TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 to begin the interviews for the position of Superintendent. The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. and was moved from the School Committee Chambers to Room 219.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Chairman, Ms. Lisa Igoe; Mr. Patrick McDonough, Mrs. Michele Eysie Mullen and Ms. Myev Bodenhofer.

Administrators Present: None.

Interview: Dr. Jodi Fortuna: Chairman Gormley welcomed Dr. Fortuna this evening and, after the Committee introduced themselves, asked Dr. Fortuna to begin with a short introduction. He added that the Committee Members would then take turns asking some questions of her.

Dr. Fortuna shared that she was currently the Superintendent of a town a little smaller than Norwood (Hudson) and has been there for 10 years as an Elementary School Principal, Assistant Superintendent (Curriculum and Instruction) and now Superintendent. She said she has a lot of experience in creating budgets; gathering community support for the budget while maintaining core values. Dr. Fortuna said she was very excited to see in some of Norwood's school videos how wonderful the teachers work with the students and how happy and involved the students are. She said she feels her skillset; vision and work ethic will be a great match for the Norwood Public Schools. When asked what she was most proud of, she said it would be her relationships that she has built over the years, including her students, the Unions Presidents and her staff members. She said she works very well side by side with her Business Director as true partners.

When asked why she is leaving her role as Superintendent in Hudson, Dr. Fortuna replied honestly that she was appointed as an Assistant Superintendent and then became the interim Superintendent when her predecessor left. She said she was hired and there were many who felt that the hiring process was flawed. She said she initially declined the position and asked that the process be more open and inclusive. She said she was then hired as the Superintendent and there were some people who were originally upset who ended up agreeing she was the best candidate. Dr. Fortuna said that with the change of School Committee Members, and her contract being up, she felt that some of the School Committee Members, who were still upset about her original hiring, would be divided about her contract and she felt it was time to move on.

Dr. Fortuna, in closing, said she would love to be the Superintendent of Norwood Public Schools. She said there are so many wonderful things already happening here and she sees so much potential for the future.

Adjournment: Ms. Igoe made a motion for adjournment at 8:50 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 3-0-2 (Chairman Gormley and Mr. McDonough had stepped out of the room at this point).

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee