

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Norwood High School
Wednesday, December 5, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 5, 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. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2018, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: None.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,420,033.08 \$102,165.58
Accounts Payable Warrants:	\$18,287.27 \$18,883.09 \$320,209.31 \$38,943.87
Total Expenditures:	\$1,918,522.20

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Welcome/Recognition of Adams Scholarship Awards: Dr. Galligan welcomed everyone to Norwood High School this evening and began by announcing the Adams Scholarship Award Winners. There were 70 winners from Norwood High School and Dr. Galligan read all their names out loud. The students who were able to attend tonight's meeting got together on the stage for a quick photo.

Dr. Galligan then said that there have been some amazing accomplishments this fall in the areas of Fine Arts and Athletic. He introduced Mr. Steve Conant, the

Director for the Marching Band. Mr. Conant had two of the members with him this evening to share an update of the marching band and to explain what it takes to have a successful season as Norwood has had this past fall.

Mr. John Longley, Athletic Director, introduced coaches and members of the Girls' Cross Country Team (who was recognized by the Tri-Valley League for the Team Sportsmanship Award), the Cheerleading Team (who were the TVL Champions), the Field Hockey Team (who also were the TVL Large Champions). He then announced all of all-stars that were named in the Tri-Valley League for the Fall Athletic Season. Everyone gathered on stage for a photo with the School Committee and Superintendent.

Athletic Report: Mr. John Longley, Director of Athletics, gave an update the on the fall athletic season. The Members received in their packets the transportation information as well as participant information by teams. The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Catania made a motion to move **New Business** up before **Policy**, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Reports: 1:1 Chromebook Initiative: Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, was here this evening to update on the Chromebook Initiative. Mr. Kidd began by thanking all those involved in making this vision a reality, including Dr. Thomson, Dr. Wyeth, Norwood School Committee, Norwood Capital Budget Committee, Norwood Finance Committee, NPS 1:1 Planning Committee, NPS Business Office, NPS Buildings and Grounds Department; NPS Technology Department, NHS and CMS Administrators, Secretaries, Librarians, Teachers. He explained the Chromebook deployment process and informed that he had sent a survey to the staff asking how the Chromebooks are working and what's happening in the classrooms. He shared some of the programs the classrooms are using as well as some of the comments he has received from staff.

Mr. Kidd then shared a short video of students and staff from the Coakley Middle School and the High School sharing how the Chromebooks have been a great addition to the classrooms and their lives.

He then updated regarding some of the challenges that staff have mentioned, including:

- Students who are using the technology being off task;
- Students forgetting/leaving Chromebook at home;
- Student not charging Chromebook overnight;
- Chrome OS issue.

Mr. Kidd also informed:

- There will be Technology professional development training on January 2nd;
- He will be reconvening the 1:1 Committee to review the programs so far;
- Deployment of Vision Chromebook monitoring software;
- arts cleaned and redistributed to the Elementary Schools; preparations for ACCESS and MCAS Testing;
- Student and staff survey; and
- Review of curriculum tools and assessment systems;
- Review of chrome console settings;
- Summer planning;
- Online textbook expansion investigation;
- Student helpdesk;
- Future refresh and 1:1 budget planning.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson wanted to commend Mr. Kidd and his team for doing such a great job rolling out this initiative, adding that this roll-out was smoother than he's ever seen done before.

He also informed that there is a student moving into the district in January that will result in the possible need to hire a new paraprofessional aide. He informed that the Principal of that school and the Special Ed Director are working to try to figure out the best plan.

Dr. Thomson also updated that at the next meeting he plans to bring forward the Strategic Plan that hopefully the School Committee will adopt. He will then work on an action plan with the Committee. Dr. Thomson then said that on Friday he will be attending his last training for the Planning for Success Strategic Planning in Weston.

He ended by saying that he attended the Madrigals Banquet and enjoyed a marvelous evening.

Wednesday, January 9th, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. there will be a representative talking about what elected officials are allow to do and not do when advocating for an override. It is open to the public. We are scheduled to have a meeting that night and we might need to push our meeting back so we can participate in that meeting, then continue our meeting at the Savage Center afterwards.

Ms. Smith said we may need to reschedule our business meeting that night as it may be starting very late by the time we move to the Savage.

The Chair said she would try to schedule another meeting after the 9th.

New Business: Lights at the Callahan: Mrs. Mullen appreciated Mrs. Howard's request and wanted this on this evening's agenda as she felt awkward that we could

not discuss/debate this item at last week's meeting when it was brought up during Public Forum. Mrs. Mullen said we do want to honor and respect our servicemen but we have received some feedback that we cannot do for just one and not all the others

Mr. Catania read a prepared statement about Norwood's servicemen and women that stated we could not rise one individual higher than any of the others but hold all our servicemen and women high in our thoughts.

The Chair said it is our job as School Committee Members to wonder if this is something that the schools want to take on. She said she reached out to our Veteran's Agent who said the town has a process to honor all our servicemen and women, She said she just wants to be sure that we are treating everyone in an equal manner.

Ms. Smith reminded that when a student is announced at graduation that is entering the military, it is announced and the public honors that student on that day by giving them a round of applause.

Mrs. Mullen said Mr. Mawn's brother was not even sure if Mr. Mawn would feel comfortable with the attention.

Mrs. Mullen made a motion to table this item for now, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Policy: None.

Budget: Shared Costs Presentation: Mr. Tony Mazzucco was here this evening to discuss shared costs between the town and the schools. He provided much information in the areas of shared costs. Some of the highlights were:

- Collective Bargaining;
- Salaries (which make up the bulk of the cost);
- Overtime;
- Worker's Comp –
 - *If an employee is out more than 5 days, we pay 70% of that employee's salary until they return to work plus related medical costs; and
 - *If an employee is too injured to return to work, disability retirement is an option, though we could retain some medical costs for life.
- Unemployment;
- Steps and COLA's;
- Health Insurance –

- *All employees working 20 hours or more (over a full year) are eligible for health insurance as mandated by state statute.
- *There are no pro-rating of health insurance for part time employees, mandated by state statute.

-Pension.

After the presentation ended, Ms. Stewart made a motion for a five-minute recess, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Public session resumed at 9:30 p.m.

Budget Balancing Update: The Chair updated that last week the Budget Balancing Committee had a public meeting here at the High School. The next meeting for the BBC is next Monday and the Committee will be starting to discuss what the number should be for the override.

The Committee received the FY19 Budget Projection as of October 31, 2018. Dr. Thomson reviewed some of the items that he would like to see be brought back for next year.

Curriculum and Instruction:

- \$300,000 yearly to replace, revise and improve curriculum and instruction;
- \$270,000 to expand Advanced Placement offerings and opportunities;
- \$78,000 in staffing to ensure all students complete a Mass Core Curriculum;

Success of All Learners:

- \$40,000 to implement assessment, progress monitoring, intervention and extension software to improve student performance;
- \$125,000 for programming and materials to address struggling and high needs students;

Recognizing Trends of Increasing Student needs:

- \$125,000 to increase ELL services to meet increased needs;
- \$65,000 for sub0separate programming for special education;
- \$185,000 to increase counselor staffing to meet increased need and increase therapeutic services;

Support and Supplies:

- \$200,000 increase in supply budget to meet actual needs and costs;
- \$80,000 to restore cuts affecting programming at CMS (Library, PE)
- \$60,000 for Central Registration and Technology Support.

The Chair said that at this point they BBC is looking at an override amount of \$8.7 million. The Chair and Ms. Smith will be participating in the discussion and asked for the Committee's thoughts.

Ms. Smith said she would be in favor of lowering the override request amount because if it does not pass it will be catastrophic. But she said this is not solving the problem by chipping away at the numbers.

The Chair said we now have done a 5-Year Plan and this money would help us in implementing a 5-Year plan.

Dr. Thomson said the items we are hoping to put back in are not extras. They are items that should be in the budget. He reminded that there are mandates that we have to have.

Ms. Stewart said she did not agree, at this point, in reducing the request.

Mr. Catania made a motion to support what we asked for the other night at the Budget Balancing Meeting, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Ellis updated on this year's budget to date.

There was some discussion as to the Committee having to prepare two budgets for next year and when the process should begin. The Chair said she would be collecting any questions they want her to bring to the next BBC meeting. The BBC will also be discussing the snow and ice issues and whether or not they want to add in road repair issues.

Old Business: Facilities Committee Update: The Chair said she does not have an update at this point.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Two Donations: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting two donations this evening:

- Bay State Textiles - \$568.50 (System-Wide); and
- Cleveland PTA - \$661.50 – Cleveland School (Spelling City Website).

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Catania reminded that this evening's meeting is being held at Norwood High School. He said he was amazed and impressed at these student scholars, athletes and fine arts participants.

Mrs. Mullen had none.

Ms. Stewart liked the way Mr. Mazzucco referred to the school and general side of government this evening. Ms. Stewart said her daughter come with her to the Budget Balancing presentation and it made her think that we should listen more to the students' voices. Ms. Stewart then shared that she attended the Madrigal

Banquet last Friday, and as always, they did a wonderful job. And finally, Ms. Stewart invited everyone to the High School this weekend to see the Coakley Middle School students' play the *The Phantom Toll Booth*.

Ms. Smith thanked everyone who was involved with the BBC presentation. She was very happy with the turn out and with everyone from the town who came out and asked great questions.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 10:20 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