to take on the challenges.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Samargedlis looks forward to speaking with Mr. Kidd from Technology regarding the fundraising ideas he has.

Mr. Badger wished the four spring sports teams that made the MIAA tournament good luck as they proceed. They are Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Softball and Baseball.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Chairwoman Rau extended her sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mark Ruma, a former Norwood High School graduate, who recently passed away.

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

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:05 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 8:30 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