

**Town of Norwood
School Committee Meeting
School Committee Room @ Savage Educational Center
Hybrid
Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

A hybrid meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2023. 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; Ms. Teresa Stewart, Dr. Joan Giblin (remote), Mr. David Hiltz and Ms. Kate Sibbing-Dunn

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Karin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations and Dr. Charisse Taylor (remote), Director of Strategic Initiatives

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

- May 17, 2023 Business Meeting;
- May 17, 2023 Executive Session;
- May 31, 2023 Business Meeting; and
- May 31, 2023 Executive Session

This motion was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chair Mazzola informed that she has signed warrants on behalf of the School Committee. Chair Mazzola then shared the warrant report which totalled \$3,467,309.58.

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 comment 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.

The Chair declared Public Comment open at 7:13 p.m.

Mr. George Usevich: Mr. Usevich, former NHS Principal, was here this evening to talk about Dr. Philip O. Coakley and the reasons why the Middle School was dedicated and named in his honor. Mr. Usevich informed that he proudly worked at Norwood High School for 50 years and was the Principal at Norwood High School when the new building was built 12 years ago. He said he mentioned this because it's a salient point relative to the new Middle School. He said that it was a state of the art new High School, but was still the "School on the Hill" located at the same address, 245 Nichols Street. There was never any mention of changing the name. It was and continues to be Norwood High School. He said that the new Middle School will remain in South Norwood, with a new footprint, at the same address, 1315 Washington Street. He said there should be no discussion about changing the name. It is and should continue to be the Coakley Middle School. Mr. Usevich ended by saying that this group is here tonight to ask, you, the elected School Committee Members, to listen to your constituents and reconsider the previous vote. Dr. Coakley's legacy should remain alive by keeping the name of the new building the Coakley Middle School.

Mr. Mark Joseph and Ms. Helen Reagan: Mr. Joseph, a life-long Norwood resident, thanked the Committee for their service and for allowing him to speak this evening. Mr. Joseph is a former member of the Norwood School Committee. He was on the Committee in 2004 when they changed from the Junior High model to a Middle School model. Mr. Joseph informed that the School Committee unanimously voted to name the Middle School the Dr. Philip O. Coakley Middle School. The school was formally dedicated in 2004 with Dr. Coakley and his family in attendance. Mr. Joseph referred to the documents that he shared with the Committee this evening.

- (1) The official ballot question on the override to approve the new Coakley Middle School Project;
- (2) From the Town Manager, the Superintendent, the Norwood Middle School Building Committee thanking the voters for approving the new Coakley Middle School Project;
- (3) From the Norwood Public Schools own website: The project is branded as "The New Coakley Middle School Project"; and finally
- (4) From the Norwood Middle School Building Committee, there is a public invitation for next Tuesday, June 13, 2023, for the Coakley Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Mr. Joseph said that clearly, these documents show that the name is the Coakley Middle School. He asked when there was an issue that needed to put this to a vote as well as why this decision was made. Mr. Joseph said that it is disturbing that children will be allowed to vote to change the name of a school which the public has already voted on. He asked that the Committee reflect on what is asked this evening to keep the Coakley Middle School name the way it is out of respect for Dr. Philip O. Coakley, his family and the voters. He also asked that the children attending the Middle School be made aware of Dr. Coakley and all he did for their school

system. This is an important piece of Norwood History that should not be erased from the books or history.

Ms. Reagan, niece of Dr. Coakley, was here this evening to represent the Coakley family. She informed that after reading an article on the Norwood Patch, her family was shocked and saddened to hear that the Superintendent and the School Committee were asking for suggestions for new names for the Middle School. The article also stated that everyone should be part of history. She is asking, why not teach the history of why the School was dedicated to Dr. Philip O. Coakley. Ms. Reagan said as of now, there are over 750 signatures on a petition to keep the school the same name. She asked the Committee to honor and respect Dr. Philip O (Oldham) Coakley and keep the name of the Middle School the same.

Mr. Ernie Paciorkowski: Mr. Paciorkowski was at this evening's meeting tonight as a Board Member of the Norwood Alumni Association and as a resident. Mr. Paciorkowski shared some of Dr. Coakley's history:

- 1936 Norwood High School Graduate;
- Lived in Norwood and raised his family here;
- As Superintendent for 18 years, he oversaw the school system during a time of tremendous growth in our town;
- During his tenure, he opened the Oldham and Willett Elementary Schools;
- He oversaw three major expansions: Balch, Cleveland and High School;
- In a 24-hour period, a fire destroyed the Junior High and three grades had no school to go to;
- He implemented double sessions for the students with many logistical problems that went along with that situation;
- He saw the building and opening of two brand new Junior High Schools;
- In one summer he closed two elementary schools (Winslow and Shattuck) and combined them into one elementary school (Guild School);
- Due to overcrowding at the High School, he instituted the open campus concept (if they didn't have a class, students could leave the property); (Remember that the drinking age was 18 at that time which brought on it's own new set of problems);
- Through all of this, the students of Norwood received a first class education and every graduating class was consistently over 500 students.

Mr. Paciorkowski asked us to not erase the important pieces of our town's history. (Speaking about people in Norwood who had buildings, rooms, etc. named after them to honor them for working towards the betterment of the town).. Instead, he asked that we teach the students who these people were and why they have buildings named after them. Students can be part of the process in other ways. In Mr. Paciorkowski's opinion, choosing the name of the school should not be one of them. There is no one more worthy than Dr. Philip Coakley. Mr. Paciorkowski urges the Committee to reconsider their decision and continue to call it the Coakley Middle School.

Ms. Sarah Quinn: Was here this evening to present a petition that asks that the renaming of the Coakley Middle School be taken off the agenda. This petition has over 750 signatures that were gathered in the past week. She respectfully requested that the Norwood School Committee leave the name of the new Middle School the Coakley Middle School.

The Chair declared Public Forum closed at 7:27 p.m. The Chair informed that the next School Committee Meeting will be on June 21, 2023.

Appearances: SAC Quarterly Update and Recommendations for Next Year: The following students served on the Student Advisory Council:

Kevin Roach
Sophia Touma (present this evening)
Kaylie Delamere (present this evening)
John Cavanaugh
Keira O'Donnell (present this evening)

Ms. O'Donnell shared a power point presentation update:

- Advisory Members met with district Principals over the past month to gather information for the quarterly report, which included Academic Highlights and Activities at the different levels;
- This being a pilot year, many representatives ran into unexpected difficulties communicating with schools during the end of year season;
- The trial and error that was experienced will help with planning to do things differently in the fall.

Future Direction and Areas for Improvement:

- Make sure all SAC members understand their role & responsibilities and are committed to completing them throughout the year, even with their other commitments;
 - Part of all grades' vice president role & one other elected officer
 - Role expectations are going to be much clearer this year for those running for office;
- Student Council primary elections are this week & finals next Tuesday, which will determine who next year's SAC Members will be;
 - Many new members are expected as not everyone is running again, or if they are, not necessarily for the same role;
 - Those elected should probably meet and discuss plans over the summer before giving the first quarterly report in the fall;
 - Finding a more efficient way to get student feedback from schools:
 - Gathering all or most information from principals can be challenging, as they are understandably very busy;
 - Principals would still be greatly helpful with overall school reports, but a focus for next year should be maintaining regular contact

with various student groups (student councils, student leaders of clubs, Impact Norwood reps, athletes, musicians, ELL students, etc.) as well;

-The purpose of the SAC is to show the realities of the overall student experience across the district, the only way to do this is by speaking directly with a varied sampling of those students.

-SAC this year came up with a working document template for next year's SAC to use collaboratively;

-This template contains prompts for principals when discussing academics and activities separately, certain questions to ask students and general topics to discuss when gathering feedback from them, and various SAC resources.

-A major focus this pilot year was beginning with just the quarterly report, but if a lot of helpful student feedback is collected next year through regularly reaching out to different student groups, then the SAC can begin pinpointing certain parts of the Policy Manual to look at in the presentation as well.

-Increase engagement and communication from the SAC to the students, and from the students to the SAC;

-Student Council monthly post-meeting newsletter emails & StuCo Instagram to exclude SAC updates for publicity;

-Social media is the easiest way to access NHS students;

-Ideally next year this newsletter can have a Google Form link to provide NHS students feedback as well;

-Also, John made a graphic to show on the morning news.

The Members had an opportunity to thank the SAC Members for their dedication and commitment this year.

Athletics and Fine Arts Recognition: Mr. Jon Longley, Director of Athletics, was here this evening to update on the spring athletic season. He said unfortunately the baseball team lost to Milton, which ended the postseason for Norwood High School.

Boys Lacrosse:	Frankie Forrest - All Star Kevin Sopic - HM
Girls Lacrosse:	Olivia Lodge - All Star Emily Fehm - HM Caroline Forrest - HM Olivia Naughton - HM
Softball:	Samantha Rose - All Star Athena Alexopoulos - HM Carol Savino (Coach of the Year) TVL Large Champions
Baseball:	Jack Cropper - All Star

Girls Tennis:	Sean Dittmeier - All Star Quinn Burgess - HM Angel. Vilorio Olaverria - HM Sathvika Kommera - All Star Livia Zaldivar - HM
Boys Tennis:	Partha Jammalamadaka - All Star Juneau Joe - HM
Boys Track and Field:	Dylan Hamwey - All Star Dylan O'Brien - HM
Girls Track and Field	Christina Fontaine - All Star Natalie Martin - HM
Boys Volleyball:	Xavier Walkins - All Star Joseph Greene - HM

There were 13 student athletes that participated in every season that they could, which was a significant accomplishment through Covid.

Fine Arts: Mr. Jeff Kerr, Director of Fine Arts, was here this evening to share the accomplishments and events from this spring.

Art: 28 New Members were inducted into the National Art Honor Society.

FoVA: With support from the Morrill Memorial Library and a grant from the Norwood Cultural Council, the FoVA will be hosting a yard sale. This is a community wide art event where residents create something unique for their yards. To go along with this, FoVA is sponsoring a Yard Art Scavenger Hunt for the whole community. There new displays at Perks, the Morrill Memorial Library and the Savage Center are in the process of being changed this week.

Students in 3D Design III created an art installation around the theme of elements that were installed at the Attleboro Art Museum as part of their High Art Program.

Drama: The Festival Play *Ash to Flames* advanced through the prelims, semis and was performed at the Back Bay Events Center in Boston at the End of March. Additionally, senior Samantha Magan won second place in both the METG One-Act Original Play Festival and the Sherwood Collins Playwright's Festival.

Performing Ensembles: Here is the list of accomplishments at the state music organization events:

NHS

Jazz Ensemble Bronze Medal at MAJE Cape Cod Festival.

Concert Band Bronze and Orchestra Silver at the MICCA Concert Festival.

Madrigals - Silver at MICCA.

Concert Chorale - High Silver at MICCA.

Three NHS students auditioned at the MICCA solo ensemble - two received high Silver Awards - Cayden Bell and Stafanie Kurtiqi and 1 Gold - perfect score: Lindsay Collins.

The Choral Program was able to provide a return to singing the national anthem at Varsity home games - it started with Varsity Basketball where all games had at least one singer.

Norwood was named a 2023 Best Community for Music Education by the NAMM Foundation who celebrate and promote the intrinsic value of music education. Norwood was one of only 16 towns in the Commonwealth to receive this honor. These awards are bestowed upon districts who have a strong music program as a result of support from both the town and the community.

There were three successful field trips to see musicals for performing art students.

- Mean Girls;
- Les miserables; and
- Hadestown at PPAC.

It was truly great to have the NPS students get out and see live performances where afterwards they were able to effectively critique each show.

The 24th Fine Arts Festival was recently held and artwork from across the district was on display along with ensemble performances and a presentation from the TV Production and Pops Concerts.

Mr. Kerr shared that this year will end in rhymes and bright colours as the CMS Musical *Seussical* takes to the NHS stage which will close our the 2022-2023 School Year

EL Update: Ms. Lisa Bourgeois, PK-12 ELE Coordinator, was here this evening to give an EL Update. She shared:

- Our role in EL;
- Areas of focus:
 - Staffing;
 - PK-12 Population;
 - Access 2023;
 - PD in Schools - SEI Refresh;
 - Tiered Focus Monitoring - Coordinated Improvement Monitoring Plan Update - Progress Report has been approved;
- Grant Activities and Programs;
- Translation / Interpretation Services;
- Next Steps.

Ms. Bourgeois shared the continued growth of the EL population from the 2017-18 School Year until the present.

- 64 Students met the Exit Criteria of a 4.2 Overall Score and a 3.9 Literacy Score;
- 12.6% of our ML population will be entering Former English Language (FEL) status.

Ms. Bourgeois shared that they have trained the staff at the Willett to assess students at the LMPA so they will be aware of what will be coming up.

Ms. Bourgeois shared that PD has been provided to support SEI instruction and integrated instruction, which includes but is not limited to PD staff meetings,

second staff meetings in buildings, and presenting for the New Teacher program at both the elementary and secondary level.

Some of the Programs covered by grants:

- Multilingual Homework Club;
- Adult English classes;
- Multilingual Summer Academy;
- El Paraprofessionals;
- MATSOL Conference for Teachers;
- PD for EL teachers;
- Afternoon Summer Fun Program;
- Enrichment opportunities;
- Summer English Language Screening for new students.

Ms. Bourgeois updated that since there is a homelessness crisis in Massachusetts currently, the Administrative team feels strongly that we should create a Sub Committee to take a proactive approach to put resources in place to be able to assist with the homeless population.

Ms. Stewart asked Ms. Bourgeois to keep the School Committee aware and involved with the work of this Sub Committee. She also suggested that Ms. Bourgeois come to one of the Budget Sub Committee Meetings over the summer to update.

Washington, DC 8th Grade Field Trip: Dr. Fraczek, Principal of the Coakley Middle School, requested permission for next year's 8th Graders to attend a trip to Washington, DC from May 28, 2024 - May 31, 2024. Dr. Fraczek said they will be going with a new travel company, Hummingbird. She included the draft itinerary and said that they will do a lot of work for scholarships so that all students that want to go can participate. The cost is \$825 per student.

The Committee asked that Dr. Fraczek get the final itinerary and roster to them in the fall once she has it finalized.

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

Coakley Middle School Handbook: Dr. Margo Fraczek, Principal of the Coakley Middle School, was here this evening to review the Coakley Middle School Handbook for 2023-2024, which had no substantive changes. Dr. Fraczek said there were a few updates:

- Updated polices with the standardized School Committee Policies;
- National Honor Society Criteria as been added;
- Information about the Rise Program was added.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the CMS Handbook with a touch point added for the August meeting to see if there is an update on the Athletic Handbook for the Middle School that Mr. Longley was talking about and the Junior National Honor Society. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Tiered Focused Monitoring Update: Ms. Lori Cimeno was here this evening to update on the Tiered Focus Monitoring Update. (Year 2021-20222).

Ms. Cimeno was happy to share that as of May 15th we are in the clear and into the next portion of auditing from the State.

The District's next scheduled review will be onsite and is anticipated to take place during the 2024-2025 school year. It will focus on Licensure and Professional Development; Parent, Students & Community Engagement; Facilities and Classrooms; Oversight; Time & Learning; and Equal Access.

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

-Congratulations to the Class of 2023. Dr. Thomson said that Graduation last Sunday was wonderful and by moving up the time of the ceremony they beat the rain.

-Career Pathways

-Vocational opportunities

-NCTA Awards - Mrs. Jody Smith updated on this year's Norfolk County Teacher Awards.

Honor Award - someone who supports education in many different ways:

-This year Norwood nominated Dr. Alec Wyeth (who is not here this evening).

Teacher of the Year - (Laura Warcup Award) - Patty Doucette was nominated this year from Norwood. Although she did not win, she was so deserving of the nomination.

Rookie of the Year: This year Norwood nominated Dan Quinn. Dan won the very first Rookie of the Year for Norfolk County.

-Building Project info sessions (first and third Friday of each month at Town Hall);

-Family Workshop Resources (finished last week on May 31st);

-Family Communication Survey - went out this afternoon (to gauge how people are communicating in the system);

-Bus Registration closes 6/30;

-Last Day of School - Wednesday 6/21 (half day);

-There is no school on Monday, June 19th (Juneteenth);

-Social Media rumors that we are cutting Special Education positions are not true, adding that we have increased special education staff by 3.2 FTE's.

Budget: Budget Sub Committee Update: Ms. Stewart updated that in the packets, the Members have the agenda and links to all the materials that were reviewed at the last Sub Committee Meeting, which was on May 24th.

- Looked further into the LMPA Principal position;

- Looked more into the Special Education requests that are being worked on and will come to the full Committee over the Summer.

- Spent some time looking into the Priorities and Goals Document.

- Budget Balancing Committee will be resuming the end of June or early July;

- At the next School Committee Meeting on June 21st, Ms. Sheridan will give the Spring Athletic Report and we will bring forward the Student Opportunities Act Plan (Financial Report that Ms. Sheridan had to file with the State).

- We will be looking at the Middle School Staffing for the new building in August.

- We have contract negotiations with Unit A and Unit B starting in the fall so we are starting to do some analysis around that.

Ms. Stewart informed that the Summer Budget Sub Committee Meetings are as follows:

- June 13th at 1:00 p.m.

- July 18th at 10:00 a.m.

- August 8th at 10:00 a.m.

Budget Transfers: Ms. Sheridan explained a budget transfer that Chair Mazzola has already signed due to the urgent nature (FY23 closing).

This request is from Mr. Joe Kidd (Technology) for a new on-line security System in the amount of \$14,472. This transfer is from the instructional software line to the infrastructure line.

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

Old Business: Middle School Building Update: Ms. Stewart informed that the Committee last met on May 22nd. Ms. Stewart shared that the alternates that the School Committee has discussed are proceeding, including finishing the concession stand. She said the cost of the concession stand is currently at \$708,706. She said this is something that we have been talking about and something we agreed to invest in. Ms. Stewart said there are some questions regarding some trees that are

slated to be removed around the baseball fields. That discussion came up and it is in an area that is not directly under the authority of the Middle School Building Committee. It overlaps with the authority of Mark Ryan. Mr. Slater said an update will be given at the next Middle School Building Committee Meeting. Anyone who is concerned in the community should contact Mark Ryan and Alan Slater. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 12th at 5:00 p.m. here at the Savage. The Groundbreaking Ceremony will be on Tuesday, June 13th at 10:00 a.m. at the Coakley Middle School. And as Dr. Thomson had already mentioned, twice-a-month meetings with the Construction team will be starting on Friday, June 16th at 10:00 a.m.

Long Term Agenda Review: The Chair asked if there were any items to be discussed for the June 21st meeting.

Ms. Stewart asked if there was any plans for an Executive Session regarding the Safety Plan. Dr. Thomson said there were some things being worked on over the summer so that would be an item for September.

There was some discussion around the Cleveland Sensory Area and the Oldham new playground area. If work is being done over the summer, they need to come to the June 21st meeting for the update. There was some discussion around restricted donations being approved for a particular purpose can only be used for that purpose.

Policy: Policy Sub Committee Update: Ms. Sibbing-Dunn updated the the Committee met June 1st very briefly and decided to adjourn and meet on the 6th regarding the Handbook that was approve this evening.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn said there was a question around our Memorial Policy.

Dr. Taylor is still working on MASC updates.

Dr. Thomson is getting input from the principals for a template (sheet that they can fill out at the beginning of the year for projects for the year). The template can be filled out and sent back to the School Committee through the principals.

Dr. Thomson said that we should push the template off to July since Dr. Taylor has been sick this week and there are other things piling up.

Dr. Thomson said the Elementary Handbooks should be done this week and he has asked the principals to let him know when they can present on them.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn informed that they talked a lot about the priorities document and aligning of goals, which was shared with Ms. Stewart and Dr. Giblin.

Regarding the SAC, the Sub Committee looked at creating an additional council position in two years and there was some discussion around the advisor position since there isn't much interest in the advisor position.

There was some talk about how policy updates are disseminated. Since this Committee is getting on a cycle with Policy check-ins and updates, there was conversation around how this information gets share with the Administrators in addition to the meetings when Dr. Thomson gives updates.

Ms. Stewart informed that she and Dr. Giblin will be meeting (Goals Sub Committee) on Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. She asked the Members to let them know in the next day or so if there is anything they want included in the conversation.

Legislative Advocacy: Ms. Stewart updated that she and Mrs. Jody Smith met with Representative Rogers on June 1st, adding that she and Mrs. Smith have sent two letters so far. She said overall the meeting went well, adding that Representative Rogers is very supportive of everything they asked him to advocate for. He mentioned that the House, Senate and Governor's Budget are all on the same page with the Chapter 70 increase and Norwood can expect an increase of 28.8% for Chapter 70 money for FY24. He also said they all remain committed to full funding of the Student Opportunities Act and that the remainder of the 7 years of the SOA will be rolled out appropriately. Representative Rogers shared that his understanding of the law is that all of Chapter 70 goes to the schools, He referenced Section 3 of the Annual Appropriation Act and said it was legislative intent to separate out Chapter 70 from UGGA (Unrestricted General Government Aid). Mr. Rogers also shared that although some districts and towns have agreements about a certain percentage of Chapter 70 going to municipalities, there is no legislative requirement to do so. Regarding Special Education Reserve Funds, this has now become a bill (Bill #2075) and Representative Rogers is a co-sponsor of this bill. This bill is asking that the 2% allowed for net school spending be increased to 5%. Representative Rogers invited Mrs. Smith and Ms. Stewart to testify and he will let them know when that will be and they will, in turn, let others know. They asked him to support House Docket #3170 regarding Special Education Circuit Breaker. He will let them know when opportunities to testify come up about that. Representative Rogers will continue to advocate around school districts fully retaining medicare reimbursements. There is currently no bill on this item. They had a good conversation around the changing demographics in Norwood and some of the issues facing the schools. Ms. Smith asked about the Fair Share Amendment and Representative Rogers said the money is not in yet. He did say that when the money is in, it will be split 50-50 between Transportation and Education. During a discussion around challenges in the district, Ms. Stewart asked Representative Rogers if he realised that 37H3/4 has become an unfunded mandate. He did mention that there is money in the state reserve that has to be spent or returned to the Federal Government. He will talk with Senator Rush and then get back to Mrs. Smith and herself to try to get some money for the schools that will help with the mental health support. Regarding the MSBA Funding, the state did pass additional

money for new building projects and he is still trying to get more money for Norwood's building project. Representative Rogers would like to meet again the end of June.

New Business: TEC Board Representation: The Chair said we need to vote on a TEC Board Representative. Dr. Thomson said he has been the representative for the past few years. He is willing to do it unless a Board Member would rather serve.

Ms. Stewart made a motion for Dr. Thomson to continue as the TEC Board Representative, which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Union 50 Scholarship - 2023-2024: Dr. Thomson informed that the Paraprofessionals' Union would like to offer a scholarship starting this year for the 2023-2024 School Year.

Mr. Hiltz made a motion to approve the Paraprofessionals' Union Scholarship, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

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

-Two Academic Scholarships - Union 50 - 2023-2024 (\$1,000 each);

Ms. Stewart made a motion to accept this donation/rebate, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Members were polled and voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

School Committee Addenda: Dr. Giblin congratulated the Seniors.

Ms. Stewart congratulated the Class of 2023 Ms. Stewart said she likes the appearance section of our agenda as it gives us an opportunity to appreciate and acknowledge all that is good. She added that it also gives us an opportunity to celebrate and figure out ways to support our students.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn had none.

Mr. Hiltz congratulated the students and families of the Class of 2023. Also, regarding the Public Comment portion of the meeting, Mr. Hiltz said that part of the policy of School Committee is engagement. Seeing all the people here this evening sharing their eloquent comments is what that policy is all about. He thanked everyone that came out this evening to share their thoughts.

Chair Mazzola thanked the people who came out for public comment. It can be defeating as a School Committee Member seeing things on Social Media day after day. She then thanked those who spoke at public comment, which is the civic process at work. She reminded that we are the only public body with Public

Comment. No other Boards have Public Comment at their meetings. Everyone this evening was concise, respectful and followed protocol. Chair Mazzola then congratulated the Class of 2023.

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

Mr. Hiltz made a motion for Executive Session at 10:12 p.m. which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Ms. Stewart made a motion for adjournment at 11:31 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Hiltz. The Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0. (Dr. Giblin was not able to join Executive Session due to illness).

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee