

TOWN OF NORWOOD
Public Schools
School Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 29, 2009

A Regular meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, July 29, 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.

Executive Session: Ms. Rau made a motion for Executive Session for Level 3 Grievance – Non Reappointments and Level 3 Grievance – Longevity, which was seconded by Mr. Plasko. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Open Meeting: The Open Meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes: Mr. Plasko made a motion to approve the minutes of July 8, 2009, which was seconded by Mrs. Travers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 6-0-1 (Mr. Kief abstained as he was not in attendance of said meeting).

Correspondence: Chairman Samargedlis updated regarding recent correspondence:

- Letter from NEASC regarding High School Accreditation; and
- Letter from Representative John Rogers regarding FY10 Budget;
- Letter from Nora Glynn, President of the Boosters Group requesting a “Last Goodbye” celebration to the School on the Hill for alumni of NHS.

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.

There was none this evening.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: New High School Project Update: Mr. Bonfatti informed that the project has begun and is fully mobilized. As of yesterday, work has begun on the new

foundation and all of the site clearing has been done. The steel is due to arrive in September and the plan is to work through the winter if the weather cooperates and to enclose the building by early next year. The Selectmen have signed the project funding agreement, and Mr. Bonfatti said we are off to a good start. General Manager John Carroll has instituted weekly Friday morning meetings and anyone can bring issues to that meeting. One neighbor has been concerned about the noise level and one day there was a smell issue due to organic loam being moved around. Mr. Bonfatti said all e-mails to neighbors are being answered and they are trying to time loud work with the neighbors in mind.

Chairman Samargedlis said they are very thankful to the neighbors for their patience with this project.

Reports: None,

Superintendent s Report and/or Late Agenda: None.

Policy: Policy BDA – School Committee Organizational Meeting: Ms. Rau reviewed the information shared at the July 8th meeting and recommended that the vote could be at the last regularly scheduled meeting of the year so that the current Chair can address the students on Graduation Day and the new Chair would begin at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts on whether the Chair's term should be the calendar year or fiscal year.

Mr. Plasko made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Policy Sub Committee, but to change the "first regular meeting in June" to the "second regular meeting in June" and to strike paragraph three, which was seconded by Mrs. Travers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Budget: FY09 Budget – End-of-Year-Report: Mr. Moretti reviewed a memorandum from Mr. Dumas regarding his latest analysis of the FY09 School Budget. The final balance for this year is \$86,117. Mr. Moretti explained that this is the same amount that was voted on by Town Meeting for snow removal and Mr. Moretti recommends returning this amount back to the Town as a thank you and also in good faith.

Mr. Moretti thanked Mr. Dumas for his accurate break-downs and projections.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Plasko said he is against giving back the funds to the Town as these are tough financial times and he feels this money should go into prepaid SPED tuition.

Chairman Samargedlis feels giving the money back to the Town is good business practice stating that the Norwood Schools has been so fiscally responsible and conservative that it should be front-page news.

Mr. Kief said he would support the Superintendent's recommendation at this point.

FY09 Budget – Transfers: Mr. Plasko made a motion to make the transfers necessary as outlined in the report by Mr. Dumas dated July 30, 2009. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

Mr. Plasko made a motion for the School Committee to support the end of the year fiscal report dated July 29, 2009 as presented from Mr. Dumas and to give \$86,117 back to the general fund, which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted in favor 6 – 1 (Mr. Plasko voted against).

Mr. Moretti reviewed the revolving accounts to date.

Old Business: Special Education Transportation Update: Job Description and Budget: Mr. Moretti informed that as of next Monday, NPS will be taking on 12 runs and the following week, we will be taking on five more runs.

Mr. Moretti also said the Members have received the job description for the Transportation Department as well as the job description for the Assistant Special to the Director of Student Services (Gr. PK-5) and (Gr.6-12).

After some discussion Mr. Plasko made a motion for the School Department to continue its contract with TLC Transportation for another three weeks as deemed necessary, which was seconded by Mr. Joseph. The Committee voted in favor 6-1 (Mrs. Travers opposed).

Mr. Moretti also informed that he has hired a dispatcher for the second shift (12 – 5 p.m.).

2009-2010 Oldham School Enrollment – Grade 2: Mr. Moretti updated that as of today, the enrollment for grade 2 is 42 students with 4 students on IEP's.

2009-2010 Cleveland School Enrollment – Grade 1: Mr. Moretti said right now we have 78 students, adding that he is keeping a close watch on these numbers.

Superintendent of Schools Search: Chairman Samargedlis said that the School Committee needs to decide whether there is going to be a Search Committee to review the applications or to have the whole School Committee be involved in all of the steps.

Mrs. Travers and Mr. Joseph feel strongly that all the Members should be involved in every step.

There was some discussion on having focus groups for government officials, staff, etc. Chairman Samargedlis asked the Members to e-mail him some questions for the focus group. The Members like the idea of having a questionnaire on-line for the public to be able to participate.

New Business: Administrator's Retreat Update: Mr. Moretti thanked the administrators for attending the two-day retreat which focused a lot on leadership. Mr. Moretti shared some of the reading documents with the Members and shared the individual goals for the seminar.

Ms. Rau also attended on the second day and said she was thrilled to see the willingness and excitement of all the administrators to work together to move the district forward and to implement change. Ms. Rau said she is so proud and honored to have such a terrific group of administrators coming together to begin a new school year.

Mr. Moretti said he would give the School Committee a mid-year evaluation of the action plans and goals.

Approval of Two Out-of-State Field Trips Requests: Marching Band – New Britton, CT & Music Students – Disney World, Orlando, FL: Mr. Plasko made a motion to approve both of the out-of state field trips contingent upon proper documentation of insurance and chaperones, etc., which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 – 0.

2009-2010 Sub-Committee Assignments: Chairman Samargedlis said we will do the Committee assignments the first week in September.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Kief missed the meeting last week and said he graciously disagrees with some of the Members and feels that Summer Meeting is policy and procedure and should be under the School Committee area. Mr. Kief asked that transfers and appropriations for items not voted on should be on a future agenda for discussion.

Mr. Kief also said he received the invitation from MASC, but will make a motion not to attend due to fiscal constraints this year at a future meeting.

Mr. Pentowski said he plans to go this year as it is a great investment and motivator.

Chairman Samargedlis said it will be put on a future meeting.

Mrs. Travers had none this evening.

Mr. Pentowski said the report on the retreat was wonderful.

Mr. Plasko said the NBA Board and Mr. Reen, Mr. Joe McDonough and Mr. Shaughnessy have been working closely with Norwood Light Broadband in replacing all of the lighting at the Savage Center and tomorrow they will replace the lights at the Coakley Middle School.

Ms. Rau wished Chairman Samargedlis a Happy Birthday on Friday.

Mr. Joseph congratulated Mr. Sean Richardson on getting a principal position in the Norfolk Schools.

Chairman Samargedlis said the next School committee meeting will be August 26th, and we will refine the time-line for the Superintendent Search.

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

Mr. Plasko made a motion for Executive Session at 10:00 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Rau. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 7 -0.

Adjournment: Mr. Plasko made a motion at 9:50 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