

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Balch Elementary School
Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 6, 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 November 6, 2017 and November 8, 2017, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-Dr. Thomson read a letter from MIAA Swimming and Diving Meet Director dated November 17, 2017 complimenting Liana Aspinwall and Gia Rodriguez on their rendition of the Star Spangled Banner before the recent South Sectional Swim Meet at M.I.T.

Mrs. Mullen asked that the Superintendent invite Liana and Gia into a future meeting to meet them in person.

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

Payroll:	\$1,402,458.75
Payroll:	\$ 92,032.56
Payroll:	\$1,393,879.95
Accounts Payable	
B/G	\$ 25,274.87
B/G	\$ 70,534.43
B/G	\$ 7,345.41
Food Services	\$ 4,099.88
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,075.00
Accounts Payable	\$ 125,524.32
Accounts Payable	\$ 28,419.42
Accounts Payable	\$ 124,629.29
Interdepartmental Invoice	\$ 182.96
Total:	\$1,882,576.89

Public Hearing: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there would be a public hearing this evening as scheduled at 7:05 p.m. on the naming of the new preschool program opening up at the Savage Educational Center in February. Ms. Carolyn Robbins, Principal of the Willett Early Childhood Center, requested, with approval from the Willett School Council, that the name of the new preschool center be called *Little Mustang Preschool Academy*.

Since there was no one in attendance for public hearing on the naming, Chairwoman Bodenhofer declared that public hearing was closed.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the name of the Preschool Center to *Little Mustang Preschool Academy*, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: 2016-2018 School Improvement Plans (Balch, Callahan, Oldham):

Principal Diane Ferreira welcomed everyone to the Balch for this evening's School Committee Meeting. She showed a three-minutes video clip of some of the routines and activities that go on at the Balch. She then introduced students from the Balch and asked them to share what they like about their school.

The Members had an opportunity to compliment the students, staff and Mrs. Ferreira for the wonderful presentation and for such a great community presence this evening.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Manaday introduced Mr. Aaron Reuland, librarian and some of the Oldham Students who were here this evening to show the Committee a robot called *Spiro*. The students showed the Committee how they were able to learn programming and coding to make the robot dance.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions, comments and compliments.

Balch: Mrs. Ferreira, Principal of the Balch, welcomed everyone to the beautiful 104-year-old Balch Elementary School and updated on the 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Ferreira said that English is not the first language for 32% of the school. She then shared the rituals and routines of the Balch. She introduced Liz Kelly, the head teacher, as well as the PTO and School Council Presidents, and Ms. Jill Milton, Elementary Math Specialist. Mrs. Ferreira shared many of the goals of the Balch, including improving test scores for the ELL students, continuing the all-school Monday morning meetings that honor birthdays, accomplishments and reinforcing positive behavior. She also updated that teachers and staff have been trained and are now using the Aspen Student Information System. She thanked Joe

Kidd and Stephanie Beaudoin for all the training on the Aspin SIS and getting everyone up and running.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions, comments and compliments.

When asked what the needs of the school are, Mrs. Ferreira said that without a doubt, she believes that every school needs a full-time adjustment counselor to keep up with the social-emotional needs of the students. She added that she would like to keep/add lunch stipends as she is frequently running out of meetings to do her lunch duty coverage.

Callahan: Mrs. Donna Brown, Principal of the Callahan Elementary School, was here this evening to update the Committee on the 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. She informed that there are 217 students, 11 classrooms and average class size of 20 students. Mrs. Brown thanked many people, including:

- Karen DeAngelis, the School Secretary;
- The two custodians who worked tirelessly over the summer to get the school ready;
- Paul Ricciardi and Chris Folan of Buildings and Grounds;
- The PTO and School Council Members; and
- The amazing staff.

Mrs. Brown reviewed the math and ELA scores from MCAS 2.0 She shared the areas that the Callahan excelled and then explained that the standardized testing is very hard for many of the high-needs students and that is one of the goals they are working on.

She updated on Aspen training.

Mrs. Brown also updated on the TASC Program and how that program is run.

The Committee welcomed Mrs. Brown back to Norwood and had an opportunity for questions, comments and compliments.

Oldham: Mr. Wesley Manaday, Principal of the Oldham Elementary School, was here this evening to update on the 2016-2018 School Improvement Plan. He began by saying that there are currently 229 students, 14 classrooms, and an average of 16.4 student class size. Mr. Manaday said the Oldham houses the PACS Class. (Practical Application of Curriculum).

He then reviewed the ELA and Math goals.

Mr. Manaday thanked those who serve on the School Council and the PTO Board and shared some of the events and activities they have coordinated.

There was some discussion with all the principals here this evening that having Jill Milton in the system is helping with improved math scores and that it may make sense to have an ELA Coordinator on staff.

Ms. Stewart made a motion for a five- minute break, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said that this is the first year that we have had Girl's JV Hockey Team and we never voted on a Memorandum of Agreement. He added that tonight the Committee needed to agree upon a Memorandum of Agreement.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the memorandum of agreement, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in agreement 5-0.

Dr. Wyeth updated that, as suggested by Mrs. Mullen, the Committee's TEC Liaison, two staff members have been chosen to be our Fuse Fellows. The FUSE Fellowship (Highlander Institute - disseminates innovative learning) has partnered with TEC. Our FUSE Fellows will be Jill Milton (Elementary Math), Angela Logan (High School English) and Christina Serratas (will be an alternative). This is a two-year commitment and will enable our staff to learn and share with other fellows.

Dr. Wyeth also updated that tomorrow will be a professional development day (½ day). He shared on what the different levels will be doing for Professional Development. The next professional development (full day) will be January 2nd.

Dr. Thomson said there was a little delay in sending the report cards out last week as there was a little hiccup in the new Aspen System.

Budget: FY18 Budget Update: The Committee Members were given an updated through the end of November in their packets. She added that the Special Town Meeting funds have been applied.

Old Business: Superintendent Evaluation – Goals: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said at this point, the Committee has the proposed goals that were previously handed out.

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

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said that for each of the criteria, evidence of goals will need to be included.

School Start Time Sub Committee Update: Ms. Stewart said that Mr. Jack Tolman videoed the last presentation so that people can see it if they couldn't make it.

Ms. Stewart asked if it would be possible to get this on the next agenda to put it to a vote to see if this is something the School Committee wants to pursue.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said she would put this on the next agenda.

Budget Sub Committee Update: Ms. Smith said the Sub Committee is planning a presentation and has been trying to dive into trying to find the areas of concern. The next meeting will be next Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.

Long-Term Agenda Document: None.

New Business: Sub-Committee to Develop Guiding Principles: Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked if there were any Committee Members willing to work with Dr. Thomson this week to start putting together some guiding principles.

There was some discussion as to whether it should be put off until January.

Mr. McDonough and Mrs. Mullen said they could meet this week to get it going to that there will be some core values and goals on paper that will be able to help drive the budget process.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Seven (7) Donations:

- Baby State Textiles - \$330.25 System Wide;
- Dedham Savings Foundation - \$439.95 – Little Free Library – Village House;
- Cleveland School PTA - \$574.74 – Teacher Club Stipends;
- Norwood High School Class of 1967 – (2) \$1,000 Scholarships for Class of 2018;
- Oldham School PTO - \$1,758.78 – Teacher Kids Club Stipends;
- O Positive, LLC - \$1,000 (to the Balch Elementary School);
- Dedham Institution for Savings Foundation - \$5,000.00 (Preschool Playground Equipment and Installation).

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda:

Mr. McDonough met Chief William Gross, who presented in one of Mr. McDonough's courses at Mass Bay Community College. Mr. McDonough thanked the men and women in law enforcement, as he has learned it is a thankless job.

Mrs. Mullen was so happy to attend the Madrigal Banquet, which was absolutely fantastic. She added that it always brings tears to her eyes when she sees and hears the talent. She thanked Dr. Wyeth and Dr. Thomson for bringing the FUSE Fellowship to our schools. She then thanked the elementary students who presented this evening.

Ms. Smith echoed Mrs. Mullen's sentiments about the wonderful Madrigal Banquet. She congratulated those who participated in the recent turkey trot. She also reminded that Balch Santa breakfast is this Saturday.

Ms. Stewart thanked the Circle of Hope for their wonderful evening on the Common this past weekend. She then thanked her School Committee peers on all their hard work behind the scenes.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there would be an Executive Session for individual contracts.

Mr. McDonough made a motion for Executive Session at 10:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 11:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee