

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Willett Early Childhood Center
Wednesday, October 25, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Bodenhofer thanked the Willett Early Childhood Center for hosting this evening's meeting.

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 October 11, 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 the Long Range Building Study Committee, which will be included in all the Town Meeting Members packets; and
- Invitation from the Art Department to attend an exhibit at the Day House on November 4th and November 5th.

Warrants: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there were warrants to be signed. She then read the amounts:

Pay Roll Warrants	\$1,376,470.47
	\$ 87,239.06
A/P Warrants:	\$ 29,525.99
	\$ 555.06
	\$ 525,003.33
	<u>\$ 24,167.58</u>

For the Total Expenditure of: \$2,042,961.49

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. Scott Clifford was here for the second time to speak on the move to the Tri-Valley League. He said he still feels that not enough research has been done to see what the problems are.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer clarified that the application to join the TVL was sent and the TVL has approved the application. She then said that a waiver has been sent to the Bay State League asking to be released from that league, which has been approved. She said that a committee has been put together to review many aspects of the Athletic Program.

Mr. Clifford delivered a petition that included over 400 signatures asking the Committee to reconsider the vote until more research is done.

Mr. Bill Naumann was here for the second time also to speak on the move to the Tri-Valley League. Mr. Naumann began by reading the petition. He also stated adamantly that there is no need to rush this move.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Willett Early Childhood Center Overview and 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan: Ms. Robbins, Principal of the Willett Early Childhood Center, gave an overview of the start of the new school year at the Willett. Ms. Robbins then shared that 33.1% of the Kindergarten students were “first language not English” students and 25.5% were limited English proficient. She gave an update on the priority areas of the Improvement Plan:

- Incorporate and embed the Social Emotional learning and approaches to play and learning standards into the existing curriculum to provide a developmentally appropriate learning environment for all students;
- Develop four units of study at the kindergarten level in the two-year period that is thematic and project-based:
 - Adopt the guidelines of “Elements of High Quality Kindergarten” to replace the NAEYC accreditation process;
 - Create an outdoor learning environment that is shared by the school community.

The Members had an opportunity to welcome Ms. Robbins to the Norwood Public Schools and there was an opportunity for questions and comments.

2017-2018 School Improvement Plan: Cleveland Elementary School: Mrs. Nancy Coppola, Principal of the Cleveland Elementary School, was here this evening to update regarding the Cleveland’s 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. She reviewed and updated the priority areas:

- Student Information System: Train and familiarize staff with the new Aspen Student Information System being implemented in January 2017
- Technology: Utilizing technology to enhance teaching and learning through blended learning. Identify and implement strategies for expanding the use of technology both in school and at home.

-Math Centers: Implement new Envisions 2.0 Program with an emphasis on differentiating math centers within the classroom. By differentiating instruction, we will be better able to meet the needs of all students.

-Facilities: A new playground will be built to meet the growing needs of the Cleveland population and community. Specialized playground equipment will also be purchased for students in our Pragmatic Learning Classrooms. Swings will also be added.

-Enrichment: Providing enrichment opportunities that benefit students, teachers, and the community. Enrichment develops new skills and interests; promotes self-confidence and encourages real-world learning opportunities that support core subjects.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

2017-2018 School Improvement Plan: Prescott Elementary School: Ms. Brianne Killion, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, was here this evening to update regarding the 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. She shared the priority areas:

- Increase student achievement in the areas of math, reading and writing;
- Bring integration of technology to the next level at the Prescott by using Blended Learning strategies, daily in the classroom and at home;
- Ensure that our school has a strong and healthy school culture that promotes a sense of participation, wellness and safety for all students. Develop social and emotional competencies that will enable our students to have good interpersonal skills and make responsible decisions.

Mrs. Killion ended by announcing that she will be retiring at the end of this school year.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McDonough made a motion to move ***Old Business: Special Town Meeting Warrants***: up in the agenda, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that the Finance Commission met last night to discuss the Town Meeting Warrants. They discussed all three of our Warrants. Regarding the preschool capital outlay question, the Finance Commission has voted unanimously to vote in favor of this. With regard to the preschool and the additional funding needed for the operational budget for additional staff that would be necessary, the Finance Commission was very wary about using the free cash. However, they said that they suggested waiting until the spring, adding that they could support us then if necessary. Also, Mr. McQuaid noted that there was approximately \$29,000 in an old school account that was encumbered but not spent. So it is not available to the schools now, but Town Meeting would have the authority to allocate it back to the schools, and the Finance Commission voted to allocate it

back. Finally, the Finance Commission has voted for an indefinite postponement regarding funding more ELL teachers at this point. Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked Mrs. Poirier to explain the need for ELL teachers.

Mrs. Poirier shared the numbers of students at each school who qualify for services, and then shared the number of students that the teachers at each school have the ability to service. Mrs. Poirier said that the fact that there are not enough ELL teachers to cover all the students at this point makes the Norwood Schools out of compliance and in danger of losing the Title III Grant.

Ms. Stewart did the math and realized that there were 69 students that qualify for ELL Services that are not receiving services at this point.

Ms. Smith added that teacher Kate Platt services 52 students. One staff member cannot service 52 students for the amount of time each week required by the federal mandates, so that is another violation.

Mrs. Poirier said that there is a parent group starting this week that will teach the parents English. She said she has a volunteer willing to work with the parents.

The Committee Members shared their many concerns about not servicing these students as well as the budget concerns. There was much discussion.

Mr. McDonough suggested a compromise and made a motion to approve an additional teacher this evening

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve a 1.0 ELL Teacher this evening and to go along with the Finance Commission's recommendation for indefinite postponement until the spring Town Meeting if necessary, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough for discussion. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer then updated that the warrant asking for \$80,000 for additional staffing for preschool staffing has been changed to \$55,900 for a school nurse, secretary and a portion of the lead teacher stipend from February until the end of the school year.

Ms. Ellis explained the carry-over money and said that after reviewing accounts and figures she was able to get a new amount of the carry-over totaling \$36,977.62. This would lower the amount of free cash needed to \$18,922.38. Ms. Ellis has written an note to Alan Slater asking him to look at this and possibly revote it to up the new amount of \$36,977.62.

After much discussion, Ms. Smith made a motion to ask the Finance Commission to approve \$36,977.62 to update the FY17 carry-over balance, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to ask Town Meeting for \$19,000.00, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen for discussion.

Mr. McDonough withdrew his motion.

Ms. Smith made a motion that the Committee defines Town Meeting approval as the vote to transfer the capital money as being the approval to make the move, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart.

Ms. Smith amended her motion to also add to move this as the first item of the School Committee Warrants, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith suggested that since there is still time, we should ask the Finance Commission to reconsider the amount from free cash that has been changed to \$19,000. The Committee Members agreed.

Ms. Ellis informed that the Finance Commission has a meeting on Monday.

Mr. McDonough made a motion for a five-minute recess at 9:40 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer welcomed everyone back to Open Session at 9:50 p.m.

Appearances: Elementary Report Card: Dr. Wyeth updated the Committee on the recommendations to the Elementary Report Cards. He said that there was a Committee of 20 teachers that worked on these changes. Dr. Wyeth hosted an open meeting last week for parents to learn more about the reasoning behind the changes. He said only two parents showed up.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer suggested adding another meeting after the new report cards go out in December for those who may have questions.

Ms. Stewart suggested maybe doing a little presentation to put on-line for parents to be able to refer to.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the new report cards, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson informed that 66 NHS students received the Abigail Scholarships this year.

Also, the new MCAS 2.0 scores came out. He said there were much more vigorous standards and half of the students took the test with pencils and the other half took the test with computers. They are still digging through the scores at this point.

Dr. Thomson said we have a received a \$10,000 grant from the Music Drives Us Program. This money will be used for instruments for our music program.

Dr. Thomson attended the Music program that Norwood High Marching Band hosted last weekend, adding that they did very well and received a gold medal.

Tomorrow our Global Citizens will present at the MassCue Conference at Gillette.

Dr. Thomson said he has invited people to be on the Athletic Committee. He has approximately 15 coaches willing to serve, and 4-8 student athletes, parents and the School Committee Members. He then said we have moved to the Tri-Valley League. He reviewed some of the qualities that make a successful athletic program and said he hopes that this Athletic Committee can come up with some ways to help Norwood be more competitive.

Policy: New Residency Policy (JFA): Mr. McDonough said that this policy has been in the works for some time now and it is time to take a final vote.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion to approve the residency policy, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

<u>Transfer From:</u>	<u>Transfer To:</u>
6030 0964 Sch IS/TB Oldham Ins. Supp \$812.59	6120 1279 IS Sch Grnd Main – Veg wk \$812.59
TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM: 812.59	TOTAL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO: \$812.59

Old Business: School Start Time Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Smith said she and Ms. Stewart met with Dr. Thomson and Dr. Wyeth yesterday and the Committee hopes to make a recommendation by the first of the new year as to whether they should move forward or not. At this point if they agree to move forward, then a task force would be put together to put a recommendation forward by June of this year.

Ms. Stewart said there are two more forums coming up in the afternoons so that teachers and staff can give their thoughts and feedback. The spring forum is on-line in case anyone can't make these upcoming meetings.

Budget Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Smith said the next meeting is Friday, November 3rd. The last meeting was cancelled due to her being sick.

Special Town Meeting Warrants: This item was moved up in the agenda.

TEC Update: There has not been a meeting scheduled since the last meeting.

New Business: Memorandum of Agreement between Norwood School Committee & Unit B (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2020) Dr. Thomson updated on the contract for Unit B, which has been ratified by Unit B. The Contract will run from this September through August 31st, 2020.

First Year - 2.0%

Second Year - 2.5%

Third Year - 2.5%

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve this contract, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Out of State Field Trip Request – Student Television Network Convention March 15-18, 2017, Nashville, TN:

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

Out of State Field Trip Request – SEARCH Students, April 9-13, 2018, Gettysburg, Amish Country & Philadelphia:

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

Out of State Field Trip Request – 8th Grade Students, May 29-June 1, 2018, Washington, D.C.:

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

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Three (3) Donations: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting the following donations:

-“Subaru Loves Learning Project” – Science Books for Norwood High School Library;
-IAM Strong Foundation – Beyond Just Academics - \$1,000.00 – NHS;
-Bay State Textiles - \$389.50 – July (system-wide donation);
\$469.00 – August (system-wide donation).
Norwood Hospital \$325 for Norwood High School Robotics 1.

Mr. McDonough made a donation to accept these donations, which were seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith congratulated the students from the Global Citizen Program who will be speaking at the MassCue Conference. Ms. Smith said how proud she was of the teachers who will be speaking at a number of upcoming conferences. She then congratulated the students of the Back Stage Boosters for putting on the wonderful Fantasy Footsteps this weekend. She said after you enjoy the Fantasy Footsteps, you should head over to the Oldham to enjoy a Halloween costume party hosted by the PTO. Ms. Smith said the Principal of the Coakley Middle School has tweeted a link to an article that everyone should check out: *What your students really need to know about digital citizenship*. Ms. Smith thanked Ms. Fresnick on all the great things she is doing at the Middle School.

Ms. Stewart updated on some of the events going on around Norwood this weekend.

Mrs. Mullen wished everyone a happy and safe Halloween.

Mr. McDonough thanked the Willett and the Willett PTO for hosting the meeting this evening. He thinks it is worth acknowledging that a petition was given us tonight from 400 concerned constituents this evening. Mr. McDonough said that he wants to make it clear that he was not in favor of moving to the Tri-Valley League. He said it is not right for this Committee to just take a vote to leave the Bay State League and then say it's a done deal. Mr. McDonough requested that this item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer wanted to address the comment that was made at Public Forum this evening that she wanted to move to the Tri-Valley so that her daughter and her soccer team could play in that league. She felt that her ethics were challenged this evening and she represents all the students. She said she takes her role very seriously and did not make her vote based on what's best for the girls' soccer team. She reached out to many people and did much research before making her vote.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 10:40 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee