

**Town of Norwood  
School Committee Meeting  
Hybrid  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022**

A hybrid meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. (The public can access the meeting in person at the Savage Educational Center or live via NCM on cable, as it is live-streamed. For the cable channel guide and on-line link, please visit: <https://norwoodcommunitymedia.org>).

**Committee Members Present:** Ms. Anne Marie Mazzola, Chair; Mr. Hiltz, Teresa Stewart, Dr. Joan Giblin (joined meeting remotely at 8:00 pm.) and Ms. Kate Sibbing-Dunn

**Administrators Present:** Dr. Alec Wyeth, Acting Superintendent; Dr. Charisse Taylor, Acting Assistant Superintendent and Ms. Karin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations

**Administrator Excused:** Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools (medical leave)

**Minutes:** The Chair asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:

**-October 26, 2022 (Business Meeting);**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve these minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 3-0-1 (Chair Mazzola abstained).

**-October 12, 2022 (Executive Session);**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve these minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**-October 26, 2022 (Business Meeting);**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve these minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 3-0-1 (Chair Mazzola abstained).

**-MASC Training - October 25, 2022;**

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve these minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 3-0-1 (Mr. Hiltz abstained).

**Correspondence:** None.

**Warrants:** Chair Mazzola informed that she has signed warrants on behalf of the School Committee. Chair Mazzola then shared the warrant report.

-Payroll Warrants: \$ 1,857,577.83

- Accounts Payable	\$ 6,148.65
	\$ 29,436.02
	\$ 101,219.61
	\$ 42,617.44
	\$ 1,794.38
	\$ 19,893.43
	\$ 35,727.52
	\$ <u>260.38</u>
Approved For:	\$2,094,675.26

Public Comment: Chair Mazzola 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. The School Committee has switched to a hybrid meeting and the public can access the meeting in person at the Savage Educational Center or live via NCM on cable, as it is live-streamed. For the cable channel guide and on-line link, please visit: <https://norwoodcommunitymedia.org>.

The Chair reminded that there are now two ways the public can participate in the public forum portion of the meeting. (1) In person at the meeting (sign up in advance at the Superintendent's Office by noon the day of the meeting to pre-register, or sign in at the meeting; and (2) Call the Superintendent's Office at 781-762-6804 by noon on the day of the meeting to register and receive a meeting link that will be accessible for public forum only.

There was one registered speaker this evening:

Kristen Junkins - (Oldham Parent) appeared before the School Committee accompanied by Nancy Saad (also an Oldham parent) to speak on behalf of the PACS Program at the Oldham School. She said there has been a huge turn-over in that class along with staffing issues. She added that many students require 1:1 aides and the classes really need more staff. She said that the children need more at this point.

The Chair declared Public Comment closed at 7:10 p.n. and informed that the next School Committee Meeting will be on December 7, 2022 at the Coakley Middle School as part of the Traveling School Committee.

**Appearances: Quarterly Report from Facilities:** Mr. Riccardi presented the Facilities Work Order Count by Department from 7/1/22 through 10/31/22. He informed that the schools have 80% of the work orders and the town side has 20% of the work orders. He added that the High School is the largest building with the most work orders. Mr. Riccardi said he has received work orders in the last two weeks from three schools to put dividers in classrooms, Oldham PACS, Callahan TASC and Cleveland PLC. Mr. Riccardi said he is very proud of the facilities staff for the hard work they do keeping the schools clean and safe for the students and staff.

Student Television National Convention - Mr. Kerr, Director of Fine Arts, was here this evening to request two field trips:

-Student Television National Convention, Long Beach, California -  
March 15-19, 2023;

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

National Honor Choir Trip: Mr. Kerr, Director of Fine Arts, requested approval for four NHS students to attend the American Choral Directors Association National Convention in Cincinnati, OH. This trip will be during February vacation. The four students who would be attending had to audition to participate in the Honor Choir and were accepted into the program.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

SPED Request for 1.0 Teacher: Ms. Lori Cimeno and Ms. Kate Davey were here this evening to request an increase of a 1.0 special education teacher for the PACS class at the Oldham. Ms. Cimeno shared that they find it necessary to split the room and add an additional teacher. Ms. Cimeno asked the Committee's approval to post this position.

Mr. Olsen, Principal of the Oldham Elementary School, was here this evening to answer questions from the Members. There was a lot of discussion around the space issue at the Oldham.

Ms. Cimeno and Mr. Olsen both said that they hope the Committee approves the new position this evening and then they will work out the best possible spacing plan.

After some discussion, Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion to approve the request for a 1.0 FT SPED Teacher at the Oldham, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Dr. Wyeth updated on the following: DESE Change in MCAS Standards and Competency Determination for Graduation: They Members received in their packets the *Competency Determination Requirements for Graduation for Classes 2021-2031*. Dr. Wyeth said it's a gradual increase in expectation and if they don't meet expectations, an EPP (Education Proficiency Plan) can be created by school and shared with parents.

**Competency**

<b>Determ. Requirement:</b>	<b>2021 &amp; 2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2026-30</b>	<b>2031</b>
ELA Scaled	455	472	472	486	500
Math Scaled	469	486	486	486	500
STE Scaled	220	220	220	470	470

**Option 2 to above expectations:**

**Competency**

<b>Determ. Requirement:</b>	<b>2021 &amp; 2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>	<b>2026-30</b>	<b>2031</b>
ELA Scaled	HS Course completion	445-471 + EPP	445-471 +EPP	470-485 +EPP	470-485 +EPP
Math Scaled	HS Course completion	460-485 + EPP	469-485 +EPP	470-485 +EPP	470-485 +EPP
STE Scaled	HS Course completion	HS Course completion	NA	NA	NA

**EPP= Educational Proficiency Plan by school and shared with parents.**

Superintendent Thomson's Medical Leave Update: Dr. Wyeth updated that Dr. Thomson's surgery went as planned and he is recovering well. He is attending physical therapy and is planning on returning after Thanksgiving.

Proposed HS Make Up Day: Dr. Wyeth shared with the Committee the request from Dr. Hugh Galligan to change the full day professional development day scheduled for January 3, 2023 to an early release day for students at Norwood High School (8:15-12:00 p.m.) and a half-day professional development day for NHS staff (12:30 - 3:00 p.m.). This calendar change is due to the closing of Norwood High School on Thursday, October 27th due to the smell of gas as staff and students were arriving to school. This calendar change is only for the High School.

Mr. Bishop has confirmed that Norwood Public Schools and Connolly Transportation will be able to provide transpiration for Norwood High School students.

Mr. Hiltz made a motion to approve the requested calendar change for Norwood High School, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

John & Abigail Adams Scholarships for the Class of 2023: Dr. Wyeth congratulated the following students on receiving the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship (Class of 2023).

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Eve Andrews       | Carmen Lin          |
| Natalie Barriga   | Cameron LoPiccolo   |
| Jenna Berg        | Benjamin MacDougall |
| Kelsey Bishqemi   | Charlotte Mathews   |
| Shannon Brady     | Sarah McCarey       |
| Patrick Brady     | Benjamin McLeish    |
| Jack Brady        | Jelize Mett Jemmott |
| Caroline Bussiere | Brian Michienzi     |
| John Cavanaugh    | Kathleen Mills      |
| Emily Cico        | William Morrissey   |
| Alex Citrone      | Michael Moynihan    |
| Jacob Deshiro     | Jenna Naumann       |
| Joseph DeVingo    | Khang Nguyễn        |
| Niko Faller       | Lina Nicolas        |

John & Abigail Adams Scholarships: (cont'd):

Emily Fehm	Dylan O'Brien
Sean Flynne	Keira O'Donnell
Christine Fontaine	Madelyn O'Keefe
Caroline Forrest	Rachel O'Neil
Meredith Graham	Sahil Ramana
Joseph Greene	Morgan Roach
Benjamin Guarin	Samantha Rose
Mary Gunning	Leanne Saad
Audrey Haberlin	Rachel Sabourin
Shylah Hansen	Aidan Scanlon
Brooke Hartman	Konrad Schletzbbaum
Austin Henry	Emily Semakula
Sklar Huha	Casey Sheehan
Jack Igoe	Stephanie Sol
Kinsaed James	Kevin Sople
Enoh Johnson	Margaret Stenstrom
Ayushma K.C.	Kiley Sullivan
Vivek Kilari	Michael Walsh
Jackson Kiley	Caleigh Wetnicka
Sathvika Kommera	Sheridan Wynne
Adwoa Kwakye	Livia Zaldivar
Ryan Lee	Jacob Zhang
Olivia LeSavage	

NHS AP Capstone Students Recognized: Dr. Wyeth informed that the Capstone Course is still fairly new and some of our students are taking off and making their mark in the publishing world. Dr. Wyeth publicly recongnized Katherine Brent and Charlotte Matthews who are published students from Norwood

Katherine Brent's topic was *Dementia and Non-pharmacological Interventions*. She referenced 16 references in her work.

Charlotte Matthews' topic was *Impact of Media Choice on Political Knowledge*. Charlotte has 9 references attached to her work.

Jen Orlinski is the lead teacher with this and she deserves a lot of credit with this program.

Dr. Wyeth suggested inviting both students in to share more with the Committee on their topics

**Budget: Budget Subcommittee Update:** Ms. Stewart updated that the Members have received the minutes and action-items from the October 20th meeting and the November 7th meeting (draft minutes). At the November 7th meeting:

-The Committee reviewed the Quarterly Report that Ms. Sheridan will be reviewing this evening;

- Began to discuss ways that the School Committee can increase budget literacy and sustainability;
- The Committee reviewed the analysis that Ms. Sheridan prepared for this evening's Executive Session Meeting (for negotiations with Administrative Assistants);
- Finalized survey on school based waivers and fees;
- Continued discussion around analysis in regards to the operations of the Middle School

The Sub Committee will meet again on December 1st and will:

- Help the Chair and Ms. Stewart learn more about equitable budgeting;
- Review survey results;
- Ms. Cimeno will be at that meeting to talk about special education projected needs;
- They will begin to look at the LMPA analysis;
- Town projected revenue from Ann Haley for the next year;
- They will be going to FinCom on December 15th so they will finalize the presentation for that

Budget Quarterly Reports including Grants, Revolving Funds and Hire-Down Savings Report: Ms. Sheridan shared the Budget Quarterly Report:

- FY23 Budget \$52,801,033
- Total Expended to Date: \$9,951,917
- Encumbrances: \$42,841,257
- Available balance: \$7,859

Circuit Breaker:

School Districts are eligible for reimbursements of expenditures for students whose special education program costs more than four times the statewide foundation budget. By law, the districts are reimbursed for up to 75% of the costs above the threshold, subject to appropriation.

- Reimbursed based on previous year's data
- Circuit Breaker allows for two years to expend the funds
- Transportation included effective FY22

FY23 Total: \$2,841,087 Reimb. Rate: 75% Per Student: \$47,363 52 Students

Ms. Sheridan updated on:

- Medicaid
- Revolving Funds and
- Grants

Ms. Sheridan shared that:

- General Education Staffing to date is 325 (60% of staff)

- Special Education to date is 192 (36%)
- EL to date is 22 (4%)

Total General Fund Staff - 537

Ms. Sheridan feels that we are in good shape with a healthy reserve fund to fall back on.

Monthly Budget Transfer - Approved by Superintendent (Report only): There were three transfers for a total amount of \$13,920.00.

- Prescott - \$6,000 for Instructional Supplies;
- CMS - \$2,920 for Language Lab costs;
- Balch - \$5,000 for General Supplies

Budget Transfers for SC Approval: Ms. Sheridan had one transfer that needed to be approved by the School Committee:

\$2297.62 from TECH Fees/Software to Admin contracted services to Parent Square (As it crosses DESE lines)

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve this transfer, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

**Old Business:** Report out of Office Hours: November 15, 2022: The Chair said she and Dr. Giblin held office hours yesterday morning and had one parent attend.

They discussed:

- The future direction of vaccinations and Health Department rules;
- Concerns around the Run/Hide/Fight video (that it might be outdated).

The Chair said she will ask Dr. Thomson or Dr. Wyeth to review and share that concern with Chief Brooks.

The next Office Hours will be Monday December 5th from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Long Term Agenda Review: The Chair reviewed and adjusted the agendas for the December 7th and December 21st School Committee Meetings with Ms. Stewart and Ms. Sibbing-Dunn.

There was some discussion that the next School Committee meeting will be a Traveling School Committee Meeting at the CMS and is not going to be a hybrid meeting as had previously been voted on.

Chair made a motion to reconsider the initial vote to see if the next Traveling School Committee at the CMS can be a hybrid meeting now that we have the OWL Technology, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz.

There was some discussion regarding this.

Regarding the Chair's motion, the Chair polled each member and the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Dr. Giblin voted against).

The Chair made a Motion to allow the next Traveling School Committee be a hybrid meeting using the OWL Technology, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Norfolk County Sheriff's Office Task Force Meeting Update: The Chair updated that she and Ms. Stewart serve on the Norfolk county Sheriff's office Task Force. She informed that at the last meeting they had a presentation by Biker's Against Child Abuse. She said this was a great presentation, adding that these people have to go through extensive training to serve in this program. They assist, advocate and support children who have gone through abuse. The next meeting will be this coming Monday.

Policy: Policy Sub Committee Update: Dr. Giblin said that the draft minutes that the Members received this evening are incomplete as they are working to merge sets of minutes together.

- The Staff Handbook was worked on and Dr. Taylor is still working on Policy and Procedures.
- The Policy Sub Committee reviewed the presentation guidelines and voted that they look good and no changes need to be made at this time.
- Celebrations in Schools Policy - at this point the Sub Committee is not recommending any changes. Efforts should be on making sure that everyone is following current policy.
- Reviewed District Wide Communication Policy which seems to be going well.
- The Sub Committee will be looking at dropping the District Wide Policy into 5 areas.

The next meetings will be on November 22nd and December 13th.

**New Business:** MASC 2022 Conference: Ms. Sibbing-Dunn and Dr. Taylor attended the 2022 MASC Conference and updated the Committee. Ms. Sibbing-Dunn said she attended about 15 of the programs and said many of the themes were around equity and equality. She said she attended a Communications Workshop where they shared how they created videos to help share information and tackle difficult topics. Another workshop was about the after effects from the Covid situation. Another workshop that she found informative was how to take equity from thought to action. She said overall it was a great experience



Ms. Taylor talked about DESE's laser focus on family and community engagement. She said there are a number of grant opportunities coming out in January for family and community engagement. She also added that we need to start thinking about how are we bringing the community into the schools.

Dr. Wyeth suggested looking into some collaboratives.

**Consent Agenda: Acceptance of Two Donations:**

- CMS Donation - Wellesley College - \$600
- HS OhioPyle Prints Rebate - \$39.28
- Bay State Textiles Rebate - 679.25

Mr. Hiltz made a motion to accept these donations/rebates, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee Members were polled and voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

**School Committee Addenda:** Dr. Giblin had none.

Ms. Stewart shared that another vaccine clinic will be held from 3-6 at NHS on Monday. Ms. Stewart then shared that all schools will be receiving Covid 19 Test Kits. Jill Driscoll will pick them up and all students and staff will be able to take home over the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn had none.

Mr. Hiltz wished everyone a wonderful few days off and a great Thanksgiving.

Chair Mazzola shared Mr. Hiltz's sentiments to enjoy some time off over Thanksgiving.

**Executive Session:** Chair Mazzola informed that there would be an Executive Session for contract negotiations.

Mr. Hiltz made a motion for Executive Session at 9:39 p.m. which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mr. Hiltz made a motion for adjournment at 10:48 p.m., which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Members were polled and voted unanimously in favor 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee