

**OF NORWOOD
Public Schools
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

A Regular meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 16, 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, Ms. Courtney A. Rau, and Mrs. Eleanor Travers (arrived at 7:45 p.m.).

Administrators Present: Mr. Jeff Granatino, Acting Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ralph Dumas, Director of Finance and Operations, and Mrs. Joyce Onischewski, Director of Student Services.

Minutes: Ms Rau made a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2009, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted in favor 6 -0.

Ms. Rau made a motion to approve the minutes of November 12, 2009, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted in favor 6 – 0.

The minutes of the November 2, 2009 minutes were held until next meeting.

Correspondence: None.

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

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: Chairman Samargedlis welcomed Administrative Liaison, Mr. Jack Aherne to the Norwood School System.

FY 11 Capital Projects Presentation: Mr. Joseph McDonough was here this evening to review Capital Projects that are on the horizon. Mr. McDonough has been working with Mr. Jack Tolman in putting together a video review of past Capital Projects that were approved by School Committee and the Town.

Mr. McDonough explained the steps involved in putting this list together, which includes getting input from building Principals, Directors and Department Heads. Some of the projects that have been identified are light replacements and floor tile replacements. Mr. McDonough said that since the Prescott and Cleveland are the same



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These two schools together. Also, the Willett as it is the only school that hasn't had window

The final project is to replace a Buildings and Grounds pick-up truck that has been used for plowing that has "body rot", needs a new tailgate and has had the engine rebuilt a couple of times. Although it is in tough shape, Mr. McDonough said they would keep the old pick-up truck as a back-up.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments. They thanked Mr. McDonough for a thorough presentation.

Reports: SPED Update: Mrs. Onischewski updated that she is working on getting the inclusion piece settled. She recently took two teachers from the Elementary level to observe how inclusion is implemented at the Greenlodge School in Dedham. The teachers will help Mrs. Onischewski share the information with other staff members and she will take more staff to observe at other schools in the near future.

Mrs. Onischewski informed that Mr. Rich Plouffe has recently trained 15 staff members on CPI Training and recertified three other staff members.

Van Maintenance Update: Mr. Dumas updated that there were three vans and one bus off-line for repairs. Mr. Dumas informed that two vans are back working. The van that was in the accident is still being worked on as is the bus. Three routes are still being outsourced and have cost the School Department \$2100 based on the rate of \$175 per day.

Superintendent s Report and/or Late Agenda: Mr. Kief updated on the High School Project for the last time in 2009, saying that January 6th will be the topping off date for the construction crew. He added that plans are to keep working through the winter as long as possible. Mr. Kief said everything is on track with time and finances. The big crane should be gone the end of this month and work is beginning on the roof and a couple of the classroom areas.

Mr. Granatino received information for a "Race to the Top" Grant, which he recommends holding until the next meeting.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to table for review until the next meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

Policy: Policy Manual Update: Chairman Samargedlis updated that when policy is implemented or changed, the Members should give their books to Tina to update. There are three new policies that all members need to update their books with after Tina gets it.



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Ms. Rau have met to try to research other in the classrooms. At this point, they need more

Budget: FY11 Budget – 1st Pass Presentation: Mr. Granatino reviewed how the first pass of the budget has been put together, including meetings with the building principals, Directors, and Department Heads, and also looking at technology needs, building needs, etc.

Mr. Dumas reviewed where the increases come from, which includes requests for 19 new staff, pay increases to the different unions, anticipated transportation contract increases, reduction in TEC tuitions, heat and utility increases, etc. This increase equals a little more than \$3.5 million dollars.

Old Business: IES Language Rental Policy Waiver Request: Chairman Samargedlis moved this item up on the agenda so that it could be discussed while Mr. McDonough was still here.

Mr. Granatino reviewed the situation with IES Language Foundation and their request for a waiver of rental fees. Mr. McDonough reviewed this request and informed the Board that he can not support the request for a waiver of rental fees as they do charge a fee and the staff is paid out of these fees. Mr. McDonough informed that the only two groups that had their fees waived were the Relay for Life event and the Norwood Police Charity Softball Game. Both of these events did not charge for admission and proceeds were donated to good, local causes.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to deny the request for the waiver of fees for IES Language Foundation, which was seconded by Ms. Rau.

There was some discussion about how to service the students who want to continue this kind of program.

Mr. Granatino said he has spoken with School Staff on putting a plan together for those students who would like to participate in more foreign language opportunities.

After discussion, the Members voted in favor of denying the waiver 6 – 1 (Mr. Joseph voted against).

Chairman Samargedlis asked Mr. Granatino to work with Ms. Derraine on putting together a plan for the next meeting.

New Business: January 2010 School Committee Meeting Dates: Chairman Samargedlis reviewed the January meetings and suggested moving the meeting scheduled for January 6th to January 13th for FY11 budget purposes only and to keep the scheduled meeting of January 20th for regular business only. Chairman Samargedlis recommended adding a meeting on January 27th for FY11 budget follow-up.

decided to have meetings on January 6th at 7:00
Regular School Committee Meeting and January 27th
g.

Chairman Samargedlis suggested voting on the first pass.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to accept, as a working number, the first pass budget in the amount of \$36,774,298, which was seconded by Mr. Joseph. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Appointment of Interim Attendance Officer: Mr. Kief asked for this to be discussed in Executive Session due to the contract implications.

Approval of Out-of-State Field Trip Request: Mr. Granatino recommended an out-of-state field trip for Sunday, February 7, 2010 for the 6th, 7th & 8th Grade students to perform the National Anthem at the Providence Bruins Hockey Game in Providence, Rhode Island.

Ms. Rau made a motion to approve the out-of-state field trip, which was seconded by Mr. Pentowski. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Acceptance of Two Donations: Mr. Granatino recommended accepting a donation of \$1040 from the Class of 1984 Reunion Committee for the High School Library.

Mr. Joseph made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation, which was seconded by Mr. Kief. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Mr. Granatino recommended accepting a donation of \$660 for the Coakley Middle School Homework Club.

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

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Kief had none.

Mrs. Travers wished everyone very happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

Mr. Pentowski said he has always supported professional development in our school system and thanked the Superintendent for the booklet he has included in the member's packets. He complimented on the information. He then wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year!



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Grade Boys and Girls will be scrimmaging this Friday night. Mr. Plasko said that it may be a good relations person who may look at all the good things we do, to reach out to alumni and try to find more

grants.

Ms. Rau wished the Norwood Public Schools staff and students happy holidays and Happy New Year.

Mr. Joseph wished everyone happy holidays and sent condolences to the Destito family on the loss of Mr. Destito, former Norwood Police Officer. Congrats to the Fine Arts Department on all their wonderful winter concerts. Mr. Joseph asked for an update on the Superintendent Search for the next meeting.

Chairman Samargedlis said he has contacted other companies regarding the Superintendent Search and is waiting to hear back from them. He then wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Executive Session: Chairman Samargedlis informed that there would be a short Executive Session for personnel.

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

Public Session: Public Session resumed at 10:45 p.m.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to appoint Maureen Murphy Payne Interim Attendance Officer until the end of the school year, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 - 0

Adjournment: Mr. Pentowski made a motion at 10:50 p.m. for adjournment, which was seconded by Mrs. Travers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee