TOWN OF NORWOOD

School Committee Meeting

James R. Savage Educational Center

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday,

September 25, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Ms. Courtney Rau, Chairwoman, Mr. John Badger, Mr. James Gormley, Mr. Paul Samargedlis and Mr. Joseph Montesano

**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:** Mr. Gormley made a motion to approve the minutes of August 28, 2013, which was seconded by Mr. Samargedlis. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Chairwoman Rau acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

An invitation to Members to attend an Norwood High School 60th Class Reunion.

**Warrants:** Chairwoman Rau informed that there were warrants to be signed.

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** None.

**Reports:** None.

**Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda:** 2013-2014 School Opening Report: Mr. Hayden updated on the 2013-2014 School Opening Report. Mr. Hayden reported that the first day of school is always an exciting day. He was happy to share some of the Summer Reading projects from the Callahan School. Mr. Hayden complimented the teachers who came in during the summer to be sure their classrooms were ready, and thanked the Buildings and Grounds and Technology Departments. Transportation, both with our vans and Connolly buses, are going well. A new security system with I.D. badges has been implemented and our schools have been working closely with the Police Department to be sure of quick responses, safety and lockdown procedures.

Also, for Late Agenda, Mr. Hayden wanted to give a quick update with regards to Norwood’s MCAS Results. The detailed report will be given at a future meeting. Dr. Wyeth said not all of our students met the gap. He proceeded to give an overview of each school. There was some discussion regarding this item.

**Policy:** Field Trip and Acceptable Use Policy Review Schedule: Mr. Hayden said it was time to review and update these policies. There was some discussion.

Approval of Revised Bullying Policy in Accordance with MGL: Dr. Wyeth said that this policy has been revised to expand their Bullying Policy to include staff as well as students.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve the changes, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**Budget:** FY13 Circuit Breaker Reimbursement Update: Ms. Ellis reviewed the FY13 Circuit Breaker update, saying that is $854,642.00 remaining in circuit breaker funding.

FY14 Monthly Budget Report – August 31, 2013: Ms. Ellis updated with regard to FY14 Monthly budget. The Members received the FY14 Monthly report in their weekly packets.

**Old Business:** 2013-2014 Staffing Report and Enrollment Update: Mr. Hayden said the enrollment numbers have remained stable since the last report.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Update: Chairwoman Rau and Mr. Hayden updated the School Committee regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation.

Mr. Hayden said we have an evaluation form that we have developed for this process. This will be filled out on-line. The sub committee then needs to get together to put together a composite, which will be reviewed at a future School Committee Meeting.

Chairwoman Rau suggested completing the ratings by October 4th .

The Subcommittee can then present their evaluation summary on October 23rd.

Willett Early Childhood Center Modular Update: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee, saying that the modular is in and a ramp is being added at this time. He expects the building will begin being used next week.

Signing of 2013-2016 Memorandum of Agreement between Norwood School Committee and Norwood Teachers’ Association (Unit A): Mr. Hayden explained that the new evaluation system was a big topic during negotiations. He said that the agreed upon increases will be 2.5% this year, 2.5% next year, and 3% increase in the third year. Mrs. Jody Smith, head of the Teachers’ Union, was here this evening. She said that this has been the most collaborative negotiation process. She said, although both sides did not agree on everything, there was a lot of “give and take” and mutual respect shown during this process.

**New Business:** Acceptance of Two Donations: Mr. Hayden recommended approving a donation of 29 backpacks filled with various school supplies to all elementary schools and the Willett from Norwood Hospital Mission Committee.

Mr. Hayden also recommended approving a donation of $542.00 from Lifetouch National School Studios for participating in the Spring Portrait Program.

Mr. Samargedlis made a motion to approve these donations, which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Gormley announced that the Norwood High School Hall of Fame will be this Sunday at the High School. Refreshments will be at 11:00 a.m. in the dining hall and the ceremony will begin at 12:00 noon in the auditorium.

Mr. Samargedlis said he would like to see a list of new students by building and then broken down by grades. He believes this might help us to integrate these families into the town.

Mr. Badger said he has a conflict on October 23rd, but he will be here later in the meeting.

Mr. Montesano agreed that the staff and students had a great start to the new year.

Chairwoman Rau received some interesting e-mails in the last couple weeks regarding policies and more. She thanked those who took the time to contact her. She also welcomed Carol MacLay, President of the League of Women’s Voters, here this evening.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Badger made a motion for adjournment at 8:45p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Gormley. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk

Norwood School Committee