

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, November 9, 2011**

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. Paul Samargedlis, Chairman, Mr. Richard W. Kief, Ms. Courtney A. Rau, Mr. John Badger and Mr. James Gormley and Mr. William J. Plasko, Jr. (arrived at 7:55 p.m.) and Mrs. Eleanor Travers (arrived at 8:20 p.m.)

Administrators Present: Mr. James Hayden, 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. Rau made a motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2011, which was seconded by Mr. Kief. The Committee voted in favor 5 - 0.

Correspondence: Chairman Samargedlis acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Letter from the Norwood Teachers' Association letter; and
- An announcement from the Norwood Football Parent Group announcing the upcoming Trivia Night on November 18th at the Elks.

Warrants: Chairman Samargedlis informed that there were warrants to be signed.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Student Representatives: Shrinal Patel, a Senior and Kharm Joseph, a Junior updated the School Committee with regard to Academics, Activities, Arts and Athletics.

Update of 2010-2012 High School and Middle School Improvement Plans: Mr. Usevich and Mr. Ehrenworth appeared this evening to update the Members with regard to their schools.

Mr. Usevich updated that he and his staff continue to work on the 51 recommendations towards accreditation. He also said that next week there will be an Open House for 8th Graders and their parents. There will be High School students there who will be able to share their experiences with regard to academics, arts, activities and athletics. Mr. Usevich said that there have been many request granted from reunion groups for tours of the new building. He then informed that there are still building issues to be worked out, including access control, heat and phone problems but that each day

things are getting better. Mr. Usevich said progress is still being made with new offerings, including on-line programs and school to career programs. His vision on the hill is to have the new building be a vibrant educational facility from 7:45 a.m. until the evening hours for students and residents. With regard to MCAS scores, 92% of all students were proficient and advanced in ELA; 82% were proficient and advanced in Mathematics; and 68% were proficient and advanced in Science and Technology. All these categories were up from last year.

Mr. Usevich ended by thanking his very dedicated School Council and Staff for all they do.

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Rau made a motion to go out of order on the agenda and move *New Business: Out-of-State Field Trips* up, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0.

New Business: Approval of Two Out-Of-State Field Trip Requests: Mr. Usevich requested the School Committee's approval for two out-of-state field Trips:

- (1) Accounting III Students to visit New York City for a trip to the New York Stock Exchange; and
- (2) Spanish Students to visit Barcelona, Granada & Madrid, Spain.

The Members had an opportunity for questions.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the trip to New York City, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6 – 0.

Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the trip to Spain, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6 – 0.

At this point, the Chairman requested a five-minute recess.

At 8:14 p.m., the School Committee resumed the Open Meeting.

Appearances: Middle School Improvement Plan: Mr. Matt Ehrenworth updated the Members with regard to the Coakley Middle School. He explained the objectives and status of the four main goals (1) Improving MCAS Scores in Mathematics; (2) Improving MCAS Scores in ELA; (3) Improving MCAS Scores in Science/Technology; (3) and to foster a collaborative, student centered culture at the CMS which is based on the Middle School Model.

Mr. Badger made a motion to approve the High School and Middle School Improvement Plans, which was seconded by Mr. Kief. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 - 0.

Special Education Update: Mrs. Joyce Onischewski was here this evening to give an update with regard to Special Education. She reviewed the Inclusion Programs as well as the Specialized Programs. (Primary Skills, Pragmatic Learning Classrooms (PLC); Language Based Learning Disabilities (LBLD); Practical Application of Curriculum and Skills (PACS); Therapeutic Academic Supportive Class (TASC); and the LEAD Program. Mrs. Onischewski then reviewed the Out-of-District information as of 11/2/11:

Full Year Placements: 50	\$3,431,104.57
P-Code 1440	\$2,356,481.00
TEC Credit	\$ 56,000.00
Circuit Breaker (69%)	\$ 796,590.00
Prepaid Tuitions	\$ 230,000.00
Circuit Breaker FY12 Balance:	\$ 161,327.00

Ms. Rau made a motion to file, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Reports: Nurse Supervisor Update: Mr. Hayden said since the nurses were here last week, he has met with them and begun impact bargaining. He will update the Members of that during Executive Session.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Chairman Samargedlis had one item for late agenda and then passed around a hand-out with regard to District Governance Support Project. He said that he will invite a representative in to discuss this pilot program.

Policy: Mr. Badger said that a policy meeting is being scheduled to discuss the rental issues with regard to the new High School.

Budget: Ms. Ellis reviewed the memorandum to the Finance Commission and Mr. Robert Thornton, Town Clerk regarding the FY12 Personnel Spreadsheet dated October 14, 2011. The Members received the FY12 Monthly Budget Report of October 31, 2011 in their packets.

Old Business: Superintendent's Evaluation: Mr. Gormley presented the composite report of the Superintendent's Evaluation. He shared the significant achievements acknowledged by the Members:

- Articulation of a vision of high expectations for students and staff;
- Use of MCAS data to drive multi-level professional development;
- Visibility in the schools and greater community;
- Creation of a new Management Team of the Assistant Superintendent, Business Manager, Middle School and Elementary School Principal;
- Creation and implementation of a system-wide Anti-Bullying Task Force;
- Setting an example of data driven decision-making;
- Provision of monthly budget updates to the School Committee; and

-Projection of the image of an ethical, sensitive and competent professional.

The areas for growth are:

- Refine the Mission and Vision Statements for the school system using input from all stakeholders;
- Create a 5-year Strategic Plan for the district;
- Create partnerships with community business leaders to seek new revenue sources;
- Meet all budget timelines;
- Foster a close relationship with the Town side of government;
- Inform the community and Town Meeting members of long-term educational plans in order to gain wide spread support for initiatives; and
- Encourage Department Head leadership and Principal site-based management.

New Business: Approval of 2011-2012 Superintendent's Goals: Mr. Hayden said he is here to carry out the wishes of the School Committee and to lead the School System in the right direction. He felt his goals should be combination with the School Committee's wishes. He added that he would like to schedule a retreat to create the goals together.

Acceptance of Three Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Elizabeth Tomm, of East Walpole of \$500 for the new Norwood High School Library.

Ms. Rau made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Kief. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7-0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from the Norwood Masons of \$200 for the PACS Life Skills Classroom at the High School.

Ms. Rau made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7- 0.

Mr. Hayden recommended accepting a donation from Mrs. Joan Briggs of 150 books, two games and six sets of flashcards to the Norwood Schools.

Ms. Rau made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Kief. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

At this point in the evening, Mr. Plasko left the meeting.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Kief said he attended the *Gala on the Hill* last week, adding that it was a fantastic evening. He then requested that the Superintendent contact the General Manager to request that trash barrels be put on Nichols Street and Peabody Road. He would like the same barrels that are now located in South Norwood.

Mrs. Travers announced that there will be an Open House at Blue Hills next Thursday evening, November 17th from 6-8 p.m.

Mr. Badger had none.

Mr. Gormley also enjoyed the *Gala on the Hill* last week.

Ms. Rau had none.

Chairman Samargedlis attended the dedication ceremony for Kevin Morrison last Saturday at half-time of the football game. He said it was a wonderful dedication for an amazing kid.

Executive Session: Ms. Rau made a motion at 9:30 p.m. for Executive Session for contract negotiations, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0.

Adjournment: Ms. Rau made a motion for adjournment at 10:20 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Travers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee