

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Wednesday, January 24, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 24, 2018. 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:** Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2018, (with the additions requested to the addenda by Ms. Stewart) and January 12, 2018 (Training), which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-Letter to Selectmen – MSBA vote

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said that now that the application process is open, Mr. Riccardi suggested we take a vote to reaffirm the Committee’s decision to go ahead with the Statement of Interest for the Replacement of the Coakley Middle School.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to reaffirm the previous vote to move ahead with the Statement of Interest for replacement of the Coakley Middle School, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$	74,817.29
Accounts Payable Warrants:	\$	77,737.37
		30,745.90
		27,776.79
		427,525.53
		47,238.67
		53,324.03
		151,342.96
Total Expenditure of:	\$	890,508.54

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** High School Madrigal Singers: Gia Rodriguez and Liana Aspinwall, students at Norwood High School and members of the Madrigal Singers, were here this evening. Dr. Thomson welcomed these two High School Students to this evening's meeting so the Committee Members could congratulate them on their wonderful talent, for representing Norwood so well and receiving a wonder letter from the MIAA complimenting them on their wonderful rendition of *The National Anthem*.

Mrs. Mullen asked them if they would consider singing the National Anthem this evening. They were happy to oblige.

New Town Manager: Mr. Tony Mazzucco, new Town Manager, was here this evening to introduce himself and to meet the School Committee Members. He shared with the Committee that it looks like State Aide is looking positive at this point. He then added that he is very much looking forward to Student Government Day.

Extended Day Program: Ms. Sylvia Delaney, Director of the Extended Day Program, was here to update the Committee on the status of Extended Day. She informed that currently there are:

- 53 – Kindergarteners;
- 36 – 1<sup>st</sup> Graders;
- 42 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders;
- 33 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders;
- 28 – 4<sup>th</sup> Graders; and
- 23 – 5<sup>th</sup> Graders.

With regard to the wait-list:

- Last Year: There was a short wait list and most of the children were added in.
- This Year: There is a larger wait-list - there are currently:
  - 19 students in 1<sup>st</sup> Grade on the wait list;
  - 13 student in Kindergarten;
  - 15 students in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade;
  - 0 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade;
  - 7 students in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; and
  - 5 students in 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Ms. Delaney also informed that tuition has not gone up in a few years, but they are managing well.

Ms. Delaney then said that as far as her needs/wishes go, she would love to put a playground in the back of the building. She said there was a small one there a while ago that had to be torn down, as there was potential for too many injuries.

Mrs. Mullen asked that Extended Day look into adding Preschool to their program since the new preschool program will be up and running at the Savage very shortly. She suggested possibly giving parents a short survey to find out what the needs are.

**Reports:** None.

**Policy:** Mr. McDonough said the next Policy Sub Committee Meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

**Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda:** Memorandum of Understanding between Norwood Public Schools and Norwood Police: Dr. Thomson updated that Chief Brooks of the Norwood Police Department suggested updating the Memorandum of Agreement between the Norwood Public Schools and the Norwood Police Department and the District Attorney’s Office. Chief Brooks suggested a few updates/changes to the Memorandum. If the Committee approves it this evening, Dr. Thomson will sign it.

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

**Budget:** FY18 Budget Transfers:

<u>Transfer From:</u>		<u>Transfer To:</u>	
6080 1334 Sch Cont Fees Dues	\$671.00	6110 1257 Sch Equip Rep Willett	\$671.00
<b>Total to be Transferred From:</b>	<b>\$671.00</b>	<b>Total to be Transferred To:</b>	<b>\$671.00</b>

<u>Transfer From:</u>		<u>Transfer To:</u>	
6981 1187 Collective Barg.	\$1,088,114.00	6000 (As listed on transfer sheet of 1/25/18)	
		6020	"
		6040	"
		6060	"
		6160	"
		6450	"

**Total to be Transferred From: \$1,088,114.00 Total to be Transferred To: \$1,088,114.00**

Chairwoman Bodenhofer then updated that the increase in substitute pay has not been a problem to date.

Budget Balancing Meeting: Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that the first meeting of the Budget Balancing Committee was Monday night.

The GIC is up in the air as the rates have not been set yet and the Commission that handles this program approved removing three of the providers. The Chair also informed that 75% of the town employees that belong to the GIC belong to one of these providers. She added that she believes that there is a lot of push back about this.

The Chair then informed that it looks like the schools may be asked to reduce the original budget by \$3.9 million from initial request. She said that the amount projected to be available for the schools is \$43,393,000. She added that the Town side is not looking much better.

Mr. McDonough said the three providers being considered for cancellation are Harvard, Fallon and Tufts.

Dr. Thomson said there was a whole lot of assumptions that were made at the first meeting and since then the State Aide figures are looking better than expected.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Budget Subcommittee: The meeting scheduled for this week needed to be changed. The next meeting will be on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:** At this time, Ms. Stewart wanted to talk about a Health Department item. She reminded the Members that she had previously spoke with the Committee about a program called *Interface*, which is a referral system for mental health support.

Ms. Stewart informed that Sigalle Reiss of the Health Department is in the process of applying for a 2-year Grant (\$30,000 for each year). She said we have been asked to officially become a collaborative partner (with Walpole). The Collaboration would be between the Norwood Schools, the Town of Norwood, the Town of Walpole, Norwood Hospital, Riverside, the Police Departments in Norwood/Walpole, the Housing Authorities in Norwood/Walpole, the Council of Aging in Norwood/Walpole and the Walpole School Department. If the Committee votes in favor, there is some paperwork that needs to be signed this evening.

Dr. Thomson said he thinks we should jump right on this as getting appropriate services for our students are always a challenge.

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

Dr. Thomson said that having Ms. Stewart, as a point person is a great idea and he recommended adding a second person that is in the administration to be a co-point person.

**New Business:** Open Meeting Law Changes: Chairwoman Bodenhofer shared with the Committee the newest Open Meeting Law updates and changes. Her biggest concern is with a new section, which describes the public bodies' obligations to approve both open and executive session meeting minutes. The Chair said that, although Mrs. Doliner keeps the executive minutes, we need to approve them all going back to April when this current committee began working together. Mrs. Doliner will put packets together for all the Members with the Executive Session Minutes and the Committee can vote on them at the next School Committee Meeting.

School Committee Goals: The Chair updated that the School Committee Members met with Ms. Dorothy Presser of MASC for more training. As a result of that meeting the Committee has decided to work on Committee Goals going forward.

**Old Business:** Long Term Agenda Document: Chairwoman Bodenhofer updated that the next School Committee Meeting will be on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Callahan School.

She then reviewed the Long-Term Agenda Document and the Members had an opportunity to ask for items to be added to a future agenda.

Ms. Smith asked to have two items added to future agendas:

- Food Service Update; and
- Adjustment Councilors update to discuss caseloads.

Mrs. Mullen also wanted Extended Day for Pre-K added to a future agenda.

The Chair said that Ms. Robbins reached out to say she would like to add an extended program for the preschool, which would be a different tuition rate. Ms. Robbins will be coming in to discuss this proposal.

Superintendent Evaluation: Mrs. Mullen thanked the Chair for all her work putting this evaluation together and for all the time she spent organizing the results. She then stated that there were glitches with the process. She shared her frustration with the evaluation process. Mrs. Mullen checked with Dorothy Presser at MASC who told her it was fine to edit the document before the public meeting it would be discussed at. The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns on this process.

The Chair explained how she did the composite and how and why comments were added in or left out.

Mrs. Mullen asked that this Evaluation be tabled this evening until the Committee could agree on how to edit and compile the composite evaluation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

Dr. Thomson said this is a difficult process because the Committee Members do not follow the Superintendent around on a day-to-day basis to see what he does. He added that he sat down with the Chairwoman and Ms. Stewart to review the indicators listed on the DESE site. He added that he did not have approved goals and indicators until December 6<sup>th</sup>. He stated vehemently that he did not write the questions. His final comment was that if something was not on the evaluation that the Members feel he needs to know, his door is always open and he encourages any conversations that will help him grow.

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

**Consent Agenda:**

**Acceptance of Three (3) Donations:**

- Fay Family - \$100 – Prescott School Library;
- Lifetouch Spring Portrait Program - \$600.00 – Willett; and
- Callahan PTA - \$195.42 – After School Programs Stipends.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept these donations, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0

**Personnel:** The Superintendent said he is starting to receive some retirement notifications: He thanked the following people who have sent in their retirement intentions for all their years in the Norwood Schools:

Catherine Barnicle, Denise Kaskovitch and Lora Roberts

Resignations: Craig Chisholm, Erin Fuller and Marissa Henderson

New Hires: Megan Osborne

**School Committee Addenda:** Ms. Smith said that she would like find out more about net neutrality, which has been in the news lately. She would like to find out more how this will affect our students. She then said we have an idea of where we are heading with budget numbers. She does not want people to panic yet, but she encouraged people to show up and put their papers in for upcoming elections. On a happy note, she was excited to invite everyone to the upcoming Character Breakfast.

Ms. Stewart shared that on half-days, the Recreation Department will be having programs at the Coakley Middle School for middle school students. She then she with her Committee Members that the Second Annual Summit on Poverty will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Worcester sponsored by MASC. Also, Ms. Stewart shared that there will be a free parent workshop, hosted by the CFCE Program, which will focus on *Emotions Coaching* in Room 219 at the Savage on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Mrs. Mullen had none.

Mr. McDonough echoed the sentiments of Ms. Smith on net neutrality as he agrees that project based learning is the direction that learning is headed and it could affect our students. Mr. McDonough was at the High School the other day and was happy with the updates in the cafeteria. Mr. McDonough felt the Committee had an honest conversation this evening and was glad the evaluation was postponed.

Chair Bodenhofer invited everyone to the Festival of the Bands at the High School tomorrow evening, adding that it is free and open to the public.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 10:20 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