

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, June 20, 2018**

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 20, 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 and Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment.

Administrator Excused: Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Finance and Operations.

New Business: Election of Chairperson: Dr. Thomson called the meeting to order and said that he would, at this time, accept nominations for the School Committee Chairperson.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion for Mrs. Myev Bodenhofer as School Committee Chairperson for 2018-2019, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Dr. Thomson said this part of the meeting is now adjourned.

Election of Vice Chairperson: Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer nominated Mrs. Mullen as Vice-Chairperson, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Election of Secretary: Chairwoman Bodenhofer asked for nominations for School Committee Secretary, which has been Dr. Thomson as part of his role as Superintendent.

Ms. Smith made a motion for Dr. Thomson as School Committee Secretary, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Minutes: Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of June 6, 2018, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0. (Ms. Stewart abstained).

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 School Committee Executive Session Meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0. (Ms. Stewart abstained).

Correspondence: Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

-A letter from the July 4th Committee inviting the Members to march in the parade.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,346,580.23
	\$ 93,812.00
Accounts Payable Warrants:	\$ 10,378.04
	\$ 16,590.17
	\$ 1,143.00
	\$ 15,082.11
	\$ 31,821.77
	\$ 112,481.05
	\$ 458,369.59
Total Expenditure of:	\$2,086,257.96

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.

Jeff and Kristen McGourty, parents of two children in the Norwood Schools, were here this evening to ask the Committee to consider keeping both their children together at the Cleveland School next year. He informed that their new home is in another school district. He explained that due to his son's medical condition, the family needed to move to a new home so that he could have more independence. He and his wife are very worried that splitting up the kids next year will be devastating to both children.

Appearances: Long and DiPietro - Rosann DiPietro of Long and DiPietro, was here this evening to give an overview of her firm. She informed that her firm practices only School Law and does not bill for overhead (except for services such as subpoenas, transcriptionists, and such).

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions.

Murphy, Lamere & Murphy- Matthew R. Tobin and Josh Coleman were here this evening to give an overview of their firm. He said that this firm represents Towns and School Districts throughout the Commonwealth. The billing rate is \$205 per hour and is billed on a monthly basis.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions.

Collins, Loughran & Peloquin – Leo Peloquin and Tim Norris of Collins, Loughran & Peloquin were here this evening to give an overview of their firm. Melissa Murray was not able to attend this evening's meeting as she has a new baby that arrived this week and this is their first night home from the hospital. Mr. Peloquin said that they have had the privilege of being Norwood's School Council and have lots of experience with negotiations and school law in Norwood. They explained that the current rate is \$220 per hour and will offer (for the next year services) \$205 per hour with 10 hours of credit. Mr. Norris shared that Melissa is the President-Elect of School Councils with MASC They gave an overview of their firm and said they are problem solvers that are really good at what they do.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane:- Michael Maccaro, Mary Ellen Sowyrda and Alisia St. Florian of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, were here this evening to give an overview of their firm. They explained that their firm has many attorneys that cover all labor matters, along with general education and special education. There are 31 attorneys in this firm in three different offices. These three attorneys are all based out of the Quincy office.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions.

Dr. Thomson said that there are four good choices here this evening. He said over the years, he has worked with most of these firms in one way or another. He would be happy to look into references or get answers to any other questions the Members may have.

Out of State Washington D.C. Trip: Ms. Molly Uppenkamp and Mr. Tony Mazzucco were here this evening to seek approval for an out-of-state field trip to Washington, DC October 4th – October 9th, 2018. The Civics students will explore career opportunities in public service. Mr. Mazzucco said that he was able to secure a grant that will cover the cost of this trip for the students.

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

At this point in the meeting, the Committee took a five-minute recess.

Reports: Technology Updates: Mr. Joe Kidd was here this evening to update the Committee on the Technology Department's 1:1 Initiative at the High School. Mr. Kidd said there is a Committee of teachers and staff that have worked together to create a draft document of expectations and procedures once the Chromebook are handed out. They will be developing a 1:1 website for families. Mr. Kidd said the chrome books should be handed out to the students some time in the early fall.

Dr. Thomson thanked Mr. Kidd for all his work and for putting together this Committee. Dr. Thomson said he has been in other districts that have done the 1;1 Initiative and he said it is a lot of work.

SEL Task Force: Dr. Wyeth welcomed members of the Social Emotional Task Force here this evening. The Committee Members that were able to be here this evening were:

- Carolyn Robbins, Principal of the Willett and Little Mustangs Preschool;
- Molly Uppenkamp, History Teacher at NHS; and
- John Quinn, HS Theater teacher.

They shared that the SEL Vision, Mission, and Core Values directly support Norwood's Mission and Core Values and are found on the district web page.

The Missions: To develop the social, emotional, and intellectual capacities of students in a safe, inclusive, and academically rigorous environment.

The SEL Core Values: Community, Accountability, Respect and Empathy (C.A.R.E.).

The SEL Committee Members shared CASEL's 5 Competencies:

1. Self-awareness
2. Self-management
3. Social awareness
4. Relationship skills
5. Responsible decision-making

Dr. Wyeth thanked the other SEL Task Force Members: Christina Beachnau, Molly Cotter, Tish Donovan, Nora Galvin, Norwood O'Hear, Elizabeth Healey, Michelle Fitzgerald and Sue Barry.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions, comments and to give thanks to the Committee for their dedication and hard work on such an important topic.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said they have finished their second day of Strategic Planning, adding that there are 22 Committee Members in the group. He thanked Ms. Robbins on being his co-chair.

Also, he said we are in the process of putting together a team of teachers to attend an Experiential Learning Conference.

He reminded families that Monday, June 25th is the last day of school, which will be a half-day.

He said there are problems with staffing at the High School due to the staffing requests that we were not able to meet. He reminded that a balanced budget is not necessary an adequate budget.

He informed that a member of the Community was concerned about students cutting through a wooded area and there are some concerns. Dr. Thomson said fencing was suggested, but it would be about 800 feet. He believes that the original builders of the apartment complex were supposed to put some fencing in and did not do it.

Mrs. Mullen and Ms. Smith asked suggested that more information should be gathered from the Oldham community.

Budget: Budget Balancing Update: The Chair said the Members received a copy of the Special Education Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Fund for Fiscal Year 2018 breakdown.

The Chair reminded that if we did get the remaining money from Circuit Breaker, we voted to return the money to the Town.

Mr. Catania made a motion for a transfer of funds back to the Town in the amount of \$60,000, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee Members voted in favor 3-2 (Ms. Smith and Ms. Stewart voted against).

Ms. Smith updated on Budget Balancing, saying there was a good discussion on the five-year projections. The Committee has agreed to meet every three weeks with a presentation for fall Town Meeting.

Ms. Smith and Chairwoman Bodenhofer met to plan for the next Budget Balancing meeting.

The Chair reminded that the next School Committee Meeting is August 8th and she will probably be meeting with the Superintendent to plan the agenda on August 1st.

Old Business: School Start Time Update: Ms. Stewart met with Dr. Thomson and Ms. Smith on June 6th. There will be a Task Force Meeting scheduled for early September.

There was some discussion about if the Committee made a motion to approve a Task Force

The Chair explained that creating a Task Force simply means it is worth looking further into the matter.

Mr. Catania made a motion to create a Task Force, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

New Business: Warrant Processing: Since the next meeting is not until August 8th, the Chair recommended having Mr. Catania be authorized to sign warrants on behalf of the Committee.

Ms. Smith made a motion to authorize Mr. Catania to sign warrants on behalf of the School Committee from June 21st through August 7th, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Consent Agenda: Acceptance of One Donation: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting a donation of five (5) "E is for Election Day" Books (one for each elementary school) which were donated by Mr. Dave Catania.

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

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Catania had none.

Ms. Stewart wished everyone a wonder summer.

Ms. Smith echoed Ms. Stewart's sentiments and encouraged families to look into the wonderful programs through our Recreation Department.

The Chair wished everyone a wonderful summer and encouraged the public to attend the Budget Balancing Meetings as they will continue to work hard over the summer.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 9:40 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

