

**Town of Norwood
School Committee Meeting
Remote
Wednesday, September 20, 2023**

A remote meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. The meeting was remote and was called to order at 8:00 p.m. (The public can access the meeting 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 and Ms. Kate Sibbing-Dunn

Committee Member Excused: Mr. David Hiltz

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools; and Dr. J. J. Munoz, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum;

Budget: Fall Town Meeting Warrant Requests: Chair Mazzola welcomed everyone here this evening for a discussion and vote of the Fall Town Meeting Warrant Requests. If the requests are approved this evening, they will go to the Board of Selectmen for their approval to be put on the Town Meeting Warrant.

(1) **Comprehensive Review of School Department Student Services:**

MOTION: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash to the school department for the purposes of a comprehensive review of student services programs and personnel.

Or to take any other action in the matter.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve sending this warrant draft for the Comprehensive Review of School Department Student Services to the Board of Selectmen, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

(2) **Recoup \$27,099 from Food Services Grant:**

MOTION: To transfer \$27,099.20 from Free Cash to the school department's Food Service Revolving Account.

Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve the warrant article to recoup the \$27,099 which will go from Free Cash to the Food Service Revolving Account, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

(3) **Social-Emotional Enrichment Pilot:**

MOTION: To transfer \$70,000 from Free Cash to the school department for the purpose of a social-emotional learning pilot.

Dr. Thomson said there is a Social-Emotional Continuation Grant we are finishing up and there is about \$36,000 in that which we have that can be used for the same sort of work. Dr. Thomson asked the Committee if they wanted to lower the \$70,000 to \$50,000 and use some of the other grant money or would they like to keep the \$70,000 and have a larger pilot.

Dr. Thomson said we have put in a new Social-Emotional Curriculum this past year (*Character Strong*) so this will give more practice and mentoring around those skills.

Dr. Thomson said he thinks lowering the request to \$50,000 would be a prudent move.

After some discussion, Ms. Stewart made a motion to approve putting forth the Warrant Article for the Social-Emotional Enrichment Pilot with the modification that instead of requesting \$70,000 to lower it to \$50,000, which was seconded by Ms. Sibbing-Dunn. The Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

(4) **Superintendent's Search:**

Motion: to transfer \$60,000 from Free Cash to the school department for the purpose of a School Superintendent search.

Ms. Stewart said this is the amount that has been recommended to the Committee by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. She said we want to start the Superintendent search as soon as possible.

There was some discussion around the wording in the yellow sheet not being clear. It is not just for the fee of the consultant but to run a thorough search and all that is involved. Ms. Stewart said that **“and fully fund a superintendent search”** should be added.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn asked for the wording in the second paragraph **“to ensure an effective and unbiased process”** be added.

Dr. Thomson said as soon as they word-smith the yellow sheet, they should let him know so he can get it over to Town Hall.

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion to approve the warrant with the above-mentioned edits, which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

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

Ms. Sibbing-Dunn made a motion for Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. which was seconded by Ms. Stewart. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

Adjournment: Ms. Stewart made a motion for adjournment at 10:15 p.m., which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Members were posted and voted unanimously in favor 5-0 (Mr. Hiltz joined in Executive Session).

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee