

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
James R. Savage Educational Center  
Monday, February 27, 2017

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Monday, February 27, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

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

**Old Business: Superintendent Search Business:** Deliberations on Superintendent Candidates to determine which candidates to bring forward on site visits: Chairman Gormley welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and asked if anyone would like to begin sharing their thoughts on the candidates.

Mrs. Bodenhofer said that each Member was asked to check references on individual candidates and most of the Members e-mailed the information they had compiled ahead of time except the Chairman. Mrs. Bodenhofer suggested the Chairman share what he had put together for Dr. Jody Fortuna.

Chairman Gormley said he compiled a composite of comments for Dr. Fortuna. What stood out amongst the three references was that Dr. Fortuna has a strong, highly developed social conscience and a good relationship with community members. She has also been described as organized, very patient, honest, respectful, a problem-solver and good with Special Education parents. Chairman Gormley said that Dr. Fortuna took a leading role in implementing full-day, free Kindergarten and was very involved in implementing ESL Programs for non-English speaking students. Chairman Gormley said the consensus was that she had a good eye on what was going on around her and was able to align the school improvement plans with professional development and common goals. Chairman Gormley finished by saying that she was very concerned about kids who might be at risk and was able to put together a system to provide support for these students.

Mr. McDonough checked references for Dr. Tremblay. Mr. McDonough felt that one of the strong points given about Dr. Trambly was that he had a pulse on the community. He understands the community and he understand trends with the Budget and with the State. He had been described as having good communication skills, worked well with the ELL population and he commits to what he does 100%. Mr. McDonough also said he was described as being able to work well in groups. He was described as loving the budget time of the year as it was a time to set goals.

Mrs. Bodenhofer checked references for Dr. Brown. She said that in general, she was described as a fabulous human being and is able to laugh at herself. She was described as an excellent collaborator and was a lead principal who was a mentor to new principals. Mrs. Bodenhofer said she was told that Dr. Brown had

excellent verbal and written communication skills, she is culturally proficient, and was described as funny, kind, and caring. Mrs. Bodenhofer said that Dr. Brown was also described as a quick study and although she didn't have a hand in the district budget in Brookline, with some mentoring there is no doubt that she would be able to handle all that is involved with budgets.

Ms. Igoe said that she checked references for Dr. Thomson. Ms. Igoe said that two of the references were not work references but were acquaintances. One of the references was a work/mentoring relationship. He was described as a "what you see is what you get" kind of person. He was described as personable, sincere and easy to work with. Dr. Thomson was also described as a good collaborator, good with parents, and has much experience in the area of curriculum. All three references feel Dr. Thomson is ready for this position.

Mrs. Mullen said she checked references for Ms. Kinsella. Mrs. Mullen said that Ms. Kinsella was described as a good listener, empathetic, a natural group leader, very fun, a very hard worker and very positive. She is multi-lingual and is an strong ELL person. Ms. Kinsella was also described as a good collaborator, is good at building relationships and very comfortable in multi-cultural and diverse situations. The references all agreed that she has a strong social conscience and principles.

Chairman Gormley said he knows that this has been a long process but he felt it was important for the Committee to connect with the references and share their findings. At this point, with all the information gathered, Chairman Gormley asked the Committee how they wanted to proceed.

Ms. Igoe said she would like to narrow the search and bring back a smaller number of candidates for site visits.

Mrs. Bodenhofer agreed and said that visiting five different districts and having five candidates come visit our schools is excessive.

Mr. McDonough asked how many the Committee wanted to narrow it down to.

Ms. Igoe said that at last week's training, Mr. Koocher suggested that if a Committee Member wanted to bring someone back the Committee could vote on that person.

Mrs. Mullen said that she feels each candidate has many qualities that would serve our town very well. It is just important to find that person who has the "super power" that will be best for our district.

After some discussion, the Committee shared the names of the candidates they wanted to move forward.

Mr. McDonough:	Patricia Kinsella Dave Thomson
Mrs. Bodenhofer	Dave Thomson Bob Tremblay Jody Fortuna
Chairman Gormley	Jody Fortuna Dave Thomson
Ms. Igoe	Mary Savage Brown Bob Tremblay
Mrs. Mullen	Mary Savage Brown Bob Tremblay

The Members were able to share their reasons why they really wanted to move their candidates forward.

Dr. Thomson and Dr. Tremblay both received three votes. The Committee continued discussions as to how many to bring forward.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to invite Dave Thomson and Bob Tremblay back for site visits, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough.

Ms. Igoe made an amendment to the motion to invite Dr. Savage Brown back along with Dr. Thomson and Dr. Tremblay, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The motion failed 3-2 (Mrs. Mullen and Ms. Igoe voted in favor).

With regard to the original motion, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Ms. Igoe opposed).

**Adjournment:** Mr. McDonough made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee

