

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, June 11, 2014

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Committee Member Excused: Mr. John Badger

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.

New Business: Election of Chairperson, Election of Vice Chairperson, Election of Clerk (Appointment of Secretary): Mr. Gormley made a motion to postpone this item until the June 25th meeting so that there is a full quorum, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Minutes: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of May 28, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Rau acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Mass School Building Authority that will be discussed later in this meeting.

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

Announcements: Introduction of Middle School Principal, Jacqueline Mann: Mr. Hayden welcomed and introduced the new Coakley Middle School Principal, Ms. Jacqueline Mann who comes to Norwood from the Sharon Middle School.

Ms. Mann said she is so excited to be here in Norwood and added that she is a true Middle School person. She will be rolling up her sleeves and spending her summer here in Norwood, getting right to work. She informed that she already has an e-mail set up and looks forward to hearing from everyone.

Public Forum: None.

Appearances: Student Presentation of Trip to Europe 2014: Mr. Justin Evans, teacher at Norwood High School, was here this evening with some of the students who recently attended the trip to France and Italy. He said the students were

wonderful and they gained so much knowledge about each other, the countries they were visiting as well as the culture of each country.

There was a power point presentation with lots of photos and information about the sites that were visited.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

At this point in the meeting, Chairwoman Rau welcomed Mike Doliner, John Galvin, Joe Ryzewski and Jack Sheehan, captains of the Norwood High School baseball team, here this evening to share their recent successes of winning the Division I South Sectional Title and the Eastern Mass. Championship. The Captains informed that Coach Kevin Igo has just been voted *Coach of the Year* by the Boston Globe. The Captains also congratulated Mr. Brian McDonough, Athletic Director, as he retires. John Galvin said it means a lot that they can send Mr. McDonough out on such a high note. The Committee Members had an opportunity to wish them well as they head into the State Championship game this Saturday, at 6 pm vs. Leominster at Holy Cross in Worcester. Mr. Gormley gave some history of Norwood Baseball, saying that Norwood has not been in the State Finals since 1943.

Reports: Summer Reading & Math Activities: Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Jill Milton were here this evening to explain the summer reading and math expectations that have been recently updated. Dr. Wyeth said his goal is to make sure parents understand how important it is to read over the summer and to be ready to go in September.

On a similar note, they announced a new summer math program that Dr. Wyeth, Jill Milton and Joe Kidd have been working on.

Ms. Milton reviewed what the summer math program involves. Ms. Milton said the students will receive a flyer to bring home with a free website and a pin number. This web site will allow the students to keep track of their work on-line, and Ms. Milton will be able to track the students' work on -line as well. There will be a hard-copy option for students who do not choose to do the on-line program. They will get a Fact Practice Log to keep track of their work.

Regarding problem solving portion of the math program, the students will be answering on-line problems on a blog, but will also have the problems sent home as a hard copy.

Ms. Milton said that both the Summer Reading and Summer Math information will be posted on the School Website.

Mr. Hayden thanked Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Milton for all the preparation going into these programs.

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

Policy: ADDA Background Checks and ADDA-R Cori Policy: Mr. Hayden said the state has recently updated the laws regarding background checks. All school districts have been mandated to participate in finger printing for full and part-time employees. This new procedure will begin with new employees that are hired to begin working this fall. Existing employees will have their fingerprints run once the vendor is ready to begin.

Chairwoman Rau said the Members will review this policy and vote on it at the June 25th meeting.

Budget: Monthly FY14 Budget Report: Ms. Ellis reviewed the Monthly FY14 budget balances. She reminded that there are still a couple weeks of school left and unexpected items may still show up.

Mr. Hayden, once again, thanked Ms. Ellis and the whole Business Department for their hard work.

Old Business: Callahan Boiler Project & MSBA Approval: Mr. Hayden reminded that Norwood has applied for the Accelerated Repair Program for the Callahan Boiler. The MSBA approved Norwood for this program. Mr. Hayden said they need to hire a project manager (approximately \$15,000), and a schematic design needs to be created that will show the timeline and approximate costs. Mr. Hayden recommended approving this program as we will be getting a reimbursement of 50%. MSBA will meet on this again after the preliminary work is done, around late November or December. The goal is to have this work done during the summer break of 2015. Mr. Hayden said he will need some coordination with the Finance Commission to work out the funding issues.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve this program, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Superintendent's Contract: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve a three-year contract for the Superintendent at 2.5% retroactive from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 (\$157,200) with the remaining two years on the contract to be renegotiated, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

New Business: Committee of 21 Updates: Chairwoman Rau and Mr. Samargedlis attended the inaugural Committee of 21 Meeting. Mr. Samargedlis will serve as a Co-Vice Chair. Both Members said it was a very interesting first meeting and that they have a lot of work ahead of them.

The next meeting will be on June 23rd here at the Savage Educational Center.

PARCC Testing for 2014-2015: Mr. Hayden said the state has asked us to make a choice of what testing Norwood will use by June 30th. The choices are the PARCC Testing or MCAS Testing. Mr. Hayden said the PARCC Testing has more multi-layered questions. The Principals of grades 3-8 are opting for the PARCC Testing. The High School is opting to keep the MCAS as 10 graders will still continue to use MCAS Testing, as it is a requirement for graduation.

Dr. Wyeth said they have met with the principals and if we choose to go with the PARCC Testing, we have one year to try it and get used to it. We will also have to decide whether to go all paper or all on-line testing.

Mr. Hayden recommended implementing the PARCC Testing for grades 3-8 and keeping the MCAS testing for grades 9-11.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Out of State Field Trip Approval: Mr. Hayden recommended approving an out-of-state field trip for the Extended Day Summer Program for grades K-6 to attend Canobie Lake Park in July.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Memorandum of Agreement between Norwood School Committee & Food Service Association July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015: Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Norwood School Committee and Food Service Association at 1% from July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 and 1.5% from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Personnel None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Samargedlis predicted the score of the state championship game will be Norwood 6 – Leominster 5.

Mr. Montesano predicted Norwood would win 4-2.

Mr. Gormley predicted Norwood would win 3-2.

The Chairwoman predicted that Norwood would win 4-3.

Mr. Samargedlis said that Coach Igo had his team sign a baseball bat for his 6-year old nephew that is fighting his own battle, which meant so much to him and his family.

Mr. Samargedlis said there was some taunting going on by Andover, but the Norwood players were very classy and got the job done.

Chairwoman Rau congratulated reporter Brad Cole who received an honorary diploma at Graduation last Sunday

Executive Session: Chairwoman Rau informed that there would be an Executive Session for Unit 50 Negotiations.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:55 p.m. which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

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