

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
C. J. Prescott Elementary School  
Wednesday, May 22, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, May 22, 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:** Mr. Catani made a motion to approve the minutes of May 8, 2019, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. 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:	\$1,394,112.08
	\$ 99,737.07
Accounts Payable Warrants:	\$ 25,591.53
	\$ 41,103.41
	\$ 758,125.48
	\$ 10,954.62
	\$ 118,920.12
	\$ 90,417.62
Total Expenditures:	\$2,538,961.93

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** Dr. Thomson said he would save his comments for the Superintendent's Report.

**Appearances:** Welcome to Prescott Elementary School: Mr. Bryan Riley, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, welcomed everyone to the Prescott this evening for the *Traveling School Committee* evening.

Mr. Riley introduced three 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to talk about the recent Wax Museum event at the Prescott.

Mr. Riley updated the Committee about many of the exciting, fun, and educational programs going on at the Prescott, including:

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

The Committee agreed to move *Policy* up in the agenda as Mr. Kidd is here and needs to get to another commitment.

**Policy: Social Media Policy (IJNDD):** Ms. Stewart reviewed the Social Networking Policy of the Norwood Schools and explained that this policy has not been updated since 12/17/14. Ms. Stewart, with the help of Mr. Kidd, Director of Technology, has made some updates to this policy.

Mr. Kidd said that there was some discussion as to tightening up the policy vs. delving much deeper and creating a new Communication Policy for the Norwood Public Schools. He suggested sending out a survey asking staff how they are communicating with parents (i.e., Blackboard Connect, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) He said there needs to be some legal conversations as well, as some correspondence needs to be archived.

Dr. Thomson said technology is moving faster than we can update policies. We need to define what the parameters are and what's acceptable.

Ms. Stewart said that the point of this update is to address the immediate need to set the guidelines for the student/staff 1:1 communication and there is definitely more work to be done on this policy.

NFACT Donation Presentation: Mr. Bower, President of NFACT, was here this evening to present the Committee with a check in the amount of \$1,814.50 from the *Seat Dedication Fundraiser*, which has been going on for five year. The check being presented this evening represents the purchase of 19 new plaques that were purchased for seats in the auditorium at Norwood High School.

The Members had an opportunity to thank Mr. Bower and the NFACT group.

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Ms. Giblin. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

2019-2020 Elementary School Handbook: Mr. Riley was here this evening representing the Elementary School Principals in presenting the 2019-2020 Elementary School Handbook.

Ms. Smith had concerns that all the schools are not implementing discipline and consequences equally across the schools. The Chair said that she would like to see the blue pages and changes.

The Chair said that we should table this item until the second meeting in June as there is still a little work to be done.

**Budget: FY19 Budget Transfers:**

<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>		<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	
0965-19 SCH IS/TB- PRESC. INST. SUPP.	\$3,506.65	0874-19 SCH IS/TB – Presc. Txtbk	\$3,506.65
Total to be transferred from:	\$3,506.65	Total to be transferred to:	\$3,506.65

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

<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>		<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	
0870-19 SCH IS/TB- Balch Txtbks	\$12,000.00	1259-19 SCH Equip Rep – Balch	\$12,000.00
Total to be transferred from:	\$12,000.00	Total to be transferred to:	\$12,000.00

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

<u>TRANSFER FROM:</u>		<u>TRANSFER TO:</u>	
0653-19 SCH IS – Conf/other	\$900.00	0931-19 SCH IS/TB – CMS Adm. Ins. Sup.	\$900.00
Total to be transferred from:	\$900.00	Total to be transferred to:	\$900.00

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

FY19 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis updated with regard to the FY19 Budget Report, which the Members received in their packets.

**Old Business: School Building Committee Member Election:** The Chair informed that the next step is to create a Committee and we be needing one School Committee Member to serve on this Committee.

We are in the eligibility period right now (for 6 months) but then after that we hope that we will be moving forward into the feasibility study. Mr. Catania and Ms. Stewart were both interested in serving. Mr. Catania cannot serve if the meetings are during the day, as it would conflict with his full-time job.

Mr. Catania asked Dr. Thomson how long this process takes. Dr. Thomson said it is an 8-year process from submitting the application until the building is built and ready to open.

The Chair said this fall we would begin the feasibility study and schematic design.

Long Term Agenda: The Chair reviewed the Long Term Agenda for the rest of the school year. The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns regarding agenda items if the override fails.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Dr. Thomson gave a shout-out to Dr. Wyeth, as he recently was a panelist on a discussion about Project Based Learning, which was hosted and coordinated by WGBH. Dr. Thomson said there were 104 panelists.

Dr. Wyeth gave an overview of the discussion. He said he has asked our teachers to let him know about any project-based learning going on in our schools and he has received some great feedback.

Dr. Thomson said he wanted to talk about what happens on June 4<sup>th</sup> after the override. The teachers have been notified who may lose their jobs if the override does not pass.

- We will need to empty classrooms to make room for the Kindergartners.
- We are planning K teacher assignments of who is going to what schools
- Packing will begin shortly after the vote
- The middle school will have to reassign teams for grade 8;
- Mustang block will need to be redone;
- At the High School, we have been talking about pay to play but we do not know how many sports, fine arts and activities we will have;
- We will need to redo the High School schedule, as there will be classes that will not be able to be held.
- We are in the process of putting together two different postings for jobs, those positions that we will need if the vote passes and the posting that we will need if the vote does not pass.

Dr. Thomson said that is the state of the schools at this point, adding that they are trying to execute multiple plans at this point.

Dr. Thomson said it has been a tremendous amount of work and he thanked the staff for being patient.

**Policy:** Chairwoman Bodenhofer said Ms. Stewart has been doing the policy work on her own and asked if there were any volunteers to help her. Ms. Giblin volunteered to serve on the policy subcommittee with Ms. Stewart.

**New Business:** Food Service Union 2018-2021 Contract Vote: Chairwoman Bodenhofer said that, in negotiating this contract, we had to take into consideration The new minimum wage laws. The Members of this Union have agreed to a 2.5% increase for the current school year and 2.5% again for the next two years.

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

**Consent Agenda: Acceptance of Five (5) Donations:**

- Pearson Education - \$325.00 – System Wide;
- HCHP - \$250.00 – Willett School
- Big Y Foods, Inc. - \$3500.00 – Coakley Middle School;
- Lowe’s Dedham - \$250.00 – Prescott School; and
- CJ Prescott PTO - \$727.32 – Prescott School

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

**Personnel:** Dr. Thomson updated regarding staff retirements and resignations.

Mr. Richard Simon, a mathematics teacher at the High School, will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Ms. Ann Marie Ellis, Director of Business and Finance, will be resigning June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Lauren Morton, a part-time teacher at the Balch, will be resigning on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**School Committee Addenda:**

Ms. Giblin shared what a public education means to her and her family.

Ms. Stewart said she was here at the Prescott a couple of weeks ago reading to the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. She thanked them for the lovely notes of thanks she received. She read some of the thank-you’s during her addenda. Ms. Stewart read a prepared statement regarding what she values. She said these are the values she will be taking to the polls with her on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ms. Smith said she has been writing down and re-writing a last statement to talk about before the override. She said this is the last meeting before the override vote and she really has said everything that she needed to say about this vote. She thanked the staff, administrators and families for their hard work and dedication. It has taken a lot of hands to turn this ship in a different direction.

Mr. Catania asked everyone to talk about these issues. He suggested we all talk to friends, family and strangers about what makes Norwood the great town it is. He asked everyone to please vote on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Chair congratulated the seniors who are done with school and are excited for graduation. She wished the seniors well and said she has a special place in her heart for this class as her daughter is graduating this year. She reminded everyone of his or her civic duty to vote on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Mr. Catania made a motion for Executive Session at 9:15 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 10:00 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