

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, November 2, 2016

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Mr. James Gormley, Chairman (arrived at 8:10 p.m. due to attending the MASC Conference in Hyannis), Ms. Lisa Igoe; Mr. Patrick McDonough, Mrs. Michele Eysie Mullen and Ms. Myev Bodenhofer.

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.

Vice-Chairwoman Igoe began the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes: Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to amend the minutes of October 19, 2016 as follows:

At the end of the *Superintendent Report*, Mrs. Bodenhofer requested the following be added: *The Committee requested a more detailed report after the December 14, 2016 School Committee Meeting.*

This amendment was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: Vice-Chair Igoe acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

- Brochures from other Superintendent Searches; and
- Updated Strategic Plan.

Warrants: Vice-Chair Igoe informed that there were warrants to be signed.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Letters: Mr. Hayden was pleased to inform that this year's John and Abigail Adams Scholarship recipients were notified this week. Mr. Bourn was present this evening and shared in Mr. Hayden's excitement.

Appearances: Mass Association of School Superintendents "Academic Excellence": Mr. Bourn was here this evening to assist Mr. Hayden in presenting awards to four Norwood High School Students. Mr. Bourn shared a few words about each student.

The winners of the Mass Association of School Superintendent's Award for academic achievement were Lauren Fleming and Erin Walsh.

NESDEC Award to High School Students "Award for Growth & Achievement": Mr. Bourn recognized Ahmad Karanouh and Matty Jobarteh as the winners for the NESDEC Award for academic achievement and leadership skills.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Mullen made a motion to move ***New Business: School Improvement Plan*** up in the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Mrs. Killion, Principal of the Prescott Elementary School, was here this evening to present the School Improvement Plan. Mrs. Killion shared the ways the Prescott prepared for testing and said that the PARCC testing results lifted the Prescott to a Level I School. Mrs. Killion also gave a detailed overview of the accomplishments and programs at the Prescott, but added that she is very proud of her Leadership Team (comprised of teachers) and Student Council (comprised of one student from each class). These two groups are working hard to promote a positive and strong culture at the Prescott.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mrs. Killion for her strong leadership at the Prescott and he said he would like to see her vision spread around the district.

Mr. Griffin, Principal of the Callahan Elementary School, was here this evening to present the School Improvement Plan. Mr. Griffin updated that the Callahan's Non-High Needs students continue to score well, but their decline in scores is in the High Needs population, which includes non-English speaking students, those who qualify for free or reduced lunch, and the special needs population. Mr. Griffin also gave a detailed overview of the accomplishments and programs at the Callahan.

Mr. Griffin then said, although the paperwork is not in, this will be his last "State of the Callahan School Report" as he will be retiring. He added that it's been a wonderful 48 years.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mr. Griffin for all he has done in leading the Callahan staff over the years and said it has been a real pleasure working with him.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: Summer School Report: Dr. Michael Crowley gave an overview of the Summer School Program (his 11th year running this program). There were 102 *Summer Matters* students participating this year. Dr. Crowley thanked Mrs. Carole Poirier and Ms. Ann Marie Ellis for helping him to be able to put this program

together in order to service these children. He added that the program ended with a \$500.00 balance.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Crowley said the biggest challenges to summer school are actually getting the students to the program daily as well as the economic constraints.

Summer Reading: Dr. Wyeth gave an overview of the Summer Reading Program, sharing each school's participation levels and accomplishments.

The Committee Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns about summer school work.

Mr. McDonough shared the reasons why he believes that summer school work is not fair or necessary.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to suspend any and all summer work for the District, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen for discussion.

Mr. Hayden asked the Committee to support the summer reading and math work saying that life is about struggling and learning to succeed through the struggle. He added that good learning requires practice. He said that test scores will be much lower if students do not have to do any summer work.

Dr. Wyeth said that students need to learn that you can mix work with play. He added that learning good work habits is a major key to success. Dr. Wyeth was adamant that eliminating school work over the summer would be undermining the efforts of everyone in Norwood who are trying to improve district testing scores and student success.

Dr. Wyeth clarified that summer work is mainly to help students maintain their level of learning so that the "summer slide" does not happen. He said he is willing to get some focus groups going with students to help with the selection of books and review the work that goes along with the reading.

With regard to the motion on the table, Mrs. Mullen amended the motion to ask the principals and administrators to review the book selection process for summer reading with student input, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

MCAS/PARCC Analysis Part II: Dr. Wyeth reviewed with the Committee the 2016 PARCC & MCAS results with more detail being focused on the gaps between learners, particularly between male and female learners and high needs and non-high needs learners.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Mr. Hayden thanked Dr. Wyeth for all his hard work compiling this data.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: None.

Policy: School Admission Policy (JEC), Meals Policy (EFDA): Mr. McDonough said he and Ms. Igoe met to review the School Admission Policy (JEC) and made a few changes that he reviewed with the full Committee.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the School Admission Policy changes, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe.

Mr. McDonough reviewed the process for approving policy changes, which include posting the policy change and giving the public the opportunity to come and discuss it before the vote. Unless the Committee voted to suspend the process, the vote would be put on the next agenda.

Mr. Hayden reviewed the vote process of an existing policy with just a few changes, saying that it can be voted on this evening. A new policy would need notice for the public to come and discuss.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

With regard to the Meals Policy (EFDA), Mr. McDonough and Mr. Hayden explained that this is a new policy that is based on past practice. There was some discussion regarding the process of handling a returned check.

After some discussion the Members made two minor adjustments to this policy.

This policy will be voted on at the next meeting.

Budget: None.

Old Business: Strategic Plan: Mr. Hayden reviewed the updated Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Search Process Update: (Job Description): Mrs. Mullen updated that there was a meeting with Glen Koocher on October 24th to discuss the Search Committee, the Advertising and promotional steps, a time-line and they are now in the process of putting together a brochure that will be put together at no charge. The goal is to have the brochure put together to send out for publishing by the end of next week. Mrs. Mullen said the Search Committee Orientation will be on December 5th. Glen Koocher will come and orient the Committee Members on the important factors of serving on this Committee. MASC will post the vacancy, mail

notices of vacancy, print the brochures, provide editorial assistance, be available at any time for consultation, and many other services as needed. Mrs. Mullen said there will be a focus group on November 17th with different times schedule for the different schools.

Ms. Igoe said that they had announced that anyone wishing to serve on the Committee should send in a letter of interest. They got many great letters by the deadline. They reviewed the make up of the group with Glen Koocher and after reviewing all the letters of interest they have come up with a Committee of 13 members. There are three men and ten women. Ms. Igoe said the Search Committee Members have been notified.

Mrs. Mullen said all those interested in serving would have been great for the group, but they needed to keep the numbers between 11 and 13 to keep it manageable.

There was some discussion as to whether there was enough union representation or if there was a way to be sure there is no one who wanted to serve who may have an axe to grind.

Mrs. Mullen and Ms. Igoe felt like the Committee was second-guessing their choices.

Mrs. Mullen said that they have put a lot of time into this and feels that they have chosen an astounding Search Committee.

Mrs. Bodenhofer thought they would bring the names to the School Committee this evening for approval.

Mrs. Mullen and Ms. Igoe shared the Search Committee members' names:

Michelle Eysie Mullen
Michael Sheehan
Tom Maloney
Karen Manning
Kevin Igoe
Diane Ferreira
Leah Ramsdell

Lisa Igoe
Cathy Connor-Moen
Carolyn Riley
Julie Shore
Lisa Salvaggio
Sarah Cullen

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the proposed Superintendent Search Committee, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Ms. Igoe referred to the sample Superintendent Search brochures that were given out to the Members. The Members were asked for their input for the design of Norwood's brochure.

Ms. Igoe asked the members to review these and let them know their preferences.

Chairman Gormley cautioned against deliberating and breaking open meeting laws.

The Members shared their thoughts on what should be in the brochure.

Ms. Igoe asked if the suggestions can be emailed to her and then the School Committee can meet at 4:30 Monday to approve this item.

Mr. McDonough asked that agenda item be *Superintendent Search Update* in case anything else needs to be discussed.

Out-of-State Field Trip Request – SEARCH – Williamsburg, VA (April 25-29, 2017):

Mr. McDonough made a motion to approve this field trip, which was seconded by Ms. Igoe. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of One Donation:

-Bay State Textiles Rebate: \$326.00

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda

Mrs. Bodenhofer congratulated the award winners and reminded that there will be a presentation of *A Mid Summer Night's Dream* this weekend.

Mr. McDonough congratulated the students who received awards tonight and thanked Mrs. Mullen and Ms. Igoe for their hard work so far getting the Search Committee underway.

Mrs. Mullen reminded of the focus groups on November 17th and encouraged everyone to come out to share their thoughts.

Ms. Igoe congratulated the student who won awards this evening. She also thanked Mrs. Killion and Mr. Griffin for their presentations. Ms. Igoe also thanked everyone who submitted a letter of interest to serve on the Search Committee. She encouraged everyone to come to the forum on November 17th and bring all

questions and concerns. Ms. Igoe informed that tomorrow evening the High School cheerleaders will be competing in the Bay State League Cheering Competition.

Mr. McDonough reminded everyone to vote this upcoming election.

Chairman Gormley sent condolences to the family of Bob Quinn who recently passed away. Bob was a Norwood High School graduate as were his children.

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 10:40 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee