

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, December 4, 2013

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2013. 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; Assessment; Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment; and Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Finance and Operations.

**Minutes:** Mr. Badger made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2013, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** 2012-2014 Coakley Middle School Improvement Plan Update: Ms. Ann Mitchell, Principal of the Coakley Middle School, was here this evening to update the Members with regard to the Middle School. Ms. Mitchell began by thanking the staff for their dedication and continued support during continued administrative changes. The ELA MCAS scores showed strong improvement. The Math scores indicate a need for improvement. Ms. Mitchell then reviewed plans for improvement of scores. Ms. Mitchell then updated the Committee with regard to a tardiness issue and ways they are working on this problem at the Coakley. Ms. Mitchell also thanked the School Council on their hard work and dedication.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the Coakley Middle School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2012-2014 Cleveland School Improvement Plan Update: Ms. Nancy Coppola, Principal of the Cleveland Elementary School, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the Cleveland Elementary School. Ms. Coppola began by saying that there are 363 students in 18 classrooms at the Cleveland. The average class size is 20 students. The Cleveland houses the PLC Program as well as a

Resource Room. She reviewed how the Cleveland teachers have been implementing the common core and will continue to work on accommodations for SPED Students to help them see their full potential. She then shared with the Committee the ways they will continue to work towards goals. Ms. Coppola thanked the Norwood Bank for their donation, which helped reach more goals. Ms. Coppola then thanked the PTO and School Council for their support. She also thanked her teachers and support staff, saying her appreciation and admiration grows for them every day.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept the Cleveland School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2012-2014 Oldham School Improvement Plan Update: Mr. Wes Manaday, Principal of the Oldham Elementary School, was here this evening to update the Committee with regard to the Oldham Elementary School. Mr. Manaday began by thanking Mr. Paul Ricciardi and his crew for the new floors and lights that were installed this past year, which brightens the school. There are currently 229 students in 11 classes. The average class is 20 students per class. Mr. Manaday said the Oldham welcomed the new PACS Class (gr. 3-5) this year. Mr. Manaday was pleased to announce that this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row the Oldham was designated a Level I School, which is the highest level possible. Mr. Manaday reviewed the ways his staff is working hard to reach goals. He then shared the many events put on by their PTO and thanked the PTO and School Council for their hard work.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept the Oldham School Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**New Business:** Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip: Ms. Cindy Derraine, Foreign Language Department Head, was here this evening to request approval for an out-of-country field trip. This trip will be April 19<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup> to France and Italy for 54 students and 6 chaperones. This trip will mean one missed day of school on the return end of the trip.

The Committee had an opportunity for many questions and comments.

There was some concern regarding the health issues of some of the students.

Ms. Derraine said that they are coordinating a nurse to attend this trip as a chaperone and, in an emergency situation, a first responders until the emergency personnel can get to the scene if such an emergency arises.

After much discussion, Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the field trip with a one-day compensatory day for the nurse who attends, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

**Policy:** None.

**Budget:** FY15 Preliminary Budget: Mr. Hayden said he is almost ready to present the FY15 Preliminary Budget, but due to the Thanksgiving holiday, he needs just a little more time to finish. Mr. Hayden updated that we have added another meeting for next Thursday at 7:00 p.m. to review the budget and make the deadline for the first draft budget which will be December 13th. This added meeting will take place of the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Old Business:** Grade 6-8 Interscholastic Program: Mr. Samargedlis said, with regard to his motion from last meeting regarding an athletic program for students in grades 6-8, he has spoken with our Athletic Director and MIAA to get more input on this idea. After more discussion, Mr. Samargedlis said at this point he would make a motion to create a sub committee to focus on budget implications that will support a grade 6-8 Interscholastic Athletic Program and to bring the information gathered back to the whole committee with a report, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano.

Mr. Gormley said that the Principal and the School Council need to be involved.

After much more discussion, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Chair voted against).

The Members of the Sub Committee will be Mr. Samargedlis, Mr. Montesano and Mr. Hayden.

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from an anonymous donor of \$100.00 for the S.A.D.D. Program at Norwood High School.

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

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Gormley had none.

Mr. Samargedlis recognized former physics teacher Mr. Peck, who passed away this week. Mr. Samargedlis sent his condolences to Mr. Peck's family. Mr. Samargedlis the said he liked the quote from our Athletic Director in this week's newspaper saying "he would have eaten dirt for his football coach" when speaking about players having respect for their coaches. Mr. Samargedlis said it resonated well.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

**Executive Session:** Chairwoman Rau informed that there would be an Executive Session for the following negotiations with the possibility to come back into Open Session.

Mr. Gormley made a motion for Executive Session at 8:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Open Session:** Chairwoman Rau welcomed everyone back to Open Session at 8:40 p.m.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement for Unit B Contract, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 8:50 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