

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Norwood High School
Wednesday, August 16, 2017

A joint meeting of the Norwood School Committee and the Norwood Public Schools Long Range Study Committee was held on Wednesday, August 16, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

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

Building Study Committee Members Present: Mr. Alan Slater, Chair, Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Mr. Patrick McDonough, Mr. Tom Maloney, Ms. Sarah Quinn (all voting Members). Mr. Paul Riccardi, Dr. David Thomson and Mr. Ted Callahan were also present (non-voting Members). (Mr. John Carroll was not in attendance).

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.

An informational meeting was scheduled for this evening with the Building Study Committee and the School Committee. The public was welcome and a presentation by Scott Dunlap of Ai3 was on the agenda to discuss school building findings and alternatives.

The Building Study Committee is responsible for the selection of the architect and development of reports. (Ultimately the School Committee must approve any proposal.)

The Building Study Committee has agreed unanimously that the Coakley Middle School should be the top priority. Mr. Dunlap and Ms. Julie Rahilly reviewed the reasons why the Committee has recommended bringing the middle School to a 5th-8th Grade model.

Mr. Dunlap informed that the next step in the process is for the School Committee to choose a preferred alternative and then a Statement of Interest needs to be in place in early 2018 to make deadlines.

Mr. Dunlap said by addressing the middle school as the one big project, overcrowding at all the elementary schools would also be addressed. He informed that Natick, Beverly and Quincy have all moved to the 5-8 Grade Middle School programs along with many other towns. The Building Committee has heard all of the concerns and said that there are ways to keep the 5th grade area separate from the upper grades, such as separate entrances. Mr. Dunlap said the Town of Abington

will be opening up this new school year with a brand new 5-8 Grade model and might be a great town to talk to.

Ms. Stewart said that as a child development specialist, she is having a hard time wrapping her head around the 5-8 Grade model. She said she would need data and reports to review first before she could consider that.

Mr. Slater said that maybe some representatives of the Building Committee and School Committee could tour some of the 5-8 Grade model schools to see first-hand how they work after the new school year opens up.

Mr. Dunlap explained that going through the MSBA process is a long process that is like a roadmap from the beginning to the very end of the process.

Ms. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Building Study minutes of June 5th, which was seconded by Mrs. Quinn. The Committee voted in favor.

Adjournment: The joint meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee