TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, March 7, 2012. 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, Mr. James Gormley and Mrs. Eleanor Travers.

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 February 15, 2012 , which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted in favor 5-0-1 (Mr. Badger abstained).

Correspondence: Chairman Samargedlis acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- E-mail Correspondence from SEPAC which the Chairman will forward to the other Members.

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

Public Forum: Mrs. Travers made a motion to move Public Forum until after Budget Discussion this evening, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0.

Announcements: Mr. Hayden was pleased to announce that we are sending a few of our 8th Grade Middle School Students on to the upcoming State Wide History Competition after they competed and won first place awards in the Regional Competition.

Coakley Middle School Principal, Matt Ehrenworth congratulated Rachel Smith, Joe Sweeney, Julia Ragusa, Ariana Pitaro and Madhulika Badri on their terrific projects and said they would be competing at the state level on March 31st with hopes of going on to the national competition in June.

Appearances: The Student Representatives scheduled for this evening have been postponed due to the lengthy budget discussion.

Reports: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: None.

Policy: Mr. Badger explained that the Nurses, Athletic Director and the Athletic Trainer have all had an opportunity to review the newest draft of the Concussion Policy. It is currently in the Policy Sub Committee's hands and they will forward it on to the Members.

Budget: Chairman Samargedlis informed that there was a Budget Sub Committee Meeting last Saturday for the Committee to work to brainstorm ways to reduce the FY13 Budget by $2.2 million. Some of the items that were discussed were and shared as "informational" were:

Athletics: It was discussed that if Athletics were totally supported by fees, the cost for each athlete would be $637.00

Fine Arts: It was discussed that if Fine Arts were totally supported by fees, the cost for each participant would be $366.00

Revolving Funds: Mr. Hayden reviewed and explained the Revolving Funds, saying they are constantly changing.

School Bus Transportation: Mr. Hayden reviewed how our school bus costs area determined. He also updated that our school bus costs are currently $280 per day per bus. He reminded that anyone over two miles from school in grades Kindergarten through Grade 6 received transportation. It was discussed that combining a couple of routes and eliminating buses for students in grades 7 – 12 could save over $300,000. He added that two of the elementary schools would have to have a start time of 8:00 a.m. to be able to accomplish this. This would impact 784 students who would have to come up with an alternative way of getting to school.

Mr. Hayden said he does not recommend this suggestion.

Substitutes: Mr. Hayden reviewed the substitutes and explained that all five elementary schools have a permanent building sub assigned to schools four days a week. Mr. Hayden also explained the substitutes' pay increase after 90 days of work.
He then explained the duties of the building substitutes and explained their value to the schools.

Chairman Samargedlis suggested calling these employees by another name other than "substitutes", possibly building professionals.

Full Day Kindergarten: Mr. Hayden reviewed that if full-day Kindergarten was fully supported by fees, free half-day Kindergarten would have to be offered to those who did not want to pay for full-day Kindergarten. Mr. Hayden then explained the pros and cons for this option.

Private School Enrollment (as of 1/1/12): Mr. Hayden shared the private school enrollments with the Members.

Utilities: Mr. Hayden informed that they have projected a possible savings in the electrical account based upon the unusual winter we have had. He estimates a savings of approximately $94,000.

Mrs. Travers made a motion to reduce the remaining reductions by $94,000, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. After some discussion, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 6 – 0.

With regard to the gas account, Mr. Hayden said there is a projected savings of approximately $19,000 from the budgeted amount of $90,000.

After some discussion, Mrs. Travers made a motion to reduce the remaining reductions by $19,000, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted in favor 4 – 2 (Mrs. Travers and Ms. Rau opposed).

School Committee Expenses: Mrs. Travers made a motion to eliminate conferences for the School Committee for a savings of $1500.00 which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6 -0.

Mr. Kief made a motion to cut the remaining $500,000 +, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted against this motion 1 – 5 (Mr. Kief voted in favor).

Mr. Badger made a motion to cut extracurricular activities, Fine Arts and Athletics at the Coakley Middle School and High School up to the amount of $530,000. This motion was not seconded.

The Members received the FY13 Budget (Reductions to Meet Revenue Projection – Saturday, March 2012):

Grand Total

Operational Reductions			$538,659
Personnel Reductions			$675,482
Additional Reductions			$375,190
Need	$2,210,000	Total	$1,589,331

Personnel

P-Acct	Description	Reduction	Dept. Total	Impact Total	Pending
	Elementary (4 FTE's)				
636	1 Elem Teacher	$ 40,000			$ 40,000
641	4 Elem Librarians	$281,478			$281478
611	Elem. Math Coord.	$ 78,995	$ 78,995		
642	3 Inst. Music	$209,405	$288,400	$209,405	

	Middle Sch –(2 FTE's)				
631	2 Extra Math Tchr	$125,134		$125,134	
631	1 Housemaster	$ 42,960			$ 52,988
631	1 Librarian	$ 56,144			$ 56,144
631	4 Te's Elim 1 6th Gr Team	$160,000			$160,000
631	1.4 For Lang (Op. 1)	$ 40,000	$125,134		$ 56,000
	OR				
631	2.4 Elim. For lang.	$ 96,000			$ 96,000
	High School (3 FTE's)				
709	1 Learning Cntr Tchr	$ 71,922		$ 71,922	
630	1 Latin Tchr	$ 60,000		$ 60,000	
630	1 English Tchr	$ 75,536		$ 75,536	
630	1 TV Teacher	$ 75,536			$ 75,536
630	1 Drama Tchr	$ 75,536			$ 75,536
630	1 Visual Arts Tchr	$ 40,000			$ 40,000
630	1 Math Teacher	$ 40,000			$ 40,000
630	1 Soc Stud Tcher	$ 40,000			$ 40,000
630	1 Health Teacher	$ 40,000			$ 40,000
630	1 PE Teacher	$ 40,000	$207,528		$ 40,000
	(1 FTE)				
757	Custodial Cut (1)	$ 40,000		$ 40,000	
657	Intramural Stipends (Elem & Middle)	$ 14,420		$ 40,000	
	Total 10 FTE's				
Additional Reductions					
658	Coaching Stipends	$ 45,302	$ 31,677	$239,853	$ 31,677
678	Clubs CMS (15)		$ 18,065	$ 18,065	
679	Clubs HS (18)		$ 28,465	$ 28,465	
2968	F. Arts Stipends		$ 7,109	$ 53,861	
660	Curriculum Wkshp	$ 10,000	$ 40,000	$ 10,000	$ 60,000
	Sch. Conf.	$ 1,525			
	$40 per teacher				
930	Sudy Island Sftwr	$ 6,874		$ 6,874	$ 6,874
1286	Athletic Supplies	$ 5,000	$ 10,750	$ 5,000	$ 22,250
1502	Fine Arts Rep/Rep	$ 3,000	$ 22,534	3,000	$ 29,534
765	Sch. Cust. OT	$ 5,000	$ 14,000	$ 5,000	$ 19,000
1333	Child Progress	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 25,314
1394	Reg Ed Trns (4 buses)	$200,000		$523,000	$200,000
1440	6 Pndg SPED Tuit.	$240,000		$240,000	
	Total		$375,190		$231,677

Operational Reductions

Description:	Reduction:	Version #1:	Consequence:	Dept. Total:	Final Impact:
Admin Expenses	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	Reduce Memberships	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
Conf High School	- $ 1,689.00		$45 / teacher (Inc. H.S.)		
Willett Conf	$ 3,220.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
CMS Conf	$ 1,350.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
Balch Conf	$ 3,100.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
Callahan Conf	$ 2,310.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
Cleveland Conf	$ 1,905.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
Oldham Conf	$ 1,810.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)		
Prescott Conf	$ 2,370.00		$45 / teacher (decrease)	$ 14,376.00	
Curriculum Wkshop District	$ 20,000.00		Reduces TE training	$ 20,000.00	
Misc. MCAS Tutoring	$ 40,875.00		Eliminates Local $ for tutoring	$40,875.00	
Tuition Reimbursement	- $ 5,000.00		Increaseses reimbursement	$ 5,000.00	
Conf. Other/Travel	- $ 200.00		Increases mileage reimburse.	$ 200.00	
Sch. Instruc. Sal Totals		$ 70,051.00			$ 70,051.00
Sch I/S & T/B Totals	$301,356.00	$302,004.00	Reduces all requests to per pupil		$263,630.00
Lib Bks / Nursing Supplies	$ 28,973.00	$ 28,980.00	Lib Red. per pup. Nurse FY12 total		$ 28,164.00
Willett Fees & Dues	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	Reduce memberships		
Balch Fees & Dues	$ 110.00	-$ 110.00	Increase to reach $1,000 per school		
Callahan Fees & Dues	$ 205.00	$ 205.00	Decrease to $1,000 per school		
Cleveland Fees & Dues	$ 240.00	$ 240.00	Decrease to $1,000 per school		
Oldham Fees & Dues	$ 410.00	$ 410.00	Decrease to $1,000 per school		
Prescott Fees & Dues	$ 195.00	$ 195.00	Decrease to $1,000 per school		
CMS Fees & Dues	$ 131.00	-$ 131.00	Increase to reach $1,000 / school	$ 1,109.00	
Test Prog. District	$ 2,254.00	$ 2,254.00	Reduce Tests for district	$ 2,254.00	
Computer Supplies	$ 25,000.00	$ 25,000.00	Reduce repair & supply budget	$ 25,000.00	
Application Software	$ 56,350.00	$ 56,000.00	Elim. Windows 7 upgrade	$ 56,350.00	
Sch Fees – Dues & Software				$ 84,713.00	
Modular Lease Payment	$ 1,000.00	-$ 1,000.00	Incr. final lease paymt – mods.	$ 1,000.00	-$ 1,000.00
Sch Rep & Rep Total	$ 34,561.00	$ 34,561.00	Reduced to Allotment formula		$ 34,561.00
Equip & Vehicle	$ 2,000.00		Reduce to FY12 Total		
Repaint Png Ar	$ 3,000.00		Reduce to FY12 Total		
Equip Rep & Rep		$ 5,000.00			$ 5,000.00
Sch Athletic Totals	$ 24,790.00	$ 24,790.00	Reduce to FY12 Total		$ 24,790.00
Sch Sped Equip Rep & Rep	$ 3,800.00	$ 3,800.00	Reduce to FY12 Total		$ 3,800.00
Sch Fine Arts Transportation	$ 23,950.00	$ 23,950.00	Revolving Fund Offset used to fund		$ 23,950.00
Reductions to meet Revenue Projection		$577,849.00		Total:	$538,659.00

Public Forum: Chairman Samargedlis informed that this was the time during the meeting that members of the Public can address the School Committee with issues or concerns that they would like to see added to a future agenda.

Mrs. Sarah Sullivan, Town Meeting Member and a parent of students in the Norwood Schools said she understands that the School Committee has a job to do. She said she believes strongly that it is time to hear from the educators and those in the trenches to hear how these cuts will affect curriculum. She also wants to know what schools are offering those students who are not athletes or musicians if all the extracurricular are cut.

Mrs. Gerri Slater, a Town Meeting Member and a parent, was here this evening to respectfully ask the Committee to change the way they do the budget, as she feels the budget process has not changed much. She asked that the Committee come up with a Strategic Plan Process for a short-term plan and a long–term plan. She said she would be

will to meet with some of the School Committee Members to talk about this more in detail.

Mrs. Jane O'Donnell, a parent of 3 students at the Middle School and High School, said she came this evening just to hear the Budget discussions. She said that the schools need to keep the curriculum where it is and wanted to know if the extracurricular are cut, would it be possible to put them back if they were fully funded by fees.

Mrs. Jody Smith, a graduated of Norwood High School, President of the Norwood Teachers' Association and a Special Education Teacher in Norwood for 35 years said she feels she is well-versed in the budget process. She reminded that Norwood's tradition is to educate the whole child, adding that if these cuts go through; our students will be at a disadvantage when applying for colleges. She said she knows that the staff is willing to make it work with less and less every year. She added that as a Town, a decision has to be made to see if this Town will stand up and support our schools and students.

Mr. George Usevich, Principal and proud graduate of Norwood High School, said this exercise was something all the school administrators had to do. He has eliminated a staff member in every department. He said that all the principals and department heads have made these cuts and they are slowly decimating our schools. He said there is $537,000 of cuts on the table right now. He said it was killing him to give up valued staff members, the drama program and the television program that has won national awards. Mr. Usevich was very emotional when he said that he was willing to fight for the students in the Norwood Schools.

Mr. Badger encouraged the parents to come to the meeting on Monday night and speak about their concerns.

Ms. Rau said that Norwood cannot run their schools properly if $2.2 million are cut from the proposed budget. She stated that the only ones that will be suffering will be the students we are serving.

Ms. Rau made a motion that the Norwood Schools have cut as far as they can cut ($591,485 remaining and not to be cut) and to replace the clubs at the Coakley Middle School and the High School, which was seconded by Mrs. Travers.

Mrs. Travers urged everyone to get others to attend the upcoming Town-Wide Budget Sub Committee Meeting.

Mr. Gormley said he thought the School Committee should finish the process to show what is going to happen if we can't get more money.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 5-1 (Mr. Gormley opposed).

Old Business: None.

New Business: Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request: This item was tabled until next meeting.

Acceptance of One Donation: This item was tabled until next meeting.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Kief had an opportunity to read to the students at the Oldham. He read *Bear's New Friend*. He said it was a very rewarding time.

Mrs. Travers wanted to remind everyone that academics have to come before athletics, stating that she does not support any more cuts.

Mr. Badger clarified his motion, saying that he was not trying to eliminate extracurricular but to put the burden of the expenses on the parents. Then he thanked Mrs. Slater for making those comments, adding that he would like to look more closely at what she's talking about.

Mr. Gormley had none.

Ms. Rau had none.

Chairman Samargedlis said as Chairman of this Board, he is not deterred with the challenges ahead.

Mr. Hayden thanked all his administrators who came out tonight, saying their passion and leadership in getting things done through thick and thin is very much appreciated. He also thanked Dr. Wyeth and Ms. Ellis for their passion and commitment.

Executive Session: Ms. Rau made a motion for Executive Session at 11:00 p.m. for the purpose of Unit B and Unit C negotiations, which was seconded by Mr. Badger. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6 – 0.

Adjournment: Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 11:20 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee