

**Town of Norwood
School Committee Meeting
@ Callahan Elementary School (Traveling School Committee Meeting)
Hybrid
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

A hybrid meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. (The public can access the meeting in person at the Callahan Elementary School (Traveling School Committee Meeting) 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; Ms. Teresa Stewart, Dr. Joan Giblin, Mr. David Hiltz (arrived at 7:15) and Ms. Kate Sibbing-Dunn (arrived at 8:10 p.m..)

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

Minutes: Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- March 29, 2023 (Business Meeting);
- March 29, 2023 (Executive Session); and
- April 6, 2023 (Emergency Executive Session)

This motion was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Chair Mazzola welcomed everyone to this evening's Traveling School Committee Meeting at the Callahan Elementary School. Principal Scarlett Grandt also welcomed everyone and shared with the Committee that she is so happy to be the principal of the Callahan and that her first year is going well.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chair Mazzola informed that she has signed warrants on behalf of the School Committee. Chair Mazzola then shared the warrant report which totalled \$4,749,040.49.

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 this evening at the Callahan Elementary School 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 no one registered in advance or at the meeting for Public Forum and the Chair declared Public Forum closed at 7:17 p.m.

Appearances: Foreign Language Out of State Field Trip: Ms. Kaplan was here this evening for approval for a Foreign Language Out-of-State Field Trip to the Dominican Republic on April 13-20, 2024 (Service trip).

Ms. Stewart asked if the itinerary is still being worked on.

Ms. Kaplan said there was a summary of the trip on page 8 and that she had a separate program with more detailed information of the trip that she could get to the Members.

Ms. Stewart asked her to share it with Dr. Thomson and he could share it with the Members since it's in the policy that they are supposed to see it.

Ms. Kaplan said there would be some student driven fundraisers (restaurant nights, etc.) and we are hoping to look into some scholarship opportunities and she has a letter drafted asking for help from local businesses.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve this field trip, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Athletic Recognition: Mr. Jon Longley, Director of Athletics, was here this evening to share the athletic recognition for the winter season.

Mr. Longley said the Winter Banquet was a couple of weeks ago and was sponsored by the Norwood High School Athletic Booster Club. He said that many athletes and parents were there and that Dr. Thomson attended as well. He said they had another really successful winter season with over 30 student athletes recognized by the Tri-Valley League with All-Star and Honorable Mention Awards. There were more than 10 students that competed in their individual state championship meets in wrestling, swim/dive, track/field.

Boys/Girls Ice Hockey and Boys/Girls Basketball all made the post season tournament and Boys' Basketball won the Tri-Valley League for the 2nd year in a row. We had a pretty good run with all four of these teams. Mr. Longley was proud to say that we played 10 tournament games in 10 days. Mr. Longley sent a special thanks to the coaches, parents and student athletes for their efforts during that time

as well as Dr. Galligan, the Administration and the Athletic Staff for getting out to support the teams.

Mr. Longley added that the Cheerleaders advanced to the State Tournament this year as well and it was the first time since 2013 that they advanced to the State Tournament. He congratulated Coach Buckman and the cheerleaders for their successful season.

(Please see attached list of award winners.)

Mr. Longley said we are in week four of spring sports and today we had 7 different events going on. He thanked the DPW for all their efforts in getting the fields ready.

Budget: Athletic Financial Report from Fall and Winter Seasons: (moved up in the agenda): Ms. Sheridan and Mr. Longley reviewed the FY23 Athletic Report Summary (new report this year).

(Participants)	FY22	FY23	Increase/Decrease
NHS-Spring Athletes	264	19	N/A
NHS - Winter Athletes	190	259	-41
NHS-Fall Athletes	324	288	-36
CMS - Winter Athletes	0	13	13
CMS - Fall Athletes	30	58	28
Total Athletes	908	627	-36

Revenue:	FY22	FY23 (Expected)
Total Receipts	\$172,765	\$132,991

*Down in receipts due to decrease in student participation

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Superintendent’s Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson updated on the following

-A thank you letter from the MIAA/MSAA Executive Director, Bob Baldwin, to Dr. Galligan, Mr. Longley and Dr. Thomson for their attendance and commitment to the recent two-day training (all day Friday and Saturday) on the quest to eradicate hate and bias in interscholastic athletics. This letter stated that “Your participation as an inaugural member did not go unnoticed and you should be commended for your leadership and commitment to this worthwhile initiative.” Also, Mr. Baldwin stated that “You’ve set a high standard and firm foundation for the remaining 12 trainings around the state. I truly believe that together we can inspire social change and empower adult and student role models to work towards a sustainable culture in our schools, on our playing fields and in our communities”

Ms. Stewart thought it was an important letter to acknowledge and to extend appreciation to Dr. Thomson, Dr. Galligan and Mr. Longley for going above and beyond.

-Dr. Thomson announced that we won a competitive grant and were accepted into the S. T. Math (Spacial/Temporal Math) Pathway for the Willett. Dr. Thomson thanked Dr. Baulier and Ms. Donnelly for their work on putting this together.

-Dr. Thomson informed that unfortunately *Ash To Flame* will not be able to participate in the New England Festival as we could not get a bus to get them to Maine. They will be performing at the Fine Arts Festival and Dr. Thomson highly recommended attending this performance.

-Job Openings:

School Psychologist
4 Paraprofessionals
Short / Long term substitutes
Extended Day Staff
Summer Programming Staff

Budget: Budget Sub Committee Update: Ms. Stewart shared an updated of the Budget Sub Committee. She said they last met as a sub committee on March 30th. The Members have received the draft minutes of February 14, 2023; March 24, 2023; and March 30, 2023. They meet again as a Sub Committee tomorrow morning to get ready for the Town Meeting presentation on April 24th.

Fee Analysis Update: After reviewing fees in other districts, Ms. Sheridan shared her recommendations on fees for the NPS:

Athletics:

High School	\$200 Fee	\$800 Cap (per season)
Middle School	\$100	

Ms. Sheridan said these fees are in line with surrounding towns and recommended keeping these the same.

Fine Arts: \$150 per student (per year)

Ms. Sheridan was not able to get a lot of analysis. Ms. Sheridan recommended keeping this the same.

Ms. Sheridan said she would come back in the fall with more information.

Dr. Giblin asked that she would like to see expenditures as well as revenue when they come back with more information in the fall.

Bus Transportation: \$300 Fee \$750 Cap

Ms. Sheridan informed that these fees are in line with surrounding towns and she recommended keeping these the same.

Technology: \$30 (insurance for Chromebooks)

Families had the option of paying \$30 for insurance for the chromebooks so if the Chromebook breaks, there are no hefty costs.

Ms. Sheridan recommended keeping this fee the same.

<u>Extended Day (Gr. K-5):</u>	Morning Monthly Fees	Afternoon Monthly Fees
	\$47.60 2 days	\$190.40 2 days
	\$71.40 3 days	\$285.60 3 days
	\$95.20 4 days	\$380.80 4 days
	\$119.00 5 days	\$476.00 5 days

Ms Sheridan said these fees are in line with surrounding towns and she recommends keeping them the same. (\$7.00 / hour)

Preschool: (annual - 10 months)

\$2,329.00.	2 days (3 yrs)
\$2,950.00.	3 days (3 & 4)
\$3,519.00.	4 days (4)
\$6,210.00.	4.5 days (4)
\$4,250.00.	5 days (am only)

Ms. Sheridan reminded that these rates were set at the beginning of the year after an analysis of surrounding towns.

Full Day Kindergarten: Free

High School Parking: \$100 (per spot) (Seniors are offered spots first)

Dr. Giblin was concerned that we have a history of not staying up-to-date on things and she is afraid that we will get to the point that, after not raising fees on an incremental basis, we will find ourselves doing big increases which will hit families hard.

Ms. Stewart shared that part of the fee analysis is to try to reduce some fees, but due to budget constraints, that is not able to happen right now.

Dr. Giblin is asking the Budget Sub Committee to look to see if comparing to other towns is the best way to plan the fees going forward and why we are or are not increasing fee in increments.

There was a lot of discussion around the analysis.

(The Committee moved on with the agenda, but backtracked and took a vote on the fees after the Long Term Agenda discussion).

Athletic Financial Report from Fall and Winter Seasons: (moved up in the agenda)

Facilities Budget to Date Template: Ms. Sheridan developed a template for Facilities to report out to School Committee. Ms. Sheridan said the Mary O'Brien from the Facilities Department will have to type in the actuals and encumbrances that she gets from Munis and then it will show the budget to date. (This will not encumber payroll).

Dr. Thomson explained that we had Munis set up to follow the DESE coding system that we have to do our accounting with. (With the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education). The Town only has to report to the Department of Revenue and they do not have all of the crazy system we have here. We need to have the information in a format for our reporting and our audits and so forth.

Old Business: Long Term Agenda Review: The Chair asked if the Members had any items that should be on the Long Term Agenda that are not currently on it.

-Dr. Thomson said the principals are available to come present the handbooks on the two dates in June. The handbooks will be done the beginning of May.

-Mr. Hiltz asked that Elementary Study Committee be added to the May 17th agenda.

-Sub Committee Meeting of the Whole School Committee - April 25th - 6:30 p.m.- change to remote.

Dr. Giblin asked to go back to the fee discussion again at this point. She asked if the fees needed to be voted on. Ms. Sheridan said there doesn't need to be a vote if nothing has changed.

Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve the fees as outlined by the Budget Sub Committee and Ms. Sheridan, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Facilities MOU: The Chair updated that the Town side has accepted almost everything Attorney Murray has put in the MOU except one part in the first paragraph. The Chair reminded that we very deliberately had put in some language in about a preliminary hiring committee. The Town did accept adding an extra line on to that to make sure that Dr. Thomson always has the ability to see a final candidate and approve the candidate before hiring.

Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve the Facilities MOU with the expectation that this language will be used and this MOU will be reviewed again in June , which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Extended Learning Time-Grant: Dr. Taylor updated that after some research and meetings with School Principals, the Literacy Coordinator and the Extended Day Director, it was decided after a feasibility analysis that the Extended Learning Time would not be feasible in our school district at this time. Dr. Taylor informed that DESE is no longer considering the work of extended learning days as evidenced based and they are not supporting/funding the work anymore. (Even though they are providing the funding for planning, they will not continue this funding and support).

Regarding the grant, the way it was written means that we have over \$200,000 to use for this summer's programs.

2023-2024 School Calendar Update: Dr. Wyeth said there was a small update to the 2023-2024 School Calendar. The Principals and Administrative team recommended (after the calendar was approved) that having two different early release times was confusing for families. (There was one release time for professional development days and a slightly different time for the half days before vacations.). Dr. Thomson added that technically lunch is supposed to be served in order to count it as a day.

Dr. Giblin asked that the Budget Sub Committee to, again, look at the cost for consolidating some of the half-days to full days for the next budget cycle.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the update to the School Calendar, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

NYC Out-of-State Field Trip Request: The Chair reminded that we took a preliminary vote in favor of this field trip. Dr. Thomson said at this point nothing has changed.

Ms. Stewart wished there was a way we could support our students who may not be able to afford these trips.

Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve this field trip, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

New England Drama Festival Out-of-State Field Trip Request: This request was withdrawn due to the inability to secure a bus to take the students to Maine.

Policy: Policy Sub Committee Update: Ms. Sibbing-Dunn said the Policy Sub Committee will be meeting tomorrow and will continue discussing the handbooks, MASC updates, and the one-year School Improvement Plan template and School Naming.

One-Year School Improvement Plan Template: Dr. Taylor said a template has been created around the priority areas for a one-year check-in. She would like to change the template to match what is displayed in the DESE Report so what the principals see on the form matches DESE. She said the principals will attach this form to the original two-year plan.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion to approve the One-Year School Improvement Plan Template with the updated DESE categories, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0

Ms. Stewart made a motion to change the two-year School Improvement Plan with updated accountability report with DESE recommendations, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Naming New Middle School Plan and Policy: The Chair updated that the The Policy Sub Committee discussed this at the last meeting and agreed that we should take our time and do this correctly with Community engagement. The Chair's recommendation would be to start the process but take the time for plenty of community feedback and engagement.

Mr. Hiltz said he appreciates the Chair's recommendation but will push back on the recommendation, saying he feels that we can do this in two months. He feels that the summer is not a good time to try to get this done. He added if it is the will of the Committee, he said he believes this should be done by the fall.

There was much discussion around the process. Mr. Hiltz envisions giving a 4-6 week period of time in which name suggestions can be forwarded from students, PTO's, School Councils and the Community. Mr. Hiltz said he will updated the timeline and have it ready for the next School Committee Meeting on May 3rd.

Community Engagement Working Group Proposal: Ms. Sibbing-Dunn shared a new idea for using video segments (a more creative approach) for better community engagement (which is a goal). Ms. Sibbing-Dunn is proposing to create a working group with the Committee and other stakeholders that would look at what the issues are and then have a bigger discussion about what kinds of creative messaging avenues we can use to get to the issues. Ms. Sibbing-Dunn has had a conversation with Dr. Thomson and Jack Tolman to get them on board so she can start conversations with administrators and others.

Dr. Giblin proposed tabling this conversation until we get to School Committee goals portion of the meeting as these two items can be folded together.

Legislative Advocacy: Ms. Stewart reminded that she and Mrs. Smith have been working together on behalf of the School Committee and the Union on some Legislative Advocacy letters to Senator Rush and Senator Rogers. The Members have had a chance to read the letters.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn said she appreciates the work, adding that it is really important work.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

New Business: School Committee Goals for May 2023-March 2024: The Chair said we need to work on goals for the next cycle. The Chair said we can start a conversation that can continue to the next meeting.

Ms. Stewart reminded that in the past we used to have a workshop to work on the goals. Ms. Stewart said her first question to everyone would be do we still want to define the priorities which would help streamline the sub committee work and goals? (i.e., Business priorities; Middle School Building Project; Sub Committee priorities; District support goals; School Committee Development Goals and Engagement Goals.)

Dr. Giblin proposed that we should set goals that are broad and add the priorities under the goals. Dr. Giblin proposed community engagement as one goal.

Ms. Stewart said she hears what Dr. Giblin is saying and she's all for alignment, but Dr. Thomson's goals are already set for the most part and we can't add things now. She said she is struggling with the process of it.

Dr. Thomson said all three things should be growing and aligning in the same direction. (School Committee Goals, Superintendent Goals and Strategic Plan).

Ms. Stewart reminded that we already have five objectives in the Strategic Plan. We have:

- Investment and Resource Allocations;
- Facilities and Operations;
- Innovative Instruction;
- Programs. And Pathways; and
- Safe and Supportive Schools

These are the five areas that we have already told the principals their School Improvement Plans need to follow.

There was much discussion around this item and the format that should be followed. There was some question as to whether a workshop was needed or not.

Mr. Hiltz will type up a draft of what he is hearing from the Committee. After the Committee has a chance to review it, the Committee will decide whether or not a workshop is needed.

Discussion on July 23- August 2024 SC Meeting Schedule: The Chair sent out a doodle poll around the Summer Meeting Schedule. After some discussion, the Committee agreed on the following meeting dates:

Tuesday July 18 @ 7:00 p.m. - remote

Thursday, August 10 @ 7:00 p.m. - remote

Consent Agenda: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting the following donations/rebates:

-Women's Community Committee - \$100.00 - LEAD Program

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept this donation/rebate, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

School Committee Addenda: Dr. Giblin had none.

Mr. Hiltz welcomed back to the School Committee the incumbents, Ms. Stewart and Chair Mazzola. He then thanked the Callahan school for their hospitality this evening.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn gave a shout out to Ms. Lorance and Ms. Bedard and the rest of the music program. She attended this evening's Honor's Band Concert and said the kids were so excited to perform and it really was so special.

Ms. Stewart thanked the voters and said she was so happy to be back. She then wished everyone a wonderful April vacation.

The Chair thanked everyone who took the time to vote and said she looks forward to another three years.

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

Mr. Hiltz made a motion for Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Dr. Giblin made a motion for adjournment at 11:35 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Members were posted and voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee

NHS WINTER AWARDS 22-23

Girls Basketball:

Unsung Hero: Lauren Reen

Defensive Player of the Year: Alexa Coras

Coaches Award: Tricia Wladkowski

Boys Basketball

MVP: Noah Beudet

Unsung Hero: Dylan Hamway

Coaches Award: Matty Mahoney

Cheerleading:

Coaches Award: Rachel O'Neil

Coaches Award: Caroline Curran

Most Improved: Dejah Newton

Gymnastics:

Most Improved: Kate Broderick

Unsung Hero: Paige McBrien

Coaches Award: Maddie Carreiro

Boys Ice Hockey:

Coaches Award: Sean Dittmeier

Most Improved: Paul Sheehan

Unsung Hero: Ryan Nychay

Girls Ice Hockey:

Coaches Award: Jenna Naumann

Coaches Award: Morgan Roach

Coaches Award: Michaela Reen

Boys Swim & Dive:

MVP: Joe Greene

Most Improved: Anthony Cavanaugh

Coaches Award: Michael Flynn

MVP: Colleen Sisk

Unsung Hero: Caeleigh Brown

Rookie of the Year: Ana Santana Alcantara

Girls Indoor Track & Field:

MVP: Christina Fontaine

Unsung Hero: Catherine Cronin

Coaches Award: Natalie Martin

Boys Indoor Track & Field:

MVP: Dylan O'Brien

Unsung Hero: Jacob Zhang

Coaches Award: Cameron LoPiccolo

Wrestling:

MVP: Nate Hsu

Unsung Hero: TJ Wyman

Most Improved: Danny Russo