

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, November 8, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 8, 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 this evening's meeting and informed that the next School Committee Meeting will be on December 6th at the Balch Elementary School.

Minutes: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2017, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of a letter from the Board of Health regarding "Regulation of the Norwood Board of Health Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products and Nicotine Delivery Products".

Mr. McDonough made a motion to support the Board of Health's efforts, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,326,173.83
	\$ 94,401.73
Buildings and Grounds:	\$ 30,402.25
	\$ 14,661.85
	\$ 49,746.71
	\$ 31,388.24
	\$ 2,275.00
	\$ 603,244.72
	\$ 32,943.71
Interdepartmental Invoice:	\$ 245.16
Total Expenditure:	\$2,185,483.20

At this point Mr. McDonough made a motion for a five-minute recess (as the school photographer had arrived to take a picture of the Committee for the yearbook), which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: M.A.S.S. – Awards for Academic Excellence: Superintendent Thomson read short biographies on both award winners, Christina McKenzie and Colin Geary.

NESDEC – Awards for Academic Growth & Student Leadership in Learning: Superintendent Thomson read short biographies on both award winners, Isabelle Masse and Michael Dooley.

Appearances: Norwood Alumni Weekend: Mr. Gerry Miller and Ms. Paula Miller were here to update on the upcoming reunions for Thanksgiving Weekend. (Class of 1972, 1977, 1982, 1997, 2007, and 2012) Mr. Jack Tolman, of the Hall of Fame Committee, was here with the Millers to update the Committee on two new memorabilia cabinets that have been added on the second level of the High School Gymnasium in honor of John Carroll, retiring Town Manager, and Mr. George Usevich.

Mr. Miller announced the Hall of Fame Honorees this year: Jim Jessic, Don Smith, John Foley, Susan Packard, Luke Marsters, Tayla Ryan, Coach Cathy Shacoy, and the 2000 Super Bowl Football Team. Mr. Miller also announced that the “Blue and Gold Award Winner” would be Richard “Dickie” Sansone, who recently passed away.

Update on Awards & Season: Six Members of the Norwood High School Marching Band were here this evening with Mr. Conant and Ms. Connor-Moen to update the Committee on their wonderfully successful season and to share some of the many awards that they have received this season.

Norwood High School Hosting Students from China: Ms. Cindy Derrane was here this evening to update the Committee regarding a request for Norwood High School and Coakley Middle School families to host students from China in February (as requested by Youth Futures International). She shared logistics regarding this exchange and she also informed that at this point, she is not requesting a return visit to China for our students.

Ms. Smith made a motion for the School Committee to endorse this program, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

2017-2018 School Improvement Plans: Dr. Margo Fraczek, Principal of the Coakley Middle School, was here to update the Committee regarding the Middle School's 2017-2018 School Improvement Plan. She updated in the areas of:

- Literacy;
- STEAM;
- Meeting the Needs of all Students;
- Community Relations;
- Social Emotional Needs;
- Safety

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Norwood High School, was here this evening to update the Committee regarding the High School's 2017-2019 School Improvement Plan. He updated in the areas of:

- Review/Revise the NHS Homework Policies and practice;
- Review/Revise the NHS Attendance Policy;
- Integrate students from TASC/PACS programs into mainstream classes;
- Administrative Structure review;
- Implement "Seal of Bi-literacy" program;
- Creation of an Advisory Program Planning Committee;
- Review and Revise Program of Studies; and
- ASPEN/X2 SIS Conversion.

Mr. Bourn explained that there is a NEASC review coming up and he and his staff will begin preparations for that review now.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. McDonough made a motion for a five-minute recess, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

MCAS Results: Dr. Wyeth reviewed the *2017 Next Generation MCAS and Past PARCC/MCAS Proficiency Rates*. He reminded that this is a new test so this is a benchmark year. Dr. Wyeth reviewed the results grade by grade.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson informed that the student enrollments as of November 1st are in the Member's packets.

Policy: None.

Budget: Substitute Account Update: Ms. Ellis reviewed the Substitute Account to date for FY17.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said at this point, it does not appear we have created a big problem by increasing the substitute pay.

Old Business: School Start Time Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Smith and Ms. Stewart updated the Committee and said the results of the recent survey are in the Google Documents included in this evening's packet materials. Ms. Smith said they had a very in-depth meeting with Mr. Longley and Ms. Connor-Moen regarding how the start times affect sports and fine arts.

Budget Sub-Committee Update: Ms. Smith updated that the last meeting revolved around ways to redesign the website to make it more user-friendly.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said the next meeting is December 1st.

TEC Update: Mrs. Mullen said the next meeting will be December 8th.

Policy Sub-Committee Update: Mr. McDonough said the next task is the anti-drug policy. They will hopefully have something on this at the next meeting.

Long-Term Agenda Document: Chairwoman Bodenhofer reminded that the next meeting will be on December 6th at the Balch. The Committee reviewed and made revisions to upcoming agendas.

New Business: MASC Conference Update: Ms. Stewart shared with the Committee an overview of the MASC Conference and all the different programs she was able to attend. She suggested to the other members that they try to attend next year, as it was really good and so informative.

Norwood School Committee Signing of 2017-2020 Unit B Contract: Chairwoman Bodenhofer announced that we would be signing the Unit B Contract this evening.

Norwood School Committee Signing of 2016-2019 Union #50 Contract: Chairwoman Bodenhofer announced that we would be signing the Union #50 Contract this evening.

Athletic Program Committee, League Change Status: Dr. Thomson said he believes that we are educating the whole child and that all the skills learned in school, during athletics and fine arts are important to the whole child as they grow. Dr. Thomson said the first Athletic Program Committee Meeting will be on November 20th. He reviewed the areas that the Athletic Program Committee will review:

- Middle School Athletics;
- The intersection of high school sports and youth sports;
- The characteristics that are important for a successful program;
- Examine student athlete participation;
- Fees;
- Coach's stipend comparisons;

- Busing for games and practices;
- Coaching retention and development.

He then updated that we have applied to Tri-Valley and Norwood was voted (11-0) to be invited into Tri-Valley. The Bay State League then voted to release Norwood immediately 8-0. Those votes were certified by MIAA. Beginning next year, Norwood will be in the Tri-Valley League.

Mrs. Mullen said she still does not feel good about the rush to change leagues. She feels that she would rather have had the Committee do their work and then make a decision whether to move or not.

Mr. McDonough said he feels this decision was rushed and he doesn't know why, adding that in his three years on this Committee he hasn't seen anything like this.

Ms. Stewart said she did her research and does not ever rush her votes without being informed.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said deciding what league our athletics are in is not in the purview of the School Committee. She said that the move to Tri-Valley is not the answer on its own. She feels that this will put us on a level playing field in a greater percentage of games.

Ms. Smith said she did her research and struggled over her decision. She said ultimately she made the decision that she can live with.

Naming of New Preschool: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said Ms. Robbins reached out to her to request that they be able to name the preschool. The Chairwoman said that there is procedure to follow, including a public hearing. The name requested is *The Little Mustang Preschool Academy*. The public hearing will take place at the next School Committee Meeting on December 6th (at the Balch).

Superintendent's Evaluation Goals: The Chair reminded that the Superintendent will be having a six-month evaluation next month. The Committee will have an opportunity to fill out the review form and the Chair will compile the responses and review them with the Superintendent. The Chair reviewed the suggested document, which the Committee can vote on it at the next meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Three (3) Donations:

- Bay State Textiles - \$362.75 System Wide Rebates;
- Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation - \$1,200.00 – CMS Math Club;
- Flag Donation – Ms. Evelyn Harmer (In Honor of Mr. Kwiatkowski) – Balch Elementary School

Personnel: Dr. Thomson was happy to announce that the ELL Teachers have been hired.

Mr. McDonough said he ran into Mrs. Poirier this evening and she said that there are now 62 parents signed up for the adult ELL Classes.

School Committee Addenda: Mrs. Mullen wished the girls' volleyball team good luck in their tourney game tonight. She then shared with the public all the upcoming events in the Norwood Public Schools over the next couple of weeks.

Mr. McDonough congratulated the high school students that appeared before us this evening. He then asked if Mrs. Alexander could come before us at an upcoming meeting to discuss SPED.

Ms. Stewart said there is a MASC event on December 8th in Boston regarding legislation on a variety of topics. She updated on a grant (Interface) that our Board of Health is applying for. This is a mental health grant that Ms. Stewart will be assisting with.

Ms. Smith informed that if you cannot attend the upcoming *Putting for Patients Fundraiser*, you can still donate. She then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving as well.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 11:15 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee