

**Town of Norwood
Traveling School Committee Meeting
Coakley Middle School
Hybrid
Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

A hybrid meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at the Coakley Middle School. The meeting was called to order at 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 and Ms. Kate Sibbing-Dunn

Committee Member Excused: Dr. Joan Giblin

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Alec Wyeth, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment and Dr. Charisse Taylor, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Minutes: Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the following minutes:
- November 16, 2022 (Business Meeting); and
-November 16, 2022 (Executive Session) - with edit on date that was made today.
This motion was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

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:	\$1,863,828.79	(11/17/22)
	\$1,826,041.82	(12/1/22)
-Accounts Payable:	\$.	33,763.00
	\$.	32,565.96
	\$.	22,282.00
	\$.	41,340.60
	\$.	40,267.36
	\$.	3,640.00
	\$.	7,170.48
	\$.	295.07
	\$.	<u>575.00</u>
-Approved:	\$3,871,770.08	

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 were no registered speakers this evening,

Appearances: Project Lead The Way Teacher of the Year Presentation: Dr. Fraczek welcomed everyone to the Coakley Middle School this evening and was happy to announce that Ms. Cristina Serradas, a teacher at the Coakley Middle School, won the Project Lead The Way Teacher of the Year Award which is a national award. She introduced Ms. Serradas to the Committee.

Ms. Serradas said she was honored to receive this award and said that it was her students that actually did all the work. She brought samples of some of her students' work for the Committee to see.

Dr. Fraczek then explained the Project 351 Ambassador Award, which is one student (8th Grader) from each town in Massachusetts who is chosen to represent their town. The award is meant for quiet heroes who are doing good work at school, in the community and exhibit kindness, compassion and an ethic of service. Dr. Fraczek welcomed Bobby Griffin to this evening's meeting and announced that he has been chosen as Norwood's Project 351 Ambassador. Bobby will meet up with the other 351 Ambassadors at the State House on Martin Luther King Day. They will learn about service and will run a service project back at their schools.

Addition of 9th Classroom at LMPA: Ms. Cimeno and Dr. Baulier, Principal of the LMPA as well as the Willett Early Childhood Center, were here this evening to request approval to open a 9th classroom at the LMPA, which includes a 1.0 Special Education Teacher and a 1.0 instructional aide to support the teacher. (Another instructional aide may need to be added at some point in the future).

Dr. Thomson said that we knew this was coming as we knew these children would be turning three and leaving Early Intervention.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve a new classroom at LMPA with a 1.0 FTE Teacher and 1.0 Instructional Aide, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Student Advisory Committee Liaison Update on Student Outreach and Initiatives:
Keira O'Donnell was here to give an overview of the Student Advisory Council.

She reviewed that the Student Advisory Council is made up of 5 High School Students, adding that each student will gather information for quarterly liaison presentations. The Students will represent students at all grade levels in the district. They attended a training session at the MASR Conference in Hyannis, MA. There they met more experienced student representatives from other districts and were introduced to the basics of a "student report".

Council Members:

Kevin Roach - Class of 2026 - will cover NHS
Sophia Turner - Class of 2025 - will cover CMS
Kayla Delamere - Class of 2024 - will cover CMS
John Cavanaugh - Class of 2023 - will cover Elementary Schools
Keira O'Donnell - Class of 2023 - will cover Elementary Schools and Liaison

Ms. O'Donnell explained what the Quarterly Reports will look like and then shared that the the Student Advisory Council looks forward to meeting and working with the School Committee.

Fall Athletics and Fine Arts Recognition: Mr. Longley and Mr. Kerr were here this evening to give updates.

Mr. Longley updated on the Fall Sport Season, adding that they are now two-weeks into the Winter Season. He then shared the Fall 2022 TVL Awards:

Field Hockey:

Lindsay Rogers
Ava Hines
Ava O'Neill (HM)

Football:

Ryan Connelly
Joey McHugh
Casey Sheehan

Golf

Sean Dittmeier
Kevin Sople (HM)
Domenic Conidi (HM)

Boys Cross Country:

Dylan Hamway
Dylan O'Brien

Girls' Volley Ball:

Priscilla Dos Santos
Shannon Brady (HM)

Boys' Soccer:

Ciledson Dias Segundo

Girls' Soccer:

Emily Fehm (HM)

Cheerleading:

Maddie Carreiro
Caroline Curran
Lucy Scafati

Mr. Kerr updated on all the exciting accomplishments and events from the fall season.

One of the Norwood High School Marching Band members (Jacob) was in attendance with Mr. Kerr and shared that the Marching Band and Color Guard won the Gold Medal at the MICCA Competition this past fall. He brought the award with him to share with the Committee.

The Members had an opportunity to congratulate the students.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson was happy to announce that we have secured two grants: (1) on Extended Learning Time; and (2) Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Grant.

Dr. Taylor informed that the Extended Learning Time Grant was in the amount of \$373,000 which will fund summer programs and help us to explore what kind of models are available. This grant will help us to learn what Extended Learning Time can look like and how to better service our students.

Ms. Cimeno said she found out Friday night that we received a SEL Grant in the amount of \$99,185.00. We will be able to change over to the Safety Care De-escalation Training (4 staff members will become trainers). Ms. Cimeno was also excited that it will allow for some of our paraprofessionals (30) to take the 40 hour course to become district behaviour technicians. Finally, this grant will allow the district to buy a new social emotional curriculum for the TASC Program. (SSIS Curriculum)

Dr. Taylor informed that not only will this grant pay for the Behaviour Technician Course, but it will cover the exam and the initial certification. She added that we are fully funded for 30 paraprofessionals this year.

Dr. Thomson updated that we will not be able to hold our February Extended Day Program as we do not have the staff to do it. He added that he is not ruling out April. Dr. Thomson will send this information out through *Parent Square* tomorrow.

Strategic Planning: Dr. Thomson updated that the overview is complete and they are looking to share the outline with the full committee next week with a vote on the Strategic Plan on December 21st.

Job Openings: Dr. Thomson said that he still has some open positions:

- Preschool Teacher;
- Special Education Teachers;
- School Adjustment Counselors;
- School Psychologist;
- 7 paraprofessionals;
- Long and short term substitutes;

Holiday Events: Dr. Thomson reminded parents to check their *Parent Square* updates as there will be updates and reminders about the holiday events coming up.

Dr. Thomson thanked everyone for their support during his recent surgery and rehab. He especially thanked Dr. Wyeth and Dr. Taylor for keeping things going while he was out.

Budget: Budget Sub Committee Update: Ms. Stewart gave an update on the Budget Sub Committee. The Members received the draft minutes of the December 1st meeting as well as the action items. They also received the following:

- Information on the Inflation Report;
- Revenue productions that were received from Meg LeMay (Director of Finance for the Town of Norwood);
- Survey results from the Waiver Survey.

At this time the projected budget for FY24 is: \$54,649,043.00.

They will be going to the Finance Commission Meeting on December 15th and they will be finalizing the presentation for that meeting.

They discussed the on-going challenges with the reporting and accounting for the Joint Facilities and Ms. Sheridan is still working with the Town on this.

She reminded that in one of the October meetings there was a discussion about the challenging news that the inflation rate for out of district tuition is going up 14%, which we do need to budget for. Currently we have 59 out of district students. That will be a total of \$1,035,511.00 that we now need to budget for in FY24. With our override MOU, we are required to stay within a 3.5 % increase. Ms. Stewart said that this increase already has the budget at a 1.96% leaving us only with 1.54% for an increase if we are to stay within the 3.5%. Ms. Stewart said this is looking like a very challenging situation.

Dr. Taylor shared the responses from the Administrative Team of the Waiver Survey with the Sub Committee and the Members received the responses in their packets.

Ms. Cimeno and Ms. Davey presented on Special Education needs for the remainder of this. Year and for next year.

The next Budget Sub Committee Meeting will her on December 14th at 12:00 p.m.

Old Business: MCAS Reporting Part II: Dr. Wyeth reviewed the elementary action steps that have been implemented. Some of the actions include:

- Refining data driving small group instruction;
- Offering Acceleration Academy for additional time on learning;
- Offering Summer Matters Program;
- Providing teachers with PD;

- Highlander’s “learning put” is being utilized in all schools;
- Continued efforts to increase inclusive practices for ML learners and students with disabilities.

Dr. Wyeth shared more specific action steps for:

- Elementary ELA, Math and STE (grade 5).
- Grades 6-8 Science and STEM; and
- Grades 6-10 ELA, Visual Arts, Math and World Language.

Report of Office Hours from December 5th: Ms. Stewart said there was nothing to report as no one attended.

The Chair reminded that the next scheduled office hours will be on January 18, 2023 from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. Chair Mazzola and Mr. Hiltz will be in attendance.

Elementary Study Committee Update: Mr. Hiltz and Ms. Sibbing-Dunn updated on the last Elementary Study Committee Meeting on November 30th. The Members have received the draft minutes.

Mr. Hiltz began by saying that the new Middle School will open in 2025 and there will be a big shift when the 5th Grades leave the Elementary Schools and move to the new Middle School. Mr. Hiltz said that there was discussion at the last meeting regarding the budget items and the big questions is whether this is something we can handle on our own or if we should get an outside consultant. The Sub Committee did vote in favor of an outside consultant with the timeline and other details to be determined. Before the next meeting, Dr. Thomson will invite the principals to come in to share their thoughts and ideas. Mr. Hiltz also sent an email updating the Budget Sub Committee and Ms. Sheridan. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 22nd.

Dr. Thomson said he would rather go with a timeline that will make sure we are doing everything well, since this is a very complex district with a lot of factors that are not “normal”. He said hiring someone with some expertise on how to align all these factors will help ensure all goes well.

The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts on the need for an outside consultant.

Policy: Policy Sub Committee Update: Ms. Sibbing-Dunn updated with regard to the Policy Sub Committee. She said a good amount of the last meeting was about creating a calendar for policy review. This will help to ensure that we don’t get backed up on updating policies.

She also said the Social Media Policy language looks all right but they wanted to check to see if procedures and protocols are in order.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn said, regarding Consent Agenda, the issue around PTO fund-raising came up. She said there are sometimes budget implications but also district equity issues. There was some discussion as to how the Committee can start working with PTO's better and how to know what everyone is doing.

Ms. Stewart said this is such an in-depth subject that we may need to schedule a Policy Sub Committee Meeting that the whole School Committee could attend to work on this.

Ms. Stewart said she has some concerns on the timeline (Section D and some of Section K - waiting until July). In September, MASC put out a revised Section D and released a new Policy KCD. Ms. Stewart feels that these are important priorities.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to put Policy KCD on our next agenda (December 21, 2022) and that Section D should be sent to the Budget Sub Committee for review in January, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

The next Policy Sub Committee Meeting will be on December 13th.

New Business: Consent Agenda: Acceptance of Seven (7) Donations:

- Balch - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee; and
- Prescott - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee
- Callahan - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee
- Cleveland - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee
- Oldham - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee
- CMS - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee
- NHS - \$400.00 Gift Card - Women's Community Committee

Mr. Hiltz made a motion to accept these donations/rebates, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee Members voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

School Committee Addenda: Ms Sibbing-Dunn shared that there will be a wonderful concert tomorrow night at the Norwood Theatre which will be the last of the 150 Committee Events.

Ms. Stewart said, with the new budget cycle being worked on, she hopes that the other Town Officials and the community take the time to learn what the School Budget and School Policies are all about.

Mr. Hiltz had none.

The Chair had none.

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

Ms. Stewart made a motion for Executive Session at 9:02 p.m. which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Hiltz made a motion for adjournment at 9:46 p.m., which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Members were polled and voted unanimously in favor 4-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee
(Minutes were taken remotely)