

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 19, 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 December 5, 2018, which was seconded by Mr. Catania . 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:	\$1,548,579.08
	\$ 99,290.40
Accounts Payable Warrants:	\$ 18,650.24
	\$ 23,621.13
	\$ 3,948.03
	\$ 19,037.16
	\$ 202,527.86
Interdepartmental Invoices:	\$ 233.16
	\$ 432.08
Total Expenditure of:	\$1,916,319.14

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: None.

Reports: Norwood Public Schools Strategic Plan: Dr. Thomson and some of the Members of the Norwood Public Schools Strategic Planning Committee presented the *Norwood Public Schools District Plan Overview 2019-2024* to the School

Committee this evening. Dr. Thomson, Dr. Margo Fraczek and Mrs. Cindy Derrane reviewed the proposed newly created mission statement, vision and strategic objectives and initiatives.

The proposed mission statement is as follows:

The Norwood Public Schools is committed to providing each student with a comprehensive and innovative education in an inclusive, safe and supportive environment.

The proposed vision is as follows:

All Norwood Public School students will:

- be respectful, responsible, resilient, caring, and confident individuals;***
- be able to communicate effectively, think critically, and work both independently, collaboratively, and creatively.***
- be culturally competent global citizens who are civically active and embrace diversity in an increasingly interconnected world;***
- be successful lifelong learners who are future (college and career) ready.***

The proposed strategic objectives are as follows:

- 1. Investment and Resource Allocation;***
- 2. Facilities and Operations;***
- 3. Innovative Instruction and Personalized Learning;***
- 4. Programs and Pathways; and***
- 5. Safe and Supportive Schools.***

Dr. Thomson, Dr. Fraczek and Mrs. Derrane explained the strategic initiatives for each objective.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Thomson explained that he hopes the Committee will accept this Strategic Plan, adding that after the holidays he will meet with the Strategic Planning Committee to put together an action plan.

The Chair asked that we refer to the town side of government as the general side of government as it is all one town.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan with the aforementioned change, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: FY19 Budget Transfer: Ms. Ellis explained a request for a budget transfer:

Transfer From:		Transfer To:	
0969-19SCH IS/TB- Willett Ins. Sup.	\$ 514.70	0869-19 Sch IS/TB - Willett	\$ 514.70
1257-19 SCH Equip Rep. -Willett	\$1,000,00	0869-19 Sch IS/TB - Willett	\$1,000.00
Total To Be Transferred From:	\$1,514.70	Total To Be Transferred To:	\$1,514.70

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

Budget Balancing Committee Update: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that on December 17th there was another Budget Balancing Meeting. At this meeting, the Committee voted unanimously to send a request for an override to the Selectmen in the amount of \$7,000,000. She explained that the BBC will be referring to Town Council for clarification on the time line.

Today we received the first pass budget from Mr. McQuaid for FY20. At the first pass, the schools are looking at a requested \$4.1 million in requested cuts.

Also she reminded that we are all invited on January 9th at 6:30 p.m. to a meeting in the Police Community Room for a discussion on what elected officials can and cannot do with regards to advocating for an operational override.

Mr. Catania tabled a vote on the override until more information on the MOU is received, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

MOU Update: Dr. Thomson updated what the Memorandum of Understanding would look like: (An agreement between town government/schools and the town of Norwood):

- Five Year promise to avoid another override;
- A cap on the increase that is expected;
- Discussion on limiting positions that would require benefits;
- Restorative positions wouldn't really exceed 5 per year;
(mandated positions would be excluded);
- The plan would include an override stabilization account.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said that he has a request to add a .5 paraprofessional at the Willett, as 2 new students (possibly 3 students) will be starting at the preschool. He explained that this is a mandated piece for this child's plan. He added that if we do not add this new staff for this child, we could send him out of district, which will be more expensive. Dr. Thomson explained that keeping students in district is the best situation for the child.

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

Dr. Wyeth then shared with the Committee what professional development programs will be offered to our staff on the next full-day professional development day, which will be on January 2, 2019.

Policy: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: **MASC Conference Update:** Ms. Stewart updated the Committee Members on the MASC Conference that she attended on the Cape. She said it was a great conference and recommended that the other members try to attend this conference at some point, if possible. She added that she felt good knowing that we are not alone in the issues that we have as a school system.

She then gave a quick overview of the sessions she attended.

Out of State Student Exchange: Dr. Thomson explained that one student from Norwood High School and one student from Carlsbad High School would like to do a student exchange. The teacher from Carlsbad is from Wellesley, MA. Another fun fact is that the School Committee in Carlsbad has already approved this trip and the Superintendent is a Norwood High School graduate.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Ms. Smith.

Ms. Smith said she is a little uncomfortable approving this without knowing more about the insurance.

Mr. Catania made an amendment to the motion to add *pending approval of insurance*, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart.

At this point there was a five-minute break to look into the policies to clarify some questions the Members had.

Ms. Stewart read two policies (student travel policy and field trips and excursion policy) to clarify any confusion.

The Chair said there are two different issues going on here. We need to (1) accept another student from out of state who will be attending school in Norwood for a week, and (2) approve one of our students going out of state to attend school in Carlsbad, CA.

Ms. Smith had some concerns, as Mr. Blunt, the teacher who coordinated this trip, was not here to answer questions. She added that there is no way of vetting the host family.

The Members had an opportunity to share their concerns that there are policies that need to be adhered to. The required form was not filled out and the dates for the trip have not been shared with the Committee. The Members had concerns for the amount of time of school that will be missed.

At this point, Mr. Catania made a motion to table until the next meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

MSBA Update: Dr. Thomson was excited to update that last Wednesday, we were approved into the eligibility portion of MSBA's program for a new Middle School.

Dr. Thomson said the next steps would be:

- Initial compliance certification (different Boards sign on);
- School Building Committee formed by July 1st;
- Educational Profile Questionnaire completed by July 30th;
- On-line enrollment projections by July 30th
- Enrollment certified by October 28th
- Capital Planning Information
- Local vote for authorizing funding of feasibility study and
- Reach Feasibility Study Agreement with MSBA by January 27, 2020

Dr. Thomson informed that the spring of 2021 would be the earliest we can enter into the design portion. He added that there were 56 districts that applied for new schools. They took a look at 28 and have chosen 14.

The Chair said she felt very excited to attend the MSBA meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Three Donations:

- Donald B. Fleming Memorial Latin Scholarship - \$1,000 – High School;
- Lueders Environmental, Inc. - \$75.00 – System Wide Donation; and
- Music Drives Us - \$13,750 – Fine Arts Department.

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda:

Ms. Smith thanked everyone who has been part of the Budget Balancing Committee for the long hours they have been putting in to this process. She then

thanked the 30 + people who have e-mailed regarding their concerns. She then wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

Ms. Stewart had none.

Mrs. Mullen wished everyone a wonderful Christmas break.

Mr. Catania read a prepared statement about his thoughts about this wonderful town of Norwood and how important it is to reinvest in this town now. He wished everyone a happy holiday season.

The Chair wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there would be an Executive Session for Food Services Contract Negotiations.

Mr. Catania made a motion for Executive Session at 9:25 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

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