

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
James R. Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, December 14, 2016

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Committee Member Excused: Ms. Lisa Igoe.

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. McDonough made a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2016, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: None.

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

Public Forum: Chairman Gormley informed that this was the time in the meeting for members of the public to address the School Committee with items that they would like to see on a future agenda

Mrs. Gerri Slater, mom of two Norwood High School graduates, was here this evening to speak on the Superintendent Search process. She said that on November 13th she requested all the public records regarding the Superintendent Search. She thanked Ms. Ellis, Chairman Gormley and, especially Mr. Hayden for assisting her with accessing these documents. Mrs. Slater clarified that she or no one in her family applied to be on this Search Committee She said she was looking into this Committee as a concerned citizen and a Town Meeting Member. She said that she did not receive all the documents requested at first. She then shared her findings, concerns and read a prepared statement encouraging the Search Committee to do their job in a way that is above-board, transparent and fair. She said that finding the best Superintendent for Norwood is the most important decision that will be made this year.

Mr. Hayden responded by saying that the emails that did not get included in the first round of documents were not omitted intentionally but that the amount of paperwork that needed to get tracked down, copied and forwarded was a lot and in the process there was a clerical error.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: High School 2016-2017 School Improvement Plan: Mr. Bourn was here this evening to present Norwood High School's School Improvement Plan.

New Happenings at NHS:

- 9 new NHS staff members added this year;
- Challenge Day and Social Emotional Learning;
- NHS Data Team;
- Global Citizenship Program;
- NHS – TV & The Pacemaker Award; and
- Facilities.

Mr. Bourn reminded that two years ago, NHS was a level I School but this year went back to a level II School due to the scores of some of the sub groups.

2016-2018 School Improvement Plans:

- Strengthen ways to meet all students' academic needs;
- Increase global competency of all students;
- Strengthen programs to support all students' health and well being;
- Create a culture of rigorous thinking to prepare all students to be career or college ready;
- Technology Integration.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Reports: None.

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

Policy: None.

Budget: FY18 Budget Presentation: Mr. Hayden and Ms. Ellis presented the FY18 School Budget to the School Committee.

Mr. Hayden said the Members received a draft Budget delivered to them a couple of days ago, which has now been replaced by an updated version. Mr. Hayden reviewed the Strategic Goals:

- Prepare all students to be college or career ready;
- Technology Integration;
- Social Emotional Needs of Students;
- Maximize parent & community relationships to support student learning;
- Facility Improvements & Upgrades.

Mr. Hayden reminded that we are still in negotiations with Unit A and

Union 50 so the FY17 School Instructional Salaries are the FY16 salary amounts. He reviewed some of the other needs by priority.

1 st Pass Budget:	FY17 x 2.5% =	\$ 41,956,518
FY18 + Priority 1 (\$173,424)	9.3% Increase	\$ 44,757,799

(Level Services; Collective Bargaining and Reserves = 9.3%)

Mr. Hayden reviewed the long list of mandates.

Mr. Hayden said we need to forecast what kind of revenue we will be receiving and we will continue to look at programs and savings.

Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis, Dr. Wyeth and everyone who has contributed towards putting this budget together.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to submit the 1st Pass FY18 Budget to the Town Accountant in the amount of \$44,757,799.00, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mrs. Mullen thanked Mr. Hayden for helping her understand the budget process, as this is her first one.

Old Business: Superintendent Search Process Update: Mrs. Mullen updated on the most recent focus group meeting, saying it was a small group but they had some great questions. She then updated that after the focus group meeting on December 5th, the Search Committee had their first meeting. Mr. Koocher reviewed with the group information regarding Open Meeting Law guidelines, confidentiality, conflict of interest and public records and then talked about future meeting dates. She said this group is a diverse and knowledgeable group. She added that this group has worked honestly and ethically to find the best Superintendent for Norwood.

New Business: District Governance Program: Mrs. Bodenhofer said Ms. Igoe was not able to attend this evening, but she has spoken with Dorothy Presser who can meet with our Committee on January 9th to talk about how school committee's work. Mrs. Bodenhofer said this would be a great training/retreat since this is a relatively new group of Committee Members.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to schedule this District Governance Program on January 9th at 4:00 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McDonough. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Conflict of Interest Compliance Steps: Chairman Gormley updated that there was a recent Conflict of Interest training for Town Offices that Mr. Hayden and he attended. They updated that all school employees will need to also take on on-line training and test by January 31st, which is supposed to be done every other year. We

have not done this in seven years. All Norwood School employees will need to complete on-line training no later than January 31st.

Notification of School Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grant Award: Mr. Hayden said that we have received a grant that will be used for replacing school nutrition equipment. Mr. Hayden thanked Ms. Ellis for putting the grant together.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to accept this grant, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Transportation Information:

- Special Education Van Analysis – Abrahams Report:
- St. Catherine's Mileage Calculations:

Mr. Hayden, in response to Mrs. Bodenhofer's previous request for comparisons on school transportation, provided the Final Report from the Abrahams Group dated May 2015. There was some discussion regarding this information.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of (4) Four Donations:

- Shaw's Making Change Point of Purchase Program - \$400.00 (Willett);
- Mr. Andrew Needleman – Claricode – HP Color Printer – (Prescott);
- Ohiopyle Prints, Inc. - \$89.03 – (High School); and
- Lueders Environmental, Inc. - \$50.00.

Mr. McDonough made a motion to accept all donations, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen 4-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mr. McDonough sent condolences to the family of Mr. Duke Folan, a great friend of his family and owner of Guild Variety. Mr. McDonough also wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone.

Mrs. Bodenhofer said she is looking forward to the upcoming holiday concerts and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chairman Gormley also followed up with Mr. McDonough's comments regarding the recent passing of Mr. Duke Folan, saying he was such a generous and giving man. He said there was always a cast of characters hanging around the Guild Variety keeping up with the local news, adding that he will be missed.

Mrs. Mullen congratulated the Norwood High School TV Program on the Pacemaker Award. She then congratulated Mrs. Beverly Callahan at Norwood High School as she get ready to begin her retirement.

Executive Session: Chairman Gormley informed that there would be an Executive Session for Unit A – Individual Contracts. The Committee Members were polled.

Mr. McDonough made a motion at 9:20 p.m. for Executive Session for Unit A-Individual Contracts and to enter back into Open Session for the sole purpose of Adjournment, which was seconded by Mrs. Mullen. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Adjournment: Mr. McDonough made a motion for adjournment at 10:15 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee