

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, April 10, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Chairman, Ms. Teresa Stewart, Ms. Maura Smith, Mr. Dave Catania and Ms. Joan Giblin

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 March 13, 2019, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Giblin abstained).

Correspondence: None.

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

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| Payroll Warrants | \$1,384,536.63 \$98,253.67 \$1,413,778.13 \$96,701.17 |
| Accounts Payable | \$22,166.81 \$3,010.98 \$164,896.46 \$34,382.66 \$41,353.57 \$273,281.43 |
| Interdepartmental Invoices | \$1,134.56 \$6,529.51 |
| Total Expenditure of: | \$3,540,025.58 |

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances Student Government: The following students participated in the School Committee portion of Student Government Day.

- Adelene Jeneid – Superintendent of Schools (Gr. 11)
- Sherry Chen – School Committee (Gr. 10)
- Aristides Koktsidis – School Committee (Gr. 10)
- Dayra Maldonado – School Committee (Gr. 10)
- Zach Regan – School Committee (Gr. 11)
- Olivia Walsh – School Committee (Gr. 9)

The students had an opportunity to make a (mock) motion to endorse the June 3rd operational override vote. The students shared their thoughts regarding the override and how the vote will affect them.

The students voted in favor of endorsing the override vote unanimously.

The students then made a motion to install air conditioners at the elementary schools. There was some discussion regarding about how making the environment more comfortable will help the students learn in the classroom.

The motion carried.

The students then had some discussion regarding career pathways and what jobs might be beneficial for Norwood High School Students to learn about.

The students made a motion to adjourn the student portion of the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The students voted in favor unanimously.

Recreation Department (New Project): Mr. Farley of the Recreation Department was here this evening with Mr. Mike Lodge, President of Norwood Youth Girls' Lacrosse, to share an idea they had to create a wall for Norwood Athletes to use to practice their skills. Mr. Lodge said that the company Delbrook JKS, will cover the entire cost of this project in the amount of \$50,000-\$60,000. One of their subcontractors, Turner Brothers, will do the project.

Dr. Thomson said he wholeheartedly supports this project.

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

Reorganization: Election of Vice-Chairperson: Chairwoman Bodenhofer reminded that Mrs. Michelle Mullen was the former Vice-Chair and that a new Vice-Chair needed to be voted on this evening. Mr. Catania made a motion for Ms. Stewart to serve as Vice-Chair, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Stewart accepted the position.

The Chair then said that they needed to fill the other position that Mrs. Mullen had filled, representative to TEC.

Mr. Catania was interested and asked what the time commitment was.

Dr. Thomson said that it was one Friday morning breakfast meeting a month. (Dr. Thomson reviewed the upcoming meetings and said there are about 8 meetings a year).

Mr. Catania said that due to the fact that he has a full time job, those times would unfortunately not fit into his schedule.

These meeting times would not work for the other members as well.

Mr. Catania made a motion for Dr. Thomson to serve in this capacity, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Old Business: MOU for Override: The Chair gave a quick overview of the joint meeting held last Saturday morning (4-6-19) between the Board of Selectmen, The School Committee and the Finance Commission. The Members received an updated Memorandum of Agreement for the Override (An override pledge to the citizens of Norwood). Ms. Smith asked for some clarification on the Town budget yearly-capped amount of 3.5%. There was much discussion.

Ms. Smith made a motion for a five-minute recess to see if anyone has the original draft from Saturday's meeting for comparison, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Dr. Thomson said he firmly believes that if we can give our quality staff the tools they need, we can drop our special education numbers and move our ELL's faster.

Ms. Giblin asked "what an extraordinary or unforeseen event" is? She asked if 80 ELL students coming in would fall under that category.

Ms. Ellis said another variable that we never can project would be going out for bids. She added that in this case its transportation. She informed that transportation bid has come in 33% above the last contract.

The Chair explained that tonight she hoped to vote to sign this MOU, which is a pledge to the citizens of Norwood that we believe that this override amount is set to last for at least five years. The reason we expect this override to last at least five years is that we have made a set of assumptions. We are agreeing that we are going

to live within these constraints for the next five years. If we do not stay within these points, things will start falling apart.

After some discussion, Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the language in the Memorandum of Agreement that the Members received this evening, with exception to #2, as she would like the original #2 put back into this Memorandum, which was seconded by the Chair for discussion. The motion failed 2-3 (Ms. Smith and the Chair voted in favor).

Mr. Catania made a motion to agree on the language in the MOU as discussed on Saturday.

The Chair made an amendment with some wording adjustments on #2.

Add:

(Beginning in FY21, non-utility town budget (Gen. government and School operating budgets - but not shared expenses) increases will be capped At 3.5% per year subject to availability of funds.)

Ms. Giblin seconded the amendment to the motion.

The Committee voted in favor of the amendment 5-0.

Ms. Smith said she would not be voting for this as she will not be the one to go back begging for more money from stabilization going forward.

With regard to the motion on the table including the added wording, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Ms. Smith voted against).

Ms. Smith made a motion to make it a unanimous vote as it is important to be united (but she wanted it documented in the last motion that she was against), which was seconded by Mr. Catania The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: Surplus Property: Ms. Ellis informed that there are 1000 small metal racks (13" x26" x2.5"). She explained the metal racks are leftover form the previous method of lunch service and are no longer needed.

Mr. Catania made a motion to declare these metal racks surplus, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

FY20 Budget: The Chair informed that part of the discussion at the Joint Meeting last Saturday had to do with the \$509,290 in free cash that was earmarked for Forbes Mansion and would be needed for the operating budget if the override fails. Town Meeting would appropriate that money to the School's budget. If we get the \$4.7 million from the override, we will not need that money. The suggestion is that we would put that money into the School Committee Reserve Fund and at fall Town Meeting we can decide how to reallocate that money. The Chair updated that with

the additional \$509,290, the new bottom line number is \$49,699,330.00, which is \$4.7 million above the original budget. The Chair then reminded that when we first started the budget process, we voted to add a new PACS teacher for those students aging up to the High School next year (\$65,000.00). She said that the intent was to include this in both budgets (override and non-override). She updated that the language was a little bit ambiguous and we need to clarify this in a vote.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the override budget in the amount of \$49,699.330.00, adding that this includes Student Activities, which have been added back into the budget, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Ellis reviewed the FY20 Projection for Circuit Breaker Based upon the Extraordinary Relief Application. Ms. Ellis informed that we did not qualify for extraordinary relief, which is a template to give us an idea of what is happening. The foundation went up a little bit. She said that if everything stays the same and we receive 72%, we would receive \$2.0 million (\$155,000 less than this year). If we receive 70%, we would receive \$1.945 million (\$211,000 less than this year).

Ms. Ellis then informed that the Members received the Proposed Budget FY20 printout in the new Munis System.

Dr. Thomson said that the information from the old system is not compatible with the new system and there is still some more work to do to get all the information in the correct order. There was some discussion amongst the Members that this format probably should not be used for Town Meeting this year, as it is very confusing due to the fact that our *P Codes* do not transfer to the new system and it would take all night at Town Meeting to explain to everyone what's going on. Dr. Thomson said we might need to go back to old reports and hand type the information in.

Ms. Ellis updated on the transportation bidding. She said there were two bidders. Connolly was one of the bidders and the other was First Student. Ms. Ellis shared that Connolly came in 4% lower than First Students. She shared the details of the bids.

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| 1 st Year: | \$1,135,740.00 |
| 2 nd Year: | \$1,156,940.00 |
| 3 rd Year: | <u>\$1,181,020.00</u> |
| Total (3 years) | \$3,473,700.00 |

Ms. Ellis said that she has chosen Connolly and she has a letter that will be going out. The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson informed that he and Dr. Wyeth met the Student Government kids this morning at Town Hall for a

meeting and then they hopped onto a bus for a ride over to the Middle School for a meeting with Dr. Frasca. They had a nice lunch at Town Hall with all the other Student Government students. Before this evening's School Committee Meeting, the students met with Dr. Thomson and Ms. Bodenhofer for a pizza dinner. The students then got to participate in this evening's School Committee Meeting. Dr. Thomson said they did a great job.

He asked the Members to let him or Ms. Reardon know if they will be able to attend the Prescott recognition at the State House on Friday, June 7th. He needs to know by the end of this week who will be coming.

He informed that we need to begin negotiations with Unit 50. The Chair asked for volunteers to serve on this Committee. Dr. Thomson said meetings will be on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons around 3:30 or so. The Chair asked for volunteers to serve. The members had conflicts with the times. Dr. Thomson said he will try to see if they can meet a little later in the afternoons.

Dr. Thomson said he has a recommendation for Director of Student Services, and that would be Laurie Cimeno. She is currently the Director of Student Services in Wellesley. Dr. Thomson thanked the screening Committee for coming back with two very strong candidates.

Dr. Wyeth thanked the people that served on this Committee, adding that they did a great job and two excellent finalists.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve Dr. Thomson's recommendation for Director of Student Services, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee vote in favor 4-1 (Ms. Smith opposed as she did not have a chance to read her resume and knows nothing about her).

The Chair informed that the next meeting (April 24th) will be moved to Norwood High School and recommended beginning at 6:30 p.m. so the Public Budget Hearing can begin at 7:00.

She also suggested posting a meeting before Town Meeting in the High School Library on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. just in case there needs to be anymore discussion on the MOU for the override between Boards.

Policy: Field Trip Policy & Pay to Play:

Pay to Play: The Members received binders with all the information Ms. Stewart has put together with regard to the Pay to Play scenario if the override on June 3rd does not pass. Ms. Stewart has spoken with our Attorney, Melissa Murry; Dorothy Presser at MASC; Dr. Thomson; Dr. Galligan; John Longley; Cathy Connor-Moen; Travis Farley at the Recreation Center; and a colleague of hers from another town who founded an Educational Foundation. Everyone is in agreement that this needs

to be done equitably and strategically. No other public school district (that anyone is aware of) has a fully funded pay-to-play for their co-curricular athletics, fine arts, and activities.

The binder was broken down into the following sections:

- 1) Pay to Play Discussion: School Committee Meeting of 4/10/19;
- 2) Pay to Play Questions;
- 3) Revolving Funds for School Department Programs;
- 4) 504 Disabilities;
- 5) Student Club Guidelines;
- 6) The Costs of the Pay-to-Play Model in High School Athletics;
- 7) Users Fees by Town: Athletics/Transportation;
- 8) Booster Club By-Laws;
- 9) NPS Fine Arts Department Est. Per Pupil Cost;
- 10) Athletics Breakdown by Sport & Level by Season;
- 11) Follow-up to 4/8/2019 Conference Call with Attorney.

The Chair asked that the list of what all the sports and activities will cost be added to the website.

Mr. Catania said he does not see how this policy can be put together and money raised in time. He said he feels that energy would be better spent on advocating for our schools and the override.

Ms. Stewart feels there is no moving forward without a policy.

Dr. Thomson and the Chair agreed that they would rather work on this policy now so that if the override does not pass, the fall athletics, arts and activities have a chance to happen.

The Chair and Ms. Stewart will get together to try to put together some parameters.

New Business: Out of State Field Trip Request: Canobie Lake Park, Salem, NY (Elementary Honor Ensembles) Friday, May 24, 2019. Dr. Thomson recommended approving this request.

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

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Seven (7) Donations:

- Bay State Textiles – February Rebate - \$438.75 – System Wide;
- Balch PTO After School Stipends - \$2,809.84;
- Norwood Hospital Centennial Scholarship - \$1,000.00 – High School;
- Norwood Hospital – 20 Library Books – Balch School;

- Women's Community Committee - \$500.00 Gift Card – Balch School;
- Coakley Middle School PTO - \$1,895.00 – Brain Pop Subscription;
- Norwood Lodge of Elks 1124 - \$1,500.00 - Padcaster – Middle School

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

Personnel: Dr. Thomson updated that there are two resignations related to the budget cuts. He informed that Christina Beachnau, a teacher at the Cleveland Elementary School and Danisha Crowley, a paraprofessional at the Willett will be resigning.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith took a moment to thank Mrs. Mullen for her hard work and dedication over the past few years as she served on the School Committee. She then welcomed Joan Giblin to the Committee as the newest member.

Ms. Stewart also thanked Mrs. Mullen for her dedication. Ms. Stewart shared a few of Mrs. Mullen's core values that she always referred to. Ms. Stewart then talked about how important it is to support our children and shared some scary statistics about young children who think about suicide nationally, statewide and in Norwood. Ms. Stewart said that she is also advocating for our Police, Fire, Library, DPW, etc. But, she added, that if we do not provide the support our students desperately need, she shudders to think of what will happen. She said a "YES" vote on June 3rd is essential.

Ms. Giblin thanked everyone who welcomed her to this Committee. She invited to sit down and meet with her to talk. She said one thing she plans on doing is using data to drive decisions and if she doesn't have answers to questions people may have, she will be able to find the answers.

Mr. Catania expressed his thanks to Mrs. Mullen for her dedication and service to this Committee. He added that Mrs. Mullen's talent and experience will be missed. He then welcomed Ms. Giblin to the Committee.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Bodenhofer informed that there was no Executive Session this evening.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 10:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

