TOWN OF NORWOOD

School Committee Meeting

James R. Savage Educational Center

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

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

December 3, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Mr. John Badger, Chairman,

Mrs. Courtney Rau-Rogers, Mr. Joseph Montesano and Mr. Michal F. Bergeron.

**Committee Member Excused:** Mr. James Gormley.

**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:** Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes of

November 19, 2014, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Warrants:** Chairman Badger informed that there were warrants to be signed.

**Public Forum:** None.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant Update: Mrs. Carole Poirier was here this evening with Ms. Christine Tomasello to update the Committee on the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant.

Mrs. Poirier said the grant is $37,500.00. Mrs. Poirier said the members received packets that are distributed to Norwood Hospital to give to parents of new babies with lots of information about the Norwood Public Schools in it. Mrs. Poirier said that she and Ms. Tomasello had a table at Norwood Day and they met over 200 families who took information packets and hard hats with information about the “Brain Building Initiative” they are working on. She then updated that the grant covers many events for young children, such as:

-A hayride in the fall;

-An Early Childhood Day in February where there is arts and crafts,

a visit from the balloon man, a visit from firefighters who bring

a fire truck for children to check out, and many other fun things

to do;

-A hayride in the spring at a farm where the children can do some fun activities such as berry picking.

Mr. Hayden thanked Mrs. Poirier and Ms. Tomasello for all they do for the community and for helping parents from the very beginning with new babies.

Mrs. Poirier said she thinks it’s very important to help strengthen families and creating a better community.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments as well as thanking them both for all they do.

**Reports:** None.

**Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda:** None.

**Policy:** IJNDD Social Networking Policy of the Norwood Public Schools: Mrs. Rau-Rogers and Mr. Hayden began the discussion of the first reading of the Social Networking Policy. Mr. Hayden said with all the means available these days, we need to make sure there are safeguards to protect everyone. There should be a difference between personal pages vs. professional pages. Mr. Hayden said professional communication should come from school resources. Mr. Hayden said at the next meeting on December 17th, there will be a more in-depth discussion regarding this policy.

**Budget:** FY15 Budget Update: Ms. Ellis updated the Committee on the FY16 Budget Building Process. The Members received the monthly budget report and Mr. Hayden said at this point, we are on track.

FY16 Budget Building Update: Mr. Hayden updated the School Committee on the FY16 Budget Building Process. Mr. Hayden said they have completed meetings with staff and the preliminary budget should be ready for the next meeting. Mr. Hayden informed that Mrs. Reardon’s replacement has started in the Business Office this week (Ms. Chrissie Miller) and the Business Office is going through a bit of a transition.

**Old Business:** Abrahams Group Nov. 21st School Dept. Study Proposal: Chairman Badger and Mrs. Rau-Rogers presented the Abrahams Group Study Proposal, saying the areas to be studies are:

Special Education Services;

Non-Classroom Information Technology;

Revenues;

Personnel and Salaries;

Facilities and Grounds;

Business and Finance;

Comparison to other Communities.

School Enrollment Update: Mr. Hayden updated the Committee on the School Enrollments, saying that there are 3,484 students currently enrolled in the Norwood Public Schools. Mr. Hayden also reviewed projections for enrollment, saying that it is hard to predict a baby boom and also that there are new apartments being built in town, which will impact enrollment.

**New Business:** Norwood High School 2013-2014 College Board Results: Dr. Wyeth presented the Norwood High School 2013-2014 College Board Results, saying that SAT Performance has improved in the critical reading area with a steady upward trend. He informed that math has remained about the same over the past 5 years.

With regards to the writing portion of the test, our students have increased over the passed five years but remained about the same as last year.

Acceptance of One Donation: Mr. Hayden explained that Bay State Textiles has an on-going School/Town wide recycle initiative which will provide rebates for our schools from the collection boxes which are at each building. Mr. Hayden recommended accepting the following rebates:

Savage Educational Center $40.50

High School $55.75

Coakley Middle School $42.75

Prescott Elementary $68.00

Oldham Elementary $41.25

Cleveland Elementary $76.50

Balch Elementary $38.50

Willett Elementary $50.00

Mrs. Rau-Rogers made a motion to approve this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Montesano. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Personnel**: High School Principal Search Update: Mr. Hayden updated that the Principal job has been posted for the High School and the deadline for applications is January 6th. Mr. Hayden said a committee will be put together to review applications and then three finalists will be forwarded on to the Superintendent. Mr. Hayden said at that point, he will invite the three finalists for a visit and he will visit their district to get a feel of how their routine has worked. Mr. Hayden then will have enough information to make a final decision.

There was some discussion.

**School Committee Addenda:** Mr. Bergeron said he was very much looking forward to the Madrigal Concert Friday night, adding that one can’t help but be impressed with the talent of these students.

Mrs. Rau-Rogers had none.

Mr. Montesano had none.

Mr. Badger wanted to send a very big thank you to Mr. Greg Petrucci of Norwood who came to the rescue Thanksgiving morning when the football field was covered with a couple of inches of snow. Mr. Petrucci showed up with his rubber-bladed plow to get the field cleared and the game underway with just a short delay to the start of the game.

Mr. Hayden also thanked Mr. Petrucci and then congratulated Coach Tighe, his staff and the players on a great win over Dedham.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Montesano made a motion for adjournment at 8:00 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Rau-Rogers. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk

Norwood School Committee