

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. 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 19, 2018, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2018, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the minutes from the Training Session on January 9, 2019 (at the Police and Fire Community Room), which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: Chairwoman Bodenhofer acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- A letter from a former student to the School Committee; and
- Chartwells Winter SY 18-19 Newsletter.

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

Payroll Warrants:	\$1,413,070.65
	98,749.55
	1,406,703.85
	72,011.84
Accounts Payable:	36,892.75
	23,732.42
	539.14
	336,762.06
	141,838.04
	80,421.98
	18,831.90
	498,681.87
	20,132.57

Interdepartmental Invoices:	233.16
	250.28
Total Expenditure of:	\$4,148,852.06

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Future Program Revisions at Coakley Middle School: Dr. Fraczek was here this evening to update the Committee on some revisions to the schedule at the Coakley. Dr. Fraczek updated that many of the staff at the Coakley felt that Mustang Block was not being used as effectively as it should be for various reasons. She informed that they have added RTI (English and Math), which is now called *Challenge Mustang Block* and *Regular Mustang Block*. Next year she said that Mustang Block will have electives. The teachers have given a variety of proposals for electives.

The Members had an opportunity for questions, comments and suggestions.

Reports: None.

Budget: Budget Balancing Committee Update: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that the BBC Meeting scheduled for this past Monday was postponed until January 28th.

First Pass of FY20 Budget: The Chair then said that this evening the Members received a copy of the *Overview of First Pass Budget, Town of Norwood, FY20 (as of 12/19/18)*. The Chair reviewed the first pass.

- Total Estimated Revenues: (\$193,967,330)
(Departmental Receipts, Utility Receipts, Tax Levy, State Aid, Other, Free Cash)
- \$193,967,330 – Less Utility Expenses, CPA Money Accounted for Separately, Shared Expenses, and Other Charges and Expenses = Remaining Funds to “Split”: \$79,584,702
- \$79,584,702 (Remaining Funds to Split **(55% to Schools - \$43,771,586)** and **(45% to General Government - \$35,813,116)**)

Schools: \$4,115,669 Less than the initial request of \$47,887,255.
General Government: \$1,599,067 less than the initial request of \$37,412,1830

Budget Reduction Process: The Committee began the discussion of how to make the cuts to reach the FY20 Budget amount of \$43,771,586.

Mrs. Mullen said this Committee should do everything possible to not touch the teachers and the classroom size.

Mr. Catania asked what percentage of the budget is staff. Ms. Ellis said approximately 80% of the budget is staff.

The Chair reminded that a good portion of the budget is State Mandates that cannot be cut. She said that should keep in mind what is the best for the students. The Chair said there is a Budget Sub Committee Meeting scheduled for Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. She that she and Ms. Smith will be meeting with Dr. Thomson and Ms. Ellis. She invited any other members to come if they want to.

The Chair updated that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday May 13th. The Budget books need to be available on May 1st which means we need to have our balanced budget sent to the Director of Finance by April 3rd.

Dr. Thomson said that whatever cuts we make, we must come to the realization we are not investing in this school system. Dr. Thomson said everything is on the table at this point. (Closing a building, increasing class sizes, etc.) Dr. Thomson then said he will postpone the Oldham Principal Search until after it is decided whether to close a school or not.

After some discussion, Chairwoman Bodenhofer said it would be a good time to increase our Circuit Breaker estimates by \$1,000,000.00.

Ms. Smith made a motion to increase the Circuit Breaker estimates by \$1,000,000.00, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

The Chair said we would table the budget for this evening, and added that this will be an on-going discussion.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Strategic Planning Update: Dr. Thomson said he met with the Strategic Planning Committee on January 8th. They are planning on how to accomplish the strategic goals. He hopes to have this round of work done by the end of February.

He reminded that we were successful in getting an Innovative Pathways Grant in the amount of \$10,000. This grant will be used for students to learn about careers in the Health Services Field.

Dr. Thomson then updated on the High School schedule. There was much discussion regarding class sizes and the classes that have college and AP students combined into the same classes.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Nine Donations:

- Bay State Textiles – November Rebate - \$433.75 System Wide;
- Fidelity Charitable - \$50.00 – Prescott School;
- Harvard Pilgrim - \$500.00 – Cleveland School;
- Harvard Pilgrim - \$500.00 – Balch School;
- Oldham PTO - \$392.76 – After School Stipend;
- Women’s Community Committee - \$500.00 – L.E.A.D.;
- Women’s Community Committee - \$500.00 – Oldham;
- Women’s Community Committee - \$500.00 – Callahan;
- Women’s Community Committee - \$500.00 – High School.

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

Personnel: Dr. Thomson updated on resignations and new hires.

School Committee Addenda:

Ms. Smith shared a message to the students, staff and families of the Norwood Public Schools, saying “You all matter”. She said there is a great deal of dread coming with the budget planning. She said we all understand that the decisions made here affect your day-to-day life. Ms. Smith said that she, for one, is very sorry that there will be a lot of anxiety in your lives. Ms. Smith said she takes her responsibility in this seat very seriously. Due to the budget issues and the mandates of items that cannot be cut, she will be making decisions that she feels are morally and ethically is wrong.

Ms. Stewart said she has been reflecting on all the other good work going on in the district. Whether the override passes or not, work will still be going on. Ms. Stewart updated on some events that are coming up. She said tomorrow night, Impact Norwood is hosting their 2nd in a three part series – 6:30 p.m. at the CMS. At 3:00 at the High School is the Impact Norwood monthly meeting. Next Tuesday (1/22/19) the School Start Time Committee will begin meeting again, adding that she there is new research findings that have recently come out that she will be sharing.

Mrs. Mullen sent her condolences to the Simms Family who lost their father, a former Norwood High School Student.

Mr. Catania said he did not have anything prepared for this evening, but shared that the letter the Members received this evening from a former Norwood High School student really touched him and he will speak more about his thoughts next week.

Chairwoman Bodenhofer reminded that it's that time of the year that people can pull those election papers to run for offices. Nominations are available at Town Hall now. Town Meeting Members only need 10 signatures to get on the ballot.

Dr. Thomson updated that the next meeting will be at the Oldham Elementary School and Dr. Thomson will be hosting a coffee at 6:00 p.m. before the School Committee Meeting for anyone that would like to stop by and chat.

Adjournment: Ms. Smith made a motion for adjournment at 9:20 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