

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 17, 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 October 17, 2018, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Public Forum: None.

Old Business: Chairwoman Bodenhofer suggested moving *MCAS & Accountability* to the first item this evening.

MCAS & Accountability: Dr. Wyeth began by explaining that this was a new test, and reminded that our students took the PARCC Test in 2015 and 2016. He informed that practically all of the students took the test on-line, with a few exceptions.

Dr. Wyeth then reviewed the results as summarized on the 2018 Next Generation MCAS Results Summary.

Elementary ELA

Gr. 3	Same as State	Average
Gr. 4	3% above State	Average
Gr. 5	2% above State	Average

Elementary Mathematics

Gr. 3	5% above State	Strong Results (on-line only)
Gr. 4	8% above State	Strong Results
Gr. 5	18% above State	Very Strong Results

Elementary Science Technology & Engineering (STE) Legacy MCAS

Gr. 5 10% above State for 2nd year Very Strong Results

Middle School English Language Arts (ELA)

Gr. 6 11% above State Strong Results
Gr. 7 19% below State Very Weak Results
Gr. 8 5% below State Weak Results

Middle School Mathematics

Gr. 6 1% above State Average Results
Gr. 7 11% below State Very Weak Results
Gr. 8 8% above State Strong Results

Middle School Science Technology & Engineering (STE) Legacy MCAS

Gr. 8 Even with State Weak Results

High School: all Legacy MCAS

Gr. 10 ELA 2% above State Average Results
Gr. 10 Math 3% below State Weak Results
Gr. 9 & 10 Biology 9% above State Very Strong Results

Dr. Wyeth then reviewed *Massachusetts’s New Accountability System* that the Members received in this week’s packets.

- 1. 2018 is the first year of the new accountability system and ESE will look to see if any changes/refinements are needed;
- 2. Purpose is to measure district and schools’ overall and subgroups’ “progress toward meeting improvement targets” set for each of the 7 non-high school and 11 high school indicators; and
- 3. Points assigned based on progress toward improvement target for each indicator, for both the aggregate & the lowest performing students:

Declined = 0; No Change = 1; Improved = 2; Met target = 3; Exceeded target = 4

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. Some of the Members wondered if the school culture of each school had a direct impact on the scores. Mrs. Mullen suggested using a survey called Panorama for a family survey on school culture. There was also some conversation about increasing chronic absences.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Smith made a motion for a 5-minute recess, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Superintendent Evaluation Criteria: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said the members have a copy of the Superintendent's Goals, which have already been voted on and approved.

The Chair said that they have asked the Superintendent for a reflection from each of his goals, which she thought, would give some perspective on what he's learned as well as to show his growth.

For the Professional Practice Goal, Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the additions/changes to the evidence as discussed, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Goals with the additions/changes that were voted on this evening, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Strategic Plan Update: Dr. Thomson reviewed the *Revised District Mission and Vision Statement*. On the last page, Dr. Thomson provided feedback from the participants in Session 3 of Strategic Planning (9-27-18). Dr. Thomson said there are 25 participants. There are 3 teachers in the group, but he is hoping to get some more teachers involved. Dr. Thomson and Chairwoman Bodenhofer read the Mission Statement; Vision and Strategic Objectives.

The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts.

Programmatic Additions – Budget FY20: At this point in the meeting, the Chair welcomed Ms. Ann Haley. Ms. Haley shared that she is a Town Meeting Member; she is on the Finance Commission and is the liaison to the School Committee. Ms. Healey shared with the public that she attends all the School Committee Meetings and Budget Planning Meetings. She shared that years ago, she remembers many contentious times between the town side of government vs. the school side of government. She said as a result of those contentious times, the Town Wide Budget Balancing Committee was created and all sides of government now work very well together. She invited the public to attend the Budget Balancing Meetings or follow the meetings on Norwood Community Media to stay informed.

The Chair updated on last week's Budget Balancing Meeting. Mr. Mazucco gave an update to the projections, in which there will be no Free Cash available and a 5% increase in health insurance rates. Ms. Smith added that there is a projected \$4.5 million deficit for FY20 (this is for both the town side and school side). The school side alone will be a \$3.5 million deficit. So that would be level funding (minus the \$3.5 million). She added that the next meeting will be on October 29th at 5:30 p.m.

The Chair reviewed the level services budget and shared that there was actually about \$1 million more in adjustments (i.e.: offsets, snow and ice projections, bus fees, etc.)

Mr. Catania made a motion to put back in the budget the revolving offsets, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

The Chair reviewed possible add-in's if the override goes through:

Curriculum Refresh	\$300,000.00
Personalized assessment	\$ 39,000.00
AP Programming – 3 FTE	\$272,364.00
MASCORE Programming – 1 FTE	\$ 78,197.00
Increase CMS Librarian to 1 FTE	\$ 3 9,098.50
Increase CMS PE to 1 FTE	\$ 42,425.50
Add CMS SPED – 1 FTE	\$ 65,338.00
Add Admin to Tech – 1 FTE	\$ 63,128.00
Add CMS (Social Emotional) 1 FTE	\$ 59,989.00
Add Elementary (Social Emotional) 2 FTE	\$119,978.00

There was much discussion about what is needed to level fund our school system as well as what is needed to move this system forward. Some of the Members suggested hearing from the principals to see what the priority needs of their schools are.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer talked about a Memorandum of Understanding between the town side and the school side. She explained that this would not be a binding document, but it would be a way to make everyone aware of shared expenses.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Stewart shared with the public three events that are coming up for families in town.

Mrs. Mullen reminded everyone that there is a Marching band classic this Saturday in Norwood. She informed that Norwood will be performing at 4:00 p.m. and everyone should come out to see them perform.

Mr. Catania read some of his notes he took during this evening's meeting. He said if we all work together we will be able to lift this burden together.

Ms. Smith informed that the annual Fantasy Footsteps this Friday and Saturday evening. She said it's a nice event for families and it is not scary.

Ms. Smith said that the budget issues going on are not just school issues but town issues as well. She said she has never seen the town departments work so well together before.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 10:25 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee