

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, March 28, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 28, 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 March 14, 2018, which, was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Chair asked that one clarification be made to a statement she made. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mrs. Mullen abstained).

Correspondence: The Chair acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from Food Services stating their interest in beginning contract negotiations. Mrs. Mullen agreed to serve in these negotiations.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,348,323.36
	\$ 90,110.54
Accounts Payable:	\$ 38,404.82
	\$ 600,806.99
	\$ 118,998.22
	\$ 65,999.62
Total Expenditure:	\$2,262,643.55

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: None.

Policy: Animal Policy (IMG), (IMGB): None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said the Members received letters from the Elementary School Principals regarding the proposed reductions, explaining that they are not recommendations and they will have some negative effects.

Dr. Thomson was happy to share the results from this weekend's MICCA Festival, in which our elementary, middle school and high school students participated.

NHS Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Steven Conant: **GOLD**
NHS Orchestra, under the direction of Steven Conant: **SILVER**
NHS Madrigal Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Hartnett: **SILVER**
NHS Women's Choir, under the direction of Jennifer Hartnett: **BRONZE**

CMS Honor Band, under the direction of Courtney Schick: **SILVER**
CMS Honor Orchestra, under the direction of Tim MacDonald: **BRONZE**
CMS Honor Chorus, under the direction of Robert McDonough: **SILVER**

5th Grade Honor Band, under the combined direction of Henry Morel, Elana Lorange, & Larry Smith: **SILVER**

Dr. Thomson then shared that he recently attended a Department of Education Workshop on Friday on the new accountability process. The Members received copies of the power point. Achievement, student growth and English language proficiency will all be areas of focus. (ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act is focused on closing gaps).

Dr. Thomson then shared that this past Monday our Fuse Fellows were here and shadowed students at the High School, Middle School and Balch School to gain knowledge about the student experience. He said it was a great learning experience.

Finally, Dr. Thomson informed that there was a tremendous response from those interested in serving on the principal search committees. He said there were over a hundred letters of interest received. He said that they are currently sorting through the responses, adding that the goal is to put together well-balance committees.

Budget: Budget Sub Committee Update: The Chair updated on the Capital Outlay Meeting she attended yesterday. She reminded that originally the schools had asked for more than \$500,000 in technology. The original idea was that it would be paid from free cash. There is some concern that free cash is running low, especially with all the late-season snow and ice. She reminded that the Committee had previously agreed that we were willing to delay the middle school technology but would like to go forward with the High School 1:1 initiative. She informed that Tom McQuaid anticipated adding about \$360,000 in free cash to our operating budget due to delaying some of the technology. But she was happy to inform that the Capital

Outlay Committee voted unanimously to recommend that we borrow \$560,000 to fully fund the initial request for technology. She reminded that town meeting will have the final say on whether or not we will borrow this, but said it was an exciting outcome.

FY19 Budget Updates: Chairwoman Bodenhofer created a spreadsheet with the history of cuts and reductions to show how we got to the point we are at now. She reviewed this sheet with the Committee.

The Chair informed that at the last meeting, she neglected to ask for a vote to reduce the special education budget by \$350,000 to account for the fact that we have been told that we will get free cash for this fiscal year.

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce Special Education costs for FY19 by prepaying \$350,000.00, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Ellis explained that we received an email that we were going to be assessed \$2,951 less than original estimates for our contribution to TEC.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to reduce TEC by \$2,951, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to reduce special education budget by \$60,000.00 (due to a potential out-of-district that is no longer going out), which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce 1.0 math teacher at NHS in the amount of \$63,744, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce the part-time custodian position at NHS in the amount of \$25,221, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Mrs. Mullen abstained).

Mr. McDonough made a motion to reduce the .2 SPED at NHS in the amount of \$15,258 and the 2 elementary paraprofessionals in the amount of \$45,572, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 5-0

Mr. McDonough made a motion to reduce (1) the in-school suspension program at NHS - \$22,123 (new); (2) and the .4 foreign language at CMS - \$20,486 (new); and (3) TASC aide at NHS - \$22,123 (new), which was seconded by Chairwoman Bodenhofer for discussion.

Ms. Smith made an amendment to reduce the (1) .4 foreign language at the CMS - \$20,486 and (3) TASC aide at NHS - \$22, 123, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the amendment.

With regards to the motion on the table to reduce a .4 foreign language position and a TASC aide at NHS, the Committee voted unanimously in favor.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

The Chair made a motion to reduce by one elementary school teacher (due to a retirement) in the amount of \$94,157, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to not replace the CMS instrumental music teacher (resigned) and to move one of the elementary instrumental music teachers up to the middle school level, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

Ms. Smith made a motion to table her last motion, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Many of the Committee Members shared their concerns that once something is cut, even if the reasoning is that it only will be cut temporarily, everyone knows that things that get cut rarely get put back in.

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce 2.0 Adjustment Counselors in the amount of \$101,376, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce the CMS music teacher to \$60,000 for a savings of \$32,257, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to reduce \$30,000 from Athletics and \$10,000 from Fine Arts Budgets, and to add in \$15,000 for Snow and Ice, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

At this point in the meeting, the Members asked Ms. Ellis if she could figure out where we are this year with snow and Ice. She said we budgeted \$40,000 but we are currently at \$240,306.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair asked for a five-minute recess.

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

Old Business: Long Term Agenda: Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked if anyone had any additions to the Long Term Agenda. There was some discussion.

Ms. Smith said that at the next meeting (April 11th) Food Services (Chartwells) would be coming in. She asked Dr. Thomson to let them know she would like an update on (1) the sharing tables she asked for a year ago; and (2) an update on the menu offerings including breakdowns on carbohydrate and sugar information

Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that this meeting was changed from the Prescott back to the Savage due to budget planning. The Prescott Traveling School Committee Meeting will be on April 25th.

Dr. Thomson said that there is another Athletic Committee Meeting in May and he should be able to update the Committee on this Committee the end of May.

New Business: Town Meeting Warrants:

(1) ELL Teacher: Ms. Smith made a motion to ask for additional funding for an ESL Teacher on the Town Meeting Warrant, which was seconded by The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

(2) Snow and Ice: The Chair informed that we are over the snow and ice budget by more than \$200,000. Ms. Ellis said that we will give our figures to Mr. Cooper and he will add them to the town's snow and ice amounts.

Out of State Field Trip Request: Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI, April 13, 2018: Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Two (2) Donations:

- Cleveland PTA - \$729.90 – Technology/Licenses Apps. – Cleveland School;
- Bay State Textiles - \$338.50 – System Wide.
- Cleveland PTA - for MCAS tutoring - \$2,000.00

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough said that last week he had a family emergency, which prohibited him from attending the League of Women Voter's debate. He encouraged everyone to go out and vote.

Mrs. Mullen said she had a proud moment recently when she brought her husband to have surgery and the nurse who helped them was former Norwood student Joanna McDonough. Mrs. Mullen publicly thanked Joanna for her help.

Ms. Stewart said she was so nervous coming into tonight's meeting, but was quite proud of how this Committee worked together to get the job done. She said that even though we have a balanced budget, we do not have a sufficient budget. She then thanked all of the PTO's as more things get cut, the more the PTO picks up.

Ms. Smith said having been on the Budget Sub Committee has been such an eye-opening experience. She feels positive because she knows how bad it could have been, but she said it still is not good. At this point, everyone has to ask themselves what they want for this town and for this School District. Next year's work starts now.

The Chair agreed that the Committee did the best they could to protect the classrooms, but things are not good. She is optimistic that people in town are having good conversations. She agreed with Ms. Smith that there is a lot of work to do going forward.

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

Mr. McDonough made a motion for Executive Session at 9:10 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mrs. Mullen made a motion for adjournment at 11:07 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

