

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, September 13, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Chair, Mr. Patrick McDonough, Mrs. Michele Eysie Mullen, Ms. Teresa Stewart and Ms. Maura Smith.

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, 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. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2017, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-Letter from Selectmen Announcing Special Town Meeting Date
(Monday, November 6, 2017).

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

Payroll	\$769,414.08
	63,880.79
	219,272.76
Buildings & Grounds \$	56,984.74
	32,026.47
Accounts Payable	\$145,988.93
	43,156.81
	15,364.97
Total	\$1,416,443.56

Public Forum: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that this was the time in the meeting for members of the public to address the School Committee with items that they would like to see on a future agenda.

Mr. John Gover was here this evening to speak on the High School Athletic League move. He said he feels it is irresponsible to overlook the successes of the past few years for some of the sports teams. He asked the School Committee to not

leave the Bay State League now. He said it is important to identify and address the current problems before going to another conference.

At this point in the meeting, Chairwoman Bodenhofer read an e-mail on the Athletic Conference move from Peter Kelly who could not attend this evening's meeting.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: None.

Reports: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Willett Space Study: Dr. Thomson updated that the full report on the Willett Space Study will be ready for the next meeting, September 27th. Dr. Thomson said that it is looking like the Sub Committee researching the best way to resolve the space issue is leaning towards moving the preschool to the Savage Educational Center.

Dr. Thomson then said that the opening of the 2017 School Year went very smoothly. Dr. Thomson then updated that Norwood's current enrollment is 3,411 students. He then shared the preliminary classroom sizes, but reminded that the numbers are still fluid.

Cheerleading Update: Dr. Thomson updated on some concerns that were presented to the Committee in August. He thanked the High School Administrators that worked with him on resolving the issues. There is a meeting scheduled with the cheerleaders and parents for Monday September 18th to talk about the issues.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said one item that was brought up was the Winter Cheering stipend was in the budget, but when she went back and looked, it was not there.

Dr. Thomson said that there are two Athletic positions that need to be added back into the budget:

- JV Girls Hockey Coach; and
- Winter Cheer.

There was some discussion regarding stipend positions.

Policy: (See Policy Sub-Committee Update – Old Business).

Budget: FY18 Budget Transfers & FY18 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis updated on FY18 to date.

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
6030 0961 Sch IS/TB Balch Inst. Supp \$970.00	6110 1258 Sch Equip - Balch \$970.00

Total to be Transferred to: \$970.00 Total to be Trans. From: \$970

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
6030 8721 Sch IS/TB Cleve. Txtbks \$4,000.00	6110 1260 Sch Equip - Clev \$4,000.00

Total to be Transferred to: \$4,000.00 Total to be Trans. From: \$4,000.00

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
6030 0874 Sch IS/TB Presc. Txtbks \$2,000.00	6050 1749 Sch Cust. Equip - Balch \$2,000.00

Total to be Transferred to: \$2,000.00 Total to be Trans. From: \$2,000.00

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Lunch Stipends: Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that after negotiating with the Teachers' Union, the Committee agreed to add the lunchroom stipends back into the budget.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to add the lunchroom stipends back into the budget, which was seconded by Chairwoman Bodenhofer.

Mrs. Mullen said that after having time to think about this stipend, she has heard from people at the Middle School who said the schools had plans in place that may have worked well and saved the school system \$95,000. Mrs. Mullen said that at this point, she might rescind her vote.

There was some discussion regarding this item.

After some concern that some of this particular item should be saved for Executive Session, Mr. McDonough made a motion to add this topic to Executive Session, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Old Business: Long-Term Agenda Document – (add Building Study): Chairwoman Bodenhofer lead the discussion for adding and adjusting items for upcoming agendas.

The Committee agreed to add a School Committee Meeting before Town Meeting in the High School Library on November 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Policy Sub-Committee Update: Mr. McDonough updated that the Residency Policy has been sent to MASC for review and should be ready for a vote at the September 27th meeting.

Ms. Smith had some suggested changes for this draft.

There was some discussion.

School Start Time Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Stewart said she, Ms. Smith and Dr. Thomson met last Friday. The Committee will meet again with Dr. Thomson, Dr. Wyeth and Mr. Kidd. She added that there will be two more forums in the fall so that they can dialogue further with the public. The next meeting will be September 22nd at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Stewart said that some time in early 2018 the Sub Committee is planning on bringing their recommendations to the full Committee.

Budget Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Smith said Ms. Ann Healey of the Finance Commission was at the last meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 3:00 p.m.

New Business: Athletic Study Committee: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said Dr. Thomson has provided her with a draft for discussion for an Athletic Study Committee.

Some of the topics to study are:

- Middle School Athletics;
- Outreach with Youth Athletics;
- What are the Characteristics of successful “Feeder” youth programming;
- Participation;
- Athletic Fees;
- Coach Stipends.

Mrs. Mullen said that after hearing from all those in favor of staying in the Bay State, she feels this Committee needs to listen to the public outcry and do some research and homework on this item. She asked that the Committee hold off on going to the Tri-Valley until the Committee does its homework.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said she has done her homework and listened to both sides.

Ms. Stewart said she stands by her decision after doing her own research on this topic.

Mr. McDonough said that with every other hot topic, this Committee creates a sub-committee to get the facts and data. He feels that it is important this Committee be fair, balanced and deliberate with facts. He said he wants to be on this Committee and listen to both sides at once.

Ms. Smith said she doesn't like being told she assumed anything. She said she has heard both sides at both meetings and at the forum. She said that her proposal of this sub-committee was not because of the League transfer but to figure out what's going on with our Athletic Department. She added that she agonized over this vote and she did make an informed vote.

There was much discussion on this matter.

Mrs. Mullen wanted to make a motion on this topic.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said since Mrs. Mullen voted against this item, she cannot make a motion. She added that only someone who voted in favor could make a motion on the League transfer.

Dr. Thomson said there is a meeting on September 20th with the Tri-Valley League.

Mr. McDonough asked if it was open to the public.

Dr. Thomson said he was not sure.

Mr. McDonough asked him if he could look into that for him.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Five Donations: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting the following donations:

- Shaw's/Star Market - \$1,000.00 – HS Fine Arts;
- The Kula Foundation (Red Robbin) \$9.74 - High School;
- Mrs. Perry's Preschool, Inc. - \$200.00 CFCE Village House;
- Norwood Hospital – 30 Backpacks filled with school supplies;
- Mr. James Hines - \$750.00 – Cleveland School Art.

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept these donations, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: Dr. Thomson updated that the spend-down for new hires has saved the Norwood Public Schools approximately \$54,000.00.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith said that Peter Pan opens this weekend. She then wished all the sports teams well in the fall season. She finished by welcoming new students and families to the Norwood Schools.

Ms. Stewart said Norwood Day was a lot of fun last weekend. She loved seeing a great presence by the High School Athletic Teams. She then informed that the 34th Annual Turkey Trot will be coming up. She then thanked Carole Poirier for her Community Children's Recycle Program she holds throughout the year.

Mrs. Mullen wished a great school year for the students and families of Norwood. She said her booth at Norwood Day was awesome and thanked the students who volunteered to do face painting.

Mr. McDonough welcomed everyone back to a new school year. Mr. McDonough then said that Norwood Day was a tremendous event again this year.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer welcomed everyone back for a new school year.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there would be an Executive Session for the following items:

-Unit B & Union #50 Negotiations.

Ms. Stewart made a motion for Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Open Session: At 10:45 p.m., the Committee entered back into Open Session. Ms. Stewart made a motion to reinstate the lunch stipend, which was seconded by Mrs. Eysie. The Committee voted in favor 3-1 (Mr. McDonough opposed and Ms. Smith had recused herself).

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 10:47 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0. (Ms. Smith had recused herself).

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee