

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, May 23, 2018**

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 23, 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 (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), Ms. Maura Smith and Mr. Dave Catania (arrived at 7:20 p.m.)

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: Mrs. Mullen made a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2018 and May 17, 2018, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 9, 2018, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Correspondence: Dr. Thomson acknowledged and thanked the Women's Community Committee for their support of the middle school students who are heading to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National History Competition. Dr. Thomson thanked the WCC for covering the gap after some of the funds were raised.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,342,310.12
	\$88,031.59
Accounts Payable:	\$7,851.46
	\$9,955.63
	\$170,552.11
	\$12,746.59
	\$98,473.56
	\$109,716.69
Total Expenditure:	\$1,839, 637.75

2018-2019 School Choice Public Hearing: School Choice Hearing – May 23, 2018 @ 7:05 p.m.: Chairwoman Bodenhofer explained that at this time there is a Public Hearing scheduled for School Choice.

There was no one here from the public for the School Choice vote.

Dr. Thomson recommended that the Committee vote against School Choice and he then shared his reasons:

- (1) Enrollments in Norwood are increasing. Once in enrolled, those students will be the system's responsibility until graduation (or age 22 for SPED students) and may pose overcrowding in certain schools or courses;
- (2) The income stream for choice students is on a declining scale with less income per pupil this year than last year;
- (3) Norwood would be subsidizing the cost of educating each choice student in that our per pupil expenditure (\$16,255.00) is above the maximum allowable reimbursement;
- (4) A student may enroll as a regular education student (with \$5,000 as reimbursement); then apply for a team evaluation; and SPED services exceeding \$5,000 would be paid entirely by the Norwood Public Schools.

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept Dr. Thomson's recommendation not to participate in School Choice, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Dr. Thomson was pleased to announce the new principals for the High School and Prescott Elementary Schools, but first he wanted to thank those who served on the Search Committees for their time and hard work. He said there was a tremendous amount of work involved in these committees. He also thanked Dr. Wyeth for leading those committees.

Dr. Thomson announced that he will be appointing Mr. Brian Riley the new principal for the Prescott Elementary School. Mr. Riley is currently an assistant principal for an elementary school in Washington, D.C., is a product of the Norwood schools and still has family in town. Dr. Thomson said he will be an excellent fit for the Prescott Elementary School and will continue the good work that Mrs. Killion has been doing.

Dr. Thomson announced that the new principal for Norwood High School will be Dr. Hugh Galligan. He is currently serving as the associate principal at Hanover High School. Dr. Thomson shared some of the programs Dr. Galligan has implemented while working in Hanover and said he feels Norwood will be lucky to have both of these gentlemen.

Appearances: Approval of 2018-2019 Middle School/High School Student Handbooks: Dr. Margo Fraczek, Principal of the Coakley Middle School, was here tonight to review a few minor changes to the Middle School Handbook. One of the big additions was adding Saturday detentions.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the 2018-2019 Middle School Handbook, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Kristen McDonnell of Norwood High School was here this evening to review the changes to the High School Handbook, as Mr. Bourn had a death in the family and could not be here. Ms. McDonnell said that it is being recommended, after a lot of research as to what other districts are doing, that this year's sophomore class will be the first to change to the Latin Honor System of ranking instead of the Integer System. This new system will allow the students to be ranked on their achievements. Ms. McDonnell shared the reasons why it will be a better system, including the fact that it will promote more thoughtful consideration of course selections.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. Some of the members shared that they would like to see this new system implemented sooner than later.

There was some discussion regarding the discipline involved when students bring weapons to school.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the High School Student Handbook with the provision that class rank for the juniors will be both the Integer and Latin Honor System of ranking and the sophomore will transition solely to the Latin Honor System, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Reports: Mental Health Services Grants: Ms. Stewart reminded that in January we voted to become a collaborative agency with the Board of Health in an effort to get this grant, which was then awarded at the end of March. She continued on that yesterday the Collaborative Committee met for the first time as a group, adding that it was a great meeting. Ms. Tara Noyse from the High School went with her to represent the schools. There were representatives from Walpole, as well since they are part of the collaborative. There will be monthly meetings for the next two years as that is how long the grant is for. She shared that there will be a social media campaign that will kick off around about mental health awareness. She gave a quick summary of how this campaign will get underwaThis initiative will be called the *Minds Matter Now Mental Health Collaborative*.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: None.

Policy: Food Service Policy: Ms. Stewart said the Committee should have the most recent draft on their desks this evening along with a draft of some information on what other districts are doing. Ms. Stewart said that she met last week with Dr. Thomson, Ms. Ellis, Mr. Eli Norris from Food Services, along with Erin Long of Chartwells. They reviewed the policy word for word and everyone was in agreement that no one wants food shaming at all.

Ms. Stewart said that the policy has been cleaned up a little bit and informed that even if there is a deficit on a family's account, they can still get up to five meals while they have a negative balance. She shared a few other changes that will make sure that there is no food shaming.

Ms. Smith thanked the Policy Sub Committee for addressing these issues, and expressed her concern for no a-la-carte for those who have a deficit. There was some discussion regarding this matter.

Mr. Catania made a motion to leave the motion as it is, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen.

Mr. Catania made an amendment to add the clarifying language that Ms. Stewart suggested, which was seconded by the Chair for discussion. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve this policy, adding that this is a modest change and the waiting period can be waived, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen.

After some discussion, Ms. Stewart and Ms. Smith agreed that it is always good to let the public weigh in on these policy changes.

The Chair said that if the motion is approved tonight, then this policy will be added to one more meeting for the public to weigh in and one more vote.

With regard to the motion on the floor, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Ms. Smith voted against).

Ms. Stewart then shared another policy they will be looking at, which is "Standing Sub Committees".

Ms. Stewart also shared that they will be looking at a "Trauma Policy".

The Chair said there might be some policy changes with regard to the 1:1 Initiative. Mr. Catania agreed to be the point person on that.

Budget: FY18 Budget Update: The Committee Members received the Budget Report dated May 18, 2018 as well as a payroll update. Ms. Ellis reviewed these with the Members and answered questions.

The Chair said that the Budget Sub Committee is meeting Friday, June 1st at 10:30 a.m. The Chair also added that she and Ms. Smith will be meeting with the Town-wide Budget Sub Committee on June 4th at 5:30 p.m. as well to discuss the Long Term Planning.

Old Business: Update of Long-Term Agenda Document: The Chair reviewed the Long-Term Agenda Document and reviewed some adjustments to the schedule. There was a request to ask Travis from the Recreation Department to come in and share how they collaborate with the schools. There was also a request to find out how much each PTA/PTO supplements the school's budget.

Superintendent Evaluation: Ms. Stewart put together a proposed timeline for the Superintendent's Evaluation:

- She suggested that Dr. Thomson's self-assessment be done by June 18th. July 13th would be the deadline for individual evaluations;
- Individual Evaluation forms will be sent to Members on June 22nd by 5:00 p.m.
- The completed Individual Evaluation Forms will be due by July 13th at 5:00 p.m. (changed to July 20th, not the 13th);
- The Composite document will be ready to be reviewed to School Committee and edits to be discussed in the August 8th public meeting unless the Committee votes to release a draft to the public.
- The final composite document will be reviewed by School Committee and evaluation completed by the September 12th meeting.

Mr. Catania suggested releasing the draft composite document 48 hours before the August 8th meeting (on August 6th).

The Committee discussed giving Dr. Thomson some more time to complete his self-assessment.

Ms. Smith made a recommendation to change the June 18th deadline to June 30th.

The Committee agreed that this is a good timeline going forward for future evaluations.

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept these changes, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee vote in favor 5-0.

There was some discussion as to the annual cycle going forward for Superintendent evaluations. The Committee Members, for the most part, liked this timeline. Ms. Stewart confirmed that Dorothy Presser, of MASC, said there is no set deadline to submit the final evaluation to DESE. The Chair said it just needs to be part of the annual cycle but no specific deadline.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve all the adjustments to the Superintendent's Evaluation cycle, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

New Business:

Consent Agenda: Acceptance of Six (6) Donations: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting the following donations:

- Town of Norwood - \$50.00 – Model UN Club;
- Prescott PTO - \$500.00 – After School Stipends;
- High School PTO - \$6571/71 – SAT Prep Final Payment;
- Prescott PTO – Prescott Sign Donation;
- Coakley Middle School PTO - \$300.00 – Student Awards;
- Rich Bradley & Steve MacNamara – Tile Wall Wood Frames – Prescott Sch.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: Dr. Thomson already updated on the two new Principals.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith thanked Mr. Tony Mazzucco, Mr. Mark Ryan and Mr. Paul Ricciardi on working collaboratively to remove two stumps off the Prescott School. She then informed that she would not be able to attend graduation this year, as it is her grandfather's 100th birthday. She sent a hearty congratulations to the graduates and their families.

Ms. Stewart apologized for being late as she was at the all-town chorus. She said it is the first time her daughter sang a solo and she couldn't miss it. Ms. Stewart read a prepared statement regarding her family history in Norwood and her values for this town. She asked the Town Meeting Members to be the voices of the students at Town Meeting. Ms. Stewart then urged the Selectmen and Finance Commission to pass their own resolutions to support the budget foundation recommendations and to support our schools.

Mrs. Mullen congratulated all those graduating in the Class of 2018. She wished them lots of luck and said she knows they will be successful.

Mr. Catania went to MASC training last Saturday so that he could learn how to do his job as a School Committee Member effectively. He also agrees that we need more funding for the schools. He thanked Town Meeting for approving our request.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer said there is another session of Town Meeting tomorrow night and she is hoping that we can present the school budget tomorrow. She then wished the 8th graders a great trip to Washington, D.C. next week.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 9:50 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee