

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
C. J. Prescott Elementary School  
Wednesday, April 25, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Chair, Mrs. Michele Eysie Mullen, Ms. Teresa Stewart, Ms. Maura Smith and Mr. Dave Catania

**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 April 11, 2018, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Chairwoman Bodenhofer and Dr. Thomson acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from Collins, Loughran & Peloquin, PC, announcing that School Council, Joshua Coleman will be leaving the firm on April 13, 2018;
- An announcement regarding students from the Coakley Middle School (Shannon Quinn, Elizabeth Hinkson and Francesca Reardon), who came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a National History Day Competition and are hoping to move on to the Nationals at the University of Maryland June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup>;
- An announcement regarding Norwood High School junior, Sophia Bellande, who was awarded MA State Honors in the Library of Congress 2017-2018 *Letters About Literature* contest and was recently recognized at the State House, along with five other students who were awarded Honorable Mention: Sean Herson, Finn Kelly, Charlotte Kelly, James O'Toole, and Kayla Rowan.
- An announcement regarding the Senior Walk, which will take place on May 31<sup>st</sup> after graduation rehearsal. Dr. Thomson shared that Seniors will be able to walk the halls at their elementary school in their caps and gowns surrounded by the elementary students. It is the hope at the High School that this can become an annual tradition.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,380,506.84
	\$ 89,670.67
Accounts Payable	\$ 14,138.25
	\$ 36,841.90
	\$ 20,016.49
	\$ 251,372.31
	\$ 325,774.23
	\$ 140,283.05
Total Expenditure:	\$2,258,603.74

**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.

Ms. Lisa Drenkhaan was here with her daughter, Jordan, who is a junior at Norwood High School, to share her daughter's experience with epilepsy. She shared the difficulty that going to school has been for her daughter. She also informed that today was the first day she was able to go back to school since February vacation thanks to Addie, her therapy dog. Jordan informed that she is four months free of seizures and added that two of her friends made a video of her experiences. Ms. Drenkhaan wanted to let the School Committee know how important Jordan's therapy dog has been to her and how positive the students' reactions are when Addie goes to school.

Mr. David Floyd, Norwood resident, said he and his wife are looking forward to the day that their children will attend Norwood High School due to the diversity of Norwood. He then read some statistics on the Department of Education website regarding the level of disproportionate discipline statistics and asked the Committee to keep this in mind when looking for new Principal at Norwood High School.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Mrs. Killion: Mrs. Killion, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, welcomed the Norwood School Committee and administrators to this evening's meeting. She introduced members of her staff and students that attended this evening and then invited them to share a few of the highlights of the Prescott School. Some of the topics that the Committee heard about were: A new program called *Tech Buddies*; how the students are using technology to create a 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook, what's going on in the (student-led) *Video Club*, and an update on *Prescott Press* and *T.V. Crew*.

National History Day Competition: Francesca Reardon, Elizabeth Nelson and Shannon Quinn, students at Coakley Middle School, was here this evening to share with the Committee that their National History Day project won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. They explained that this is a club they are involved with at the Coakley. They gave an overview of their project, which was about the Salem Witch Trials.

The girls shared that it will cost about \$600 per student and chaperone to attend the National Competition in Maryland. They explained that they are looking for donations to help with the cost for the trip. The Committee Members had an opportunity to congratulate the students and wish them well.

**FY19 Public Budget Hearing:** Dr. Thomson presented the approved FY19 Budget for the public, beginning with the budget process. He reviewed that after a thorough review, a needs-based budget of \$47,469,733 was put together.

Eventually the budget target after three passes was \$45,024,649. Dr. Thomson explained that meant \$2,445,084 needed to be cut. Dr. Thomson reviewed the process taken to reach \$45,024,649, which meant many staffing needs went unmet.

Dr. Thomson said going forward, we will be working on a 5 year plan for both programmatic and financial issues facing the district. He added that we are looking to go 1:1 with chrome books for grades 6-12 for FY19. He also shared that our Fuse Fellows are working on blended and personalized learning. He also said there will be a review of Elementary ELA Curriculum.

At this point in the meeting, Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked if anyone from the Public would like to speak on the budget. There was no one.

**Adjourn Public Budget Hearing:** At 8:15 p.m., Chairwoman Bodenhofer declared the Public Hearing on the Budget was closed.

**Reports: Technology Update (1:1 Initiative):** Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, was here this evening to give an update on the 1:1 Initiative. Mr. Kidd shared his excitement of following the presentation of the Prescott students this evening, as they are a perfect example of what his department is all about. Mr. Kidd said this is not the start, but it is the culmination of lots of planning and work to get to this point.

Mr. Kidd shared the next steps for the 1:1 Rollout:

- Town meeting approve – May 2018;
- NHS and CMS 1:1 Deployment Committee – May 2018;
- Wireless Expansion at Middle and High Schools;
- Development of 1:1 Policies for School Committee approval;
- Communication of 1:1 Policies and Procedures to families
- Quotes from State Contract Vendors and device Selection;

- Device Preparation;
- Device Deployment to High School;
- Device Deployment to MS;
- Development of the Next-Gen Strategic Tech Plan.

Mr. Kidd then shared updates that need to happen with the following infrastructures:

- Network;
- Hardware;
- Business;
- Security; and
- Support.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Stewart made a motion for a five-minute recess, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Dr. Thomson was pleased to announce an extended day pilot program at the Cleveland Elementary School, which will open up some spots at the Savage. This pilot program will start in the fall. The Members received, in their packets, the results of an Extended Day Survey that was sent to parents.

The Chair informed that she attended MASC Day on the Hill today and she provided the other Members with information from the program. She said it was interesting to hear what MASC and State Representatives had to say about funding.

**Policy:** Service/Therapy Animal Policy (IMG), (IMGB): Ms. Stewart reminded that IMG has been voted on twice. IMGB has been voted on once. Dr. Thomson said nothing has been received on these policies.

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

**Budget:** FY18 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis reviewed the FY18 Budget Report dated March 22, 2018.

FY19 Budget Update: Chairwoman Bodenhofer wanted to discuss the additional Adjustment Councilor request for the Town Meeting Warrant. Dr. Thomson

Ms. Smith made a motion to requested \$60,000 for the additional Adjustment Councilors on the Town Meeting Warrant, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Old Business:** Long Term Agenda: Chairwoman Bodenhofer discussed with the Committee adjustments and additions to the agendas for upcoming meetings. She reminded everyone that our next meeting would be Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> in the High School Library at 7:30 p.m. (due to the School Committee MASC Training from 5:30 – 7:30 that same evening in the High School Library).

**New Business:** Vote to Renew Chartwell Contract (2018-2019): Dr. Thomson recommended approving and extending the Chartwell contract. Chairwoman Bodenhofer reminded that the Food Service Department is self-funding.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve and extend the contract, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 3-2 (Ms. Smith and Ms. Stewart voted against).

Summer Meeting Schedule: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said the majority of the Committee could make a meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup>. There was no date in July that worked for everyone. Therefore Chairwoman Bodenhofer thought it would be fine to just schedule one meeting for the summer, but reminded that School Committee business will continue with budget planning among other things.

Out of State Field Trip Request – Great East Music Festival & Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NH – Elementary Honor Ensemble: Dr. Thomson recommended approving this trip, which is a one-day trip.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve this trip, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. Ms. Stewart disclosed that she would be a chaperone on this trip. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Out of State Field trip Request – National History Day Competition – University of Maryland, College park, MD – Coakley Middle School: Dr. Thomson recommended approving this trip. He reviewed the itinerary and other pertinent information.

Mrs. Mullen approved this request, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Acceptance of One Donation:**

-Oldham Elementary PTO - \$2492.94 – Enrichment Courses

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

**Personnel:** None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Catania was very impressed with the Tech Buddies that he saw this evening.

Mrs. Mullen had none.

Ms. Stewart said she was following the Facebook posts of the students who were on a trip to Italy over vacation and she thought it was great they were sharing their photos. She then invited everyone to this weekend's Fine Arts Festival.

Ms. Smith thanked everyone who participated in last week's Earth Day. She said there were over 229 volunteers who picked up 168 bags of trash (many of the sites were at the schools).

Chairwoman Bodenhofer reminded everyone that we have a session coming up Monday evening at the High School for new town members. Also there will be a *Municipal Finances 101* on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Municipal Room at the Police Station.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 9:30 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