

**TOWN OF NORWOOD  
Public Schools  
School Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 26, 2009. Chairman Samargedlis called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. Paul Samargedlis, Chairman, Mr. Joseph M. Pentowski, Mr. William J. Plasko, Jr., Mr. Mark P. Joseph, Mr. Richard W. Kief, Mrs. Eleanor Travers and Ms. Courtney A. Rau.

**Administrators Present:** Mr. John Moretti, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Jeff Granatino, Deputy Superintendent and Ms. Joyce Onischewski, Director of Student Services.

Mr. Samargedlis welcomed everyone back from a summer break and then asked for a moment of silence to reflect on the passing last night of Ted Kennedy and his sister Eunice a few weeks ago.

**Minutes:** Ms. Courtney Rau made a motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2009, which was seconded by Mrs. Travers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

**Correspondence:** Mr. John Moretti updated regarding a letter he has sent to abutters of the Savage Center regarding a missing Ball Python from the Science Department which they believe has been taken from its cage.

Mr. Samargedlis also informed regarding a letter from the Historical Society, which Mr. Joseph made a motion to file, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

There was some conversation regarding transportation and whether transportation is only for home to school or whether they will drop off at after school caregivers.

Mr. Joseph made a motion to allow the Superintendent discretion on interpretation of the bus policy, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted in favor 6-0-1 (Mr. Plasko abstained).

**Warrants:** Chairman Samargedlis advised that there were warrants available for their signatures.

**Public Forum:** Chairman Samargedlis informed that this was the part of the meeting where anyone from the Public may talk about their concerns or bring up an issue they would like the School Committee to add to a future meeting.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Mrs. Joyce Onischewski was here this evening to update the Committee on what has been happening in her Department during the summer. Ms. Onischewski said she will be working directly with the teachers during the Special Education transition period, and will also be updating the website to give an overview of all the different programs available. The Members had an opportunity for questions.

**Reports:** None.

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

**Policy:** None.

**Budget: FY10 Budget Update:** Mr. Moretti updated that there are a few positions left to fill. Mr. Moretti said he spent a few hours last week reconciling all the P-Codes and he will be asking for some transfers at the next meeting. Mr. Moretti said Mr. Dumas is watching every nickel and dime and is busy meeting with all the Principals. At this point, we are in a very good place with the budget.

Mr. Samargedlis asked for an update on all the summary accounts for the next meeting.

**Old Business: Elementary Class Size Update:** The Members received the 2009-2010 Elementary Enrollment Grid updated to reflect the class sizes as of August 19, 2009. The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. Mr. Moretti reminded that even if there are 21 students in a class, 21 students are not always in the class as many get pulled out for reading, speech, instrumental music, etc.

Mr. Joseph shared his concerns with the class size at the Oldham Elementary School.

Mr. Joseph made a motion to add a 1.0 full time aide at the Oldham Elementary School to be split between two Grade 2 classes, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko for discussion purposes.

Mr. Moretti said he did not recommend that as there is 1.5 Title One Teachers at the Oldham and the Principal can designate one to Grade Two if the School Committee so requests.

There was some discussion regarding this item.

Mr. Kief made a motion to table this motion which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted in favor 6-0-1 (Mrs. Travers abstained).

SPED Transportation Update: Mr. Moretti updated that he has hired a new Transportation Director, Ms. Kristen Correira, who will begin on September 1, 2009. He also said they had two great candidates, but after speaking with Mr. Dumas, Ms. Correira was chosen. Mr. Moretti added that the Transportation Department is ready for the first day of school.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to support the Superintendent's recommendation for contract purposes, which was seconded by Mr. Joseph. The Committee voted in favor 6-0-1 (Mrs. Travers abstained).

2009-2010 MASC/MASS Conference: Mr. Moretti informed that the School Committee has \$5,000 budgeted for expenses. This year, there were no expenses.

Mr. Kief restated that we need to show that even small expenses need to be monitored.

Mr. Kief made a motion to transfer \$5,000 from the School Committee Expense Account to the School Committee Reserve Account so that we will be better prepared as the year goes on.

There was no second on the motion.

Superintendent of Schools Search: Mr. Samargedlis asked the Members which direction they wanted to go in as far as posting the position goes. Mr. Plasko said the position can be advertised in the Globe and through MASC at little or no cost.

Mr. Samargedlis reminded that the Members wanted to put together some focus groups.

Mr. Joseph said we need to work on the job description right away.

Mr. Moretti said he can get a job description in the weekly report and then everyone can review it at the next meeting. Mr. Moretti added that each School Committee Member should pick a school and meet with the Staff, the PTO's and School Councils as well as parents. Mr. Moretti suggested meeting with representatives of the Town as well.

Mrs. Travers recommended charting out the suggestions made at the last meeting in a time-line.

The Members were in agreement that this search will not be out-sourced and the Members will oversee this as a group.

**New Business: JRS & CMS Gym Lighting Replacement:** Mr. Moretti and Mr. Plasko updated the Members and shared a Memorandum from Joe McDonough regarding the light replacement at the Coakley Middle School, which was a partnership between the NPS, NBA and Norwood Light Department.

One Donation: Mr. Moretti recommended accepting a donation of 40 fully stocked backpacks which was coordinated by Ann Marie Hartoonian at Norwood Caritas Hospital for Norwood students.

Mr. Joseph made a motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 - 0.

**Personnel:** Mr. Moretti said there are Special Education positions open at the High School and the Willett School and a .5 Title One at Callahan. Mr. Griffin has forwarded his choice. There is .5 Reading Specialist open at the Prescott School and Mrs. Killion has forwarded on her choice.

Mr. Moretti, Mr. Dumas and Mr. Granatino toured all the schools today, adding they look terrific and he was pleased to see so many teachers in their classrooms getting ready for the first day of school.

Mr. Moretti invited all the School Committee Members to the Coakley Middle School next Tuesday for the Meeting with the teachers and staff.

Mr. Moretti said there is no parking at the High School for students, but the Knights of Columbus will allow parking for 60 cars. A shuttle will run from the K of C to the High School three times every morning.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Kief said he has many calls from parents regarding summer reading.

Mr. Kief made a motion to reaffirm the School Committee Policy to support Summer Reading as we go forward, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted in favor 7 – 0.

Mr. Moretti said it will be on the agenda for November so as to plan for next year.

Mr. Kief made a motion to evaluate the Superintendent by February 1st, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted in favor 6 – 1 (Mr. Plasko abstained).

Mr. Kief than asked for an update on gas prices.

Mrs. Travers wished everyone a happy end of summer and a great start to a new school year.

Mr. Pentowski said he had a very exciting day today as John Carroll invited him to take a tour of the High School Project. Mr. Pentowski put on a hard hat and got an up-close view, adding that the foundation is all poured. Mr. Pentowski said he will be going to the MASC Conference, adding that he hasn't missed many of them and he will give a report.

Mr. Samargedlis informed that the next meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Pentowski will be volunteering at the Jerry Lewis Telethon, and he encouraged everyone to call in.

Mr. Plasko wished everyone a great opening to the New School Year. Mr. Plasko invited everyone to go on to NPA-TV to see updates on what's going on behind the High School thanks to Karen Murphy.

Ms. Rau wished her sister Kat a very happy birthday and then wished all the kids a great first day of school. Ms. Rau has spent much time thinking of Ted Kennedy's passing today and how important he was to Civil Rights, the disabled and down-trodden, adding that she sends her heartfelt condolences to the Kennedy Family but also to the people of Massachusetts who have lost a champion.

Mr. Joseph congratulated the students who attended Band Camp and survived a difficult situation after a tornado touched down in the next town and knocked out the power and water.

The Chairman asked the Members to let him know by September 9<sup>th</sup> if there are any items they would like put on the next agenda. Chairman Samargedlis also said that one of our Assistant Coaches, Patrick McDonough, was in a terrible car accident last week and, although he is out of danger, he has a long road ahead for his recovery. He sent his best wishes to Pat and his family.

**Executive Session:** Chairman Samargedlis informed that there would be a brief Executive Session for negotiations.

Mr. Plasko made a motion for Executive Session at 9:50 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Pentowski. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Rau made a motion at 10:15 p.m. for adjournment, which was seconded by Mr. Pentowski. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 - 0.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee