

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Cleveland Elementary School
Wednesday, October 11, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 11, 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.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer welcomed everyone to the first Traveling School Committee Meeting of this new school year. The Chair asked the Committee to introduce themselves for the public.

Minutes: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2017, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen.

Mrs. Mullen asked to make a correction for a motion on page 4 in the second paragraph (*Dr. Thomson said that the Committee voted unanimously in favor.....*). Mrs. Mullen's motion was to change "*unanimous*" to "*a majority with one exemption*", which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Stewart abstained).

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there were warrants to be signed and she proceeded to read the totals.

Payroll Warrant:	\$1,367,500.59;
Payroll Warrant:	\$ 89,743.82;
B/G Warrant:	\$ 49,966.04;
B/G Warrant:	\$ 13,005.94;
A/P Warrant:	\$ 30,808.94;
A/P Warrant:	\$ 31,863.02;
A/P Warrant:	\$ 133,110.23;

Total Amount of Warrants: \$1,715,998.58

Review of Protocols: Read by Chairperson: Chairwoman Bodenhofer read the protocols for those in attendance at the Cleveland and for the public.

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.

Mrs. Ann Watson was here this evening as a proud staff member of the Willett School. She informed that she is one of the teachers sharing the stage at the Willett. She teaches four classes in the morning in the cafeteria. She then packs up for the lunch sessions and then goes into the classrooms in the afternoon. She was a firm supporter of the original December move date. After hearing that the sub committee had voted for a February move, she spoke with the Committee Members and fully understood the reasons for the February move. She adamantly stated that no students are currently suffering at the Willett, even with the limited space.

Mr. Michael Crowley was also in favor for a December move, but has learned the facts and now firmly believes that a February move is the best choice for both the Preschool and the Kindergarten Programs. He asked the Committee to please vote for a February move.

Ms. Susan Walsh-Keough was also here to ask the Committee to vote in favor of a February move. She said she has a child who receives multiple services. She said this transition should not be hastily done. A February move will result in a shorter time of disruption for the children.

Mrs. Jen Wildes, Chair of the Special Education Parent Advisory Council, was here to ask the Committee to reconsider their decision and to approve a February move for the Preschool to the Savage Educational Center.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer read a letter from parent, Kate Kelly, asking the Committee to please consider the recommendation of the Willett staff.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Cleveland School: Mrs. Nancy Coppola, Principal of the Cleveland Elementary School, welcomed the Committee Members and administrators to this evening's meeting. Mrs. Coppola gave an overview of the improvements to the building and then shared some of the wonderful programs that the PTA has sponsored, including an outdoor classroom. The teachers have taken it upon themselves to adopt a school in Texas who they have been sending letters to and communicating with since Hurricane Harvey. Mrs. Coppola explained how the Kindness program is working this year. She explained that students are given a leaf for doing a kind deed and can color it and hang it on the tree at the front of the building.

Ms. Smith explained how sentimental she got walking into her old elementary school and seeing her old classroom and the stage she participated in her first play on.

Mr. McDonough informed that he also went to the Cleveland Elementary School, saying that he has seen so many wonderful improvements and changes since he went here.

All of the Committee Members had an opportunity for comments, compliments and questions.

Extended Day Program: Ms. Sylvia Delaney, Director of the Extended Day Program, was here this evening to give some history and an overview of the Extended Day Program. She explained that Extended Day is a self-funding program and will need an additional first grade class going forward.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson informed that last Friday was the first Professional Development Day of the new school year, adding that it was quite successful. He thanked Dr. Wyeth for coordinating the meetings.

Dr. Thomson informed that on Friday the Oldham will have a visit from WBZ-TV for a piece on school lunches and the Chartwells lunch program.

Dr. Thomson was very happy to share that Joe Kidd and his department now have the Special Education Department up and running with the new School Information System.

Policy: New Residency Policy / Sub-Committee Update: Mr. McDonough said the Members should have received two drafts of this policy. One of the drafts was the copy reviewed by School Council with small revisions.

There was an opportunity for questions and comments.

Ms. Stewart made a motion for a preliminary approval of the new Residency Policy, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: FY18 Budget Transfers: Ms. Smith made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

TRANSFER FROM:
6030 0946 SCH IS/TB CMS SCIENCE Inst. \$1, 348.00

TRANSFER TO:
6030 0867 SCH/IS/TB CMS SCi TX \$1,348.00

Old Business: Pre-School Relocation: Ms. Carolyn Robbins and Mrs. Carole Poirier were here this evening for a continuation on the conversation as to when the Preschool program should be moved to the Savage.

Ms. Stewart stated that she missed the last meeting due to a death in her family, adding that it weighed heavily on her that she could not be here for this conversation. She said it was a hard sub committee to serve on and she said that the original conversations were for a move either in December or September of 2018. She said February came up at the end of the sub committee meetings. She said there were a lot of conversations and compromises

Ms. Stewart asked to renew the motion to move the Preschool to the Savage Educational Center in February, which was seconded by Ms. Smith.

Mr. McDonough felt that this is out of order. He reviewed Robert's Rules and said that we took a vote and we need to adhere to this vote and adhere to the Protocols that were reviewed this evening.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer made a motion pending approval of funding from Town Meeting to move the Preschool no later than March 1st, with a specific date to be determined by the Administration, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart.

Mrs. Mullen addressed her concerns for the comments that have been made on social media. She reminded that she also served on the sub committee and she left towards the end of the meeting and February had not even been an option at that point. She said she understands the logistics and concerns of the staff. She said she has asked other teachers and nurses in other districts and they agreed that it does not make sense to transition students twice. She said she does not want the staff and parents to think she is in any way disrespecting them. She does not want to rubber stamp all requests that come through the School Committee.

Ms. Smith said no matter what side of this issue people are on, she has the utmost respect for her fellow members. Ms. Smith said she is not the principal of the Willett, but she respects the thoughts of the Principal. She said she is not the reading specialist on the stage, but she respects the thoughts of the reading specialist. She added she is not the President of SEPAC, but respects the thoughts and concerns of the President.

Mr. McDonough explained how he comes to decisions. He said first he gathers facts. The next step is he gathers his thoughts, speaks to his constituents and then put it all together for a presentation. His job is to put the kids first and to make a difference in this school system from a student's perspective. He said those kids need a classroom. He said as the senior Member, he sees that it is the Committee's responsibility to put the students first. He said that this Committee needs to speak on behalf of its constituents. He said this was a well thought-out vote that had been taken.

Ms. Robbins reviewed her thoughts on the move.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said she will call on each Member one more time, but would like to move the motion on the table.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 3-2

School Start Time Sub-Committee: Ms. Stewart updated on the two upcoming public forums for the public, which will be on October 23rd at 2:45-4:15 and November 27th 3:30-5:00. There will also be meetings with the Athletic Director and the Director of Fine Arts to see how a change in start times will affect their departments.

Budget Sub-Committee Update: The Committee met on September 29th with Ms. Ellis and Ms. Ann Haley. Ms. Ellis helped understand how the per pupil number is figured out. The next meeting is Friday, October 20th. Mr. McDonough asked what the per pupil number is here in Norwood. Ms. Smith said it was around \$15,000.

Agenda Plan: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said the next School Committee Meeting will be October 25th and it will be another Traveling School Committee Meeting and will be held at the Willett Early Childhood Center. She then reviewed upcoming agendas for future meetings.

Building Study Update: Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that the Building Study Committee had a meeting last week, adding that Ai3 did a great job of evaluating the schools and gave a lot of good information on what would be involved in maintaining the schools over the next 20 plus years or so.

New Business: Discussion of Statement of Interest to MSBA: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said March is usually the deadline for applications for MSBA. If that deadline is missed, then you need to wait for another year until the application process is opened again. The Chair wanted to see if it is the will of the Committee to ask the Superintendent to put together a Statement of Interest for a new Middle School with the help of Mr. Riccardi and Ai3.

Mr. McDonough said he wholeheartedly believes we should begin the process by asking Dr. Thomson to begin putting together a Statement of Interest for a new Middle School, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Memorandum of Agreement between Norwood School Committee and Union #50 (September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2019). Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that Union #50 has ratified this contract.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to ratify this contract, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Consent Agenda: None.

Personnel: Dr. Thomson said the positions that were approved at the last meeting have been advertised.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough loves this idea of the *Traveling School Committee*. Mr. McDonough reviewed some of the statistics of the Cleveland Elementary School. Mr. McDonough was happy to say his friend Jimmy Gerrity is doing better.

Mrs. Mullen thanked Mrs. Coppola and her staff for hosting this evening's meeting. Mrs. Mullen then said she has recently run into former School Committee Member Toni Eosco who will be running the Market of Hope on October 21st at St. Timothy's. She encouraged everyone to go.

Ms. Stewart congratulated Impact Norwood for the wonderful grant that was recently received to grow that coalition.

Ms. Smith congratulated the boys' soccer and girls' field hockey on their recent wins. She congratulated those who participated in Oldham's fun run. The NHS Marching will host a home show on October 22nd from noon to 5:00 p.m. Ms. Smith congratulated the new principal at the CMS for her wonderful twitter account. The Craft Affair is this weekend and she encouraged everyone to check it out.

The Chair had none.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there would be an Executive Session for Unit B Negotiations.

Mr. McDonough made a motion for Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 10:15 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

