

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Norwood High School Auditorium
Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Chairman, Ms. Teresa Stewart, Ms. Maura Smith (arrived shortly after the meeting started), 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: Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2019, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: None.

Public Forum: (Public Hearing on FY20 - scheduled for 7:00 p.m.)

Announcements: Dr. Thomson will share during *Superintendents Report*.

Appearances: Dr. Galligan, Mr. Longley and Mrs. Moen: Norwood High School Athletics and Arts: Mr. John Longley, Director of Athletics, recognized the students and coaches from the winter sports teams for a very successful season.

Gymnastics – The team qualified for the South Sectional Tournament, Finishing 5th. Mr. Longley announced the individual accomplishments of some of the members of the team.

Girls' Basketball – Mr. Longley shared that this team finished as Tri-Valley League (Large) Champions and Division II Quarter finalists.

Boys Hockey – This team ended up as Division II finalists and their coach was Named Coach of the year.

Mr. Longley announced the All-Stars and Honorable Mentions for all the winter sports teams.

Mrs. Moen shared the many accomplishments from Fine Arts.

Visual Arts Received:	7 Gold; 7 Honorable Mentions; 3 Silver Keys; 3 Gold Keys
Drama:	Hosted the NTG Festive and won many awards
MICCA -	Choral – Gold medals; Instrumentals – Silver medal; CMS – Medals recipients; 5 th Grade Honor Band: Medal recipients

Mr. Longley informed that he provided the Committee with a document reviewing the Winter Sports Season (offerings, transportation costs, participation numbers, etc.).

Budget: Override Vote: The Chair updated that the Finance Commission met last week and signed the Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the override that the Board of Selectmen and School Committee had previously signed.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said that Dr. Wyeth has been working hard trying to find grants. He thanked Dr. Thomson for his hard work. He said we have currently been awarded \$180,876 in grants with one still pending

Dr. Thomson continued that students from the Coakley Middle School National History Day Club did very well this year, with seven student entries advancing to the state competition in Winchester on April 6th. Dr. Thomson shared the accomplishments of the students:

- Jack Brady, John Cavanaugh, Cam Badger, Dan Hatchey and Quinn Burgess represented the Coakley Middle School with distinction with their group documentary on the Northwest Indian War;
- Katie Mills, Maddie O’Rourke, Morgan Roach and Ally Inzodda won a prize for the best project about the history of Salem;
- Patrick Brady, Michael Flynn and Chris Martin earned an honorable mention for their group documentary on the Chernobyl disaster of 1986;
- Joey DeVingo won an honorable mention for his individual documentary On Freddie Mercury;
- Keira O’Donneell won first place in the State of Massachusetts for her paper on the invention of antibiotics;
- Jackson Kiley, Niko Faller, Jacob Zhang, Ryan Lee and Ben Guarin won second place in the State of Massachusetts for their group exhibit on the Cocoanut Grove fire.
- Abi Lee and Adurey Haberin won first place in the State of Massachusetts for their group exhibit on the Lowell Mill Girls. They also won a prize

from the Sturbridge Village Museum for best project dealing with Early American History.

The Chair informed that the Members have received in their packets the pink and yellow sheets that will be going out to Town Meeting Members.

She then reviewed the summer School Committee Meeting dates that work and asked the members to let her know if they have any problems with these dates.

Chairman Bodenhofer informed that since the other two Town Boards have signed off on the M.O.U. so we can cancel the meeting we have tentatively scheduled for tomorrow night before Town Meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of One Donation: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting one (1) Donation:

-Bay State Federal Savings Annual Scholarship - \$500.00 – High School

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept, which was seconded by Ms. Giblin. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

7:00 P.M. - FY20 Public Budget Hearing: FY20 Budget Presentation: Chairwoman Bodenhofer began by explaining that Dr. Thomson will review the non-override budget. Those from the public will have an opportunity for questions and comments following the presentation.

Dr. Thomson began by sharing the new Mission Statement for the Norwood Public Schools:

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

He then reviewed the Year's Highlights:

- New strategic Plan – Action Plan finalized early in May;
- High School named 1 of 11 Innovation Pathways Schools by Gov. Baker-Career Pathways;
- Successful Chromebook 1:1 initiative;
- Little Mustang Preschool Academy – first full year;
- “Foundations”, a new early literacy program implemented in K (gr. 1 and 2 next year);
- SEL Task Force – improving student mental health as well as school's culture and climate;
- Extended Day expanded to Elementary School;
- Awarded \$180,876 in grants beyond our yearly entitlements grants (Title 1,2,3 and 4), many for STEM;

-Prescott named "School of Distinction".

Dr. Thomson then shared *On-going Challenges, Areas of Improvement and Budget Drivers*. Dr. Thomson also explained why the School Committee had to come up with two budgets this year.

- An Override Budget; and
- A Non-Override Budget.

Dr. Thomson said should the override not pass, (scheduled for June 3rd),

- The FY20 Budget will be less than what we were allocated for in FY19 – Will will not even be level funded.
- This budget will not maintain level services;
- This budget will result in cuts to Programs, Activities, Facilities and Staff;
- These reductions are counter to our beliefs and our commitment to improve education for our students.

Dr. Thomson shared how the School Committee met the Budget number and what cuts needed to be made.

Dr. Thomson then shared the Override Budget (Preferred Budget) and reviewed the personnel and programs/enhancements that will be restored/added.

In closing, Dr. Thomson explained that:

- Five-Year Projections – The Structural deficit, if not addressed, will continue to plague the district and town as a whole;
- Next year the original projection of the deficit for the school district is \$650,000. With the School Committee having to use almost all of our Circuit Beaker, that Deficit could easily require \$1 million of additional cuts in FY21;
- \$1 million equates to about 16-18 teaching positions.

Chairman Bodenhofer welcomed questions and comments from the public at this point.

Adjourn Public Budget Hearing: The Public Budget Hearing portion of the meeting concluded at 9:10 p.m.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor for a quick recess.

Budget: (Cont'd) The Chair informed that at this point, all the pieces are in place for the override and she suggested taking a formal vote regarding the override.

Ms. Smith made a motion to endorse the override, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor.

Old Business: None.

Policy: None.

New Business: None.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Stewart invited the community to some of the events going on in town this weekend. She said that there are lots of opportunity to get out and support our community.

Ms. Stewart thanked everyone who came out tonight for the Public Budget Hearing. She added that there were many great questions asked. Ms. Stewart thanked everyone on the School Committee for their hard work during this budget process.

Ms. Smith thanked everyone who came out tonight. She agreed that there were many great questions.

Ms. Giblin agreed that this was a good presentation this evening. She also thanked everyone for the thought-provoking questions. She also felt there was lots of transparency.

Mr. Catania shared how impressive it was to see the student/athletes that were here this evening.

The Chair acknowledged that this Committee is asking a lot from the community. She said that no one wants taxes to increase, but without the override, there will be a lot of damage done that will be hard to come back from.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Ms. Stewart made a motion for adjournment at 9:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee