

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
Willett Early Childhood Center  
(Traveling School Committee)  
Wednesday, October 10, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 10, 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:** Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2018, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

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

- A letter from the Town-Wide Facilities Committee dated September 24, 2018;
- A letter from the SRO's and SLO's with an attachment with pictures of their trading cards so that names can be put together with their faces.

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

Payroll Warrants	\$ 92,424.96
	\$1,384,764.31
	\$ 97,337.92
Accounts Payable	\$ 37,481.90
	\$ 56,486.31
	\$ 11,689.29
	\$ 238,548.66
	\$ 56,009.43
	\$ 414,808.20
	\$ 40,548.46
Total Expenditure	\$2,430,099.44

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Willett Early Childhood Welcome: Ms. Carolyn Robbins, Principal of the Willett Early Childhood Center and the Little Mustangs Preschool Center, welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting at the Willett. She gave an overview of the Willett since the preschool center moved to the Savage.

Balch/Willett/Coakley Middle School Improvement Plans: Ms. Robbins reviewed the Norwood Public School Early Childhood Education School Improvement Plan 2018-2019 (1-Year Plan). She reviewed the priority areas for improvement:

1. Following the lead of the District-Wide SEL Task Force, Willett/LMPA will conduct a needs assessment of current SEL programming and determine programming that will meet the needs of the district/schools moving forward.
2. Kindergarten staff will be trained in and implement a new phonics program, *Wilson Foundations*, with fidelity.
3. The Willett/LMPA School Council will identify and implement supports for families and students from non-English speaking backgrounds to assist with navigating the school system and community supports, as well as understanding Willett/LMPA school culture and expectation.
4. Continue to improve outdoor spaces at both the Willett Early Childhood Center and the Little Mustangs Preschool Academy in conjunction with the Willett Early Childhood Center PTO.

The Committee Members has an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mrs. Ferreira reviewed the Balch Elementary School Improvement Plan – 2018-2019. She reviewed the priority areas for improvement.

1. The Balch Elementary School will focus on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and participate in the district's professional development plans around it.
2. The Balch Elementary School will work toward improving student learning through innovative teaching practices.
3. The Balch Elementary School will focus on improving our outdoor play spaces to best meet the needs of all students.
4. The Balch Elementary School will increase the percentage of students in grades 3-5 receiving the Meeting and Exceeding Categories on MCAS by 5%.
5. The Balch Elementary School will create community partnerships to help improve the aesthetic of the school's hallways and foyers.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. There was some discussion regarding the higher than average ELL student population at the Balch as well as the higher than average economically disadvantaged population at the Balch.

Dr. Fraczek reviewed the Coakley Middle School Improvement Plan – 2018-2019. She reviewed the priority areas for improvement:

1. Improving students' social emotional capacity at school to create a positive and safe school climate.
2. Integrating technology across the curriculum in order to create a blended learning environment.
3. Improving programming for all middle school students that provides engaging content, rigorous material, and relevant skills.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

At this point in the meeting (9:05 p.m.) the Committee took a 5 minute recess.

**Reports:** None.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** MCAS & Accountability:

Dr. Thomson said the Members received the updated System-Wide Enrollment Report as of October 1, 2018.

Dr. Thomson said the ELA Committee (28 Committee Members) met yesterday to establish the time line for the year.

He said the schools are all practicing (with the SRO's and SLO's) drills and where to go during the drills.

He said the Washington, D.C. trip was an amazing trip and everyone got back late last night. He thanked Mr. Tony Mazucco for coming up with the idea and Ms. Molly Uppenkamp, who was so wonderful with the kids on this trip.

**Policy: Policy Update:** The Committee received draft copies of the following policies which had wording changes (due to the Pregnant Workers' Fairness Act that recently went into effect):

- Nondiscrimination (File: AC);
- Equal Employment Opportunity (File: GBA);
- Professional Staff Hiring (File GCF);
- Equal Educational Opportunities (File JB); and
- School Choice (File FJBB).

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

Ms. Stewart then informed that MASC and DESE recommended two new policies:

- Educational Opportunities for Military Children (File JFABE); and
- Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care (File: JFABF).

Ms. Stewart said these new policies are not required at the moment but it is recommended by both MASC and DESE. Ms. Stewart recommended that we adopt these policies.

The Chair said these would fall under our general practice for new policies where we would hold off on the vote to give the public time to have a say in the policy before the vote.

Ms. Smith made a motion to table these two new policies, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Stewart then said she has provided a draft of Sub Committees of the School Committee (File: BDE). She said that Numbers 1-6 are already in the current policy. On the back of the draft she has added some ideas to consider.

There was some discussion regarding standing subcommittees.

The members were encouraged to share their thoughts about this policy with Ms. Stewart as she continues to work on this draft.

**Budget:** Budget Balancing Update: The Chair said the Budget Balancing Committee met October 1<sup>st</sup>. She said that they talked about a planned schedule for what they hope to accomplish; and also that they will be putting together presentations for the Community and possibly Town Meeting.

There will also be a presentation on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. for the public. The next meeting will be this coming Monday evening.

The Chair said it has been said that we should live within our means. She asked who defines what our means are? She said that an override will give Norwood the opportunity to define what our means will be.

Programmatic Additions: The Committee Members received a copy of *FY20 TO FY24 Projections Revised* from Ms. Ellis dated October 1, 2018. Dr. Thomson reminded that in education, if you are not moving forward, you are falling behind. He said at

this point, we have what we need by law. We do not have anything extra. He then reviewed the priority items that would be initially added back in. The Chair informed that we will need to have a Chromebook refresher at approximately \$12,000 that was not put on this list.

The Members shared their concerns regarding more staffing needs, including transportation, elementary staff, ELL (3), adjustment councilors (3).

Ms. Smith suggested adding extra meetings just for budget discussions. The Committee Members agrees that would be a good idea. The Chair said she will try to find some more dates that will work for additional meetings.

FY19 Budget Transfers:

<b>TRANSFER FROM:</b>		<b>TRANSFER TO:</b>	
1527-19 SCH MAIN BLDG FIRE ALARM OLD	\$97.71	0765-19 SCH CUST. OT	\$325.70
1694-19 SCH MAIN BLDG ELEC. SHS	\$97.71		
1727-19 S.M.B. – COM/CLOCK SYST. BAL	\$65.14		
1733-19 S.M.B – COM/CLOCK SYST. – CMS	\$65.14		
<b>TOTAL TO BE TRANS. FROM.....</b>	<b>\$325.70</b>	<b>TOTAL TRANSF. TO.....</b>	<b>\$325.70</b>

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

<b>TRANSFER FROM:</b>		<b>TRANSFER TO:</b>	
0940-19 SCH IS/TB – CMS	\$360.00	0653-19 SCH INST. SAL-CONF CMS	\$360.00
<b>TOTAL TO BE TRANSF. FROM.....</b>	<b>\$360.00</b>	<b>TOTAL TO BE TRANS. TO.....</b>	<b>\$360.00</b>

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

**Old Business:** Strategic Plan Update: None.

Sub-Committees: The Chair then asked for a motion to dissolve the School Committee Start-Time Sub Committee as a Task Force has been put together to continue looking into this subject.

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

Superintendent Evaluation Criteria: Ms. Smith made a motion to table, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**New Business:** Out-of-State Field Trip Request – SEARCH – Williamsburg, VA – April 23 – 27, 2019 Ms. Smith made a motion to table this item, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Acceptance of One Donation:** Dr. Thomson recommended accepting the following donation:

-Bay State Textiles – August Rebate - \$467.00 system wide

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

**Personnel:** Dr. Thomson updated regarding a new hire.

Ms. Smith asked if Mrs. Carole Poirier could be invited in to a future meeting so that we can thank her for her dedication to the Norwood Schools.

**School Committee Addenda:** Ms. Smith had none.

Ms. Stewart had none.

Mrs. Mullen had none.

Mr. Catania said he is incredibly emotional thinking that we are not giving our ELL students all the help they need.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 11:00 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