

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, January 22, 2020

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

(An Executive Session was held prior to the School Committee Meeting at 6:30 p.m. for contract negotiations. The Committee continued Executive Session again after the regular meeting.)

Committee Members Present: Ms. Teresa Stewart, Chair; Ms. Myev Bodenhofer, Ms. Maura Smith, Mr. Dave Catania

Committee Member Excused: Dr. Joan Giblin (attended Executive Session but had to leave due to an unexpected family situation)

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

Minutes: Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2020 as well as the Executive Session Minutes of January 8, 2020, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there were warrants to be signed. She then read the amounts:

Payroll Warrants:	\$	0
Accounts Payable:	\$	10,288.22
	\$	9,818.39
	\$	24,494.35
	\$	56,073.77
	\$	26,828.96
	\$	25,983.69
	\$	1,079.02
	\$	18,214.07
	\$	10,279.00
	\$	2,522.06
	\$	2,664.51
	\$	2,446.01
	\$	32,094.85
	\$	2,190.41
Total Expenditure of:	\$	\$224,977.31

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Dr. Thomson will wait until the Superintendent's Report.

Appearances: Capital Outlay Request: Mr. Kidd, Mr. Riccardi and Mr. Bishop were here this evening to share their capital requests for FY2021.

Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, reviewed his department's request first:

- Four Network Switch Replacements – (2 at High School and 2 at Savage Educational Center) - \$21,000;
- Replacement of teacher laptops at the Elementary Schools – Approx. \$56,250;
- New District-Wide VOIP Phone System – Approx. \$175,000 (Mr. Kidd informed that the town is putting in a new phone system at the new Light Department building that he is looking into);
- NHS classroom A/V Technology replacement Phase 1 – Approx. \$164,000;
- Wireless Access Point refresh Phase 1- Approx. \$15,000;
- iPAD Refresh Willett Classrooms- Approx. \$35,400;
- iPAD Refresh Elementary Carts – Approx. \$35,400;
- School Labs/Library A/V Technology Replacement and PreK Expansion (22) Approx. \$63,800;
- NHS Computer Science Lab – Pathways Program – Approx. \$18,750

Total Capital Request for Technology in FY21 - \$584,600

Mr. Riccardi, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reviewed his Department's capital requests, which have been prioritized after meetings with the Security Task Force and a meeting with all the principals, which pushed safety items to the forefront.

- Replace Card Access Systems - \$160,000;
- Repolace Intercom Systems – central communications for day-to-day use as well as for safety use;
- Track Study - \$60,000 for a study of the track at Norwood High School which has reached its 10-year life. (Mr. Riccardi thinks we will probably get this spring out of it, but not much more). Mr. Riccardi added that the field is ripping more frequently and easier now as the fibers are worn down. He added that it might make sense to put lights at the field while work is being done so that the High School and town sports programs will be able to get more use of the High School field if we are approved for a new middle school.
- Track (2021) – Approximately \$271,000;
- Field (2021) – Approximately \$474,000;

-Concession Stand – Mr. Riccardi informed that we are pretty much one of the only fields without a concession stand.

Total Capital Request for FY21 & FY22 - \$3,045.000

Currently Requesting the Top 3 Items - \$620,880 (Priority 1)

Card Access System;
Intercom System;
Track Study

Mr. Bishop, Director of Transportation, reviewed the Vehicle Replacement Plan for FY2021-2025.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve Mr. Riccardi's priority 1 Replacements Costs in the amount of \$620,880.00, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the replacement vehicles requested by Mr. Bishop in the Vehicle Replacement Plan for FY2021, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Capital Outlay requests for Technology in the amount of \$584,600.00, which was seconded by Mr. Catania.

There was some discussion on how to lower this request. The Committee decided to move forward with them all and will revisit after the next Capital Outlay Meeting.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 4-0.

RTI/Renaissance Update: Dr. Fraczek and Dr. Wyeth updated regarding Renaissance Flow 360, which is an adaptive data tool. Grades 3-5 and 6-8 are using Renaissance at this point. There was professional development training for administrators in October. That was followed by 3 days of Champion Training with selected teachers. There are 25 Champion Teachers that will be able to support the other teachers in their schools. There are six on-line training sessions for each school as well.

Dr. Fraczek shared some of the assessments that Renaissance can do. She shared the *Starlight Assessment Tool* and an *Instructional Assessment Report* as well as an *Individual Student Report*. She explained how staff uses these tools and explained that there were many other assessment tools available on Renaissance.

Dr. Wyeth read a few comments he has received from some of the teachers. He reminded that we are still in the early stages of using this tool.

Dr. Thomson took time to thank the Administrative team for getting behind this, as well as the teachers who are now seeing how it gives us real-time data on how our students are doing so that we can personalize instruction for students. Dr. Thomson also thanked Dr. Wyeth for all his efforts in helping to get this program up and running.

The Chair suggested moving the field trip request up in the agenda since Dr. Fraczek is here to answer questions.

Old Business: Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Request – CMS 8th Grade (Washington D.C. – May 19,2020 – May 22, 2020): Dr. Fraczek clarified that, of the 70-80 students that opt out of this field trip, there are some who cannot go due to the cost (there are half-price scholarships available, but she cannot afford to give full scholarships), there are families with other commitments, as well as a variety of other reasons.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve this field trip, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson reminded that on July 12, 2019 we were awarded \$28,000 for a Safer Schools and Communities Local Equipment and Technology Grant. Dr. Thomson shared that Mr. Riccardi and his crew have added the following:

- CMS 3 video cameras
- High School 5 video camera and 1 relocated
- 1 video camera added to each Elementary School.

The project also added 184 camera license upgrades.

Dr. Thomson said the work was completed by December 1, 2019.

Also, Dr. Thomson updated that the Mass Department of Revenue has given its estimates and Norwood's Chapter 70 money looks like it could increase approximately \$1,500,000.00.

The Principal Search for the Oldham has started and a Search Committee has been assembled. Dr. Thomson shared the timeline:

- Applications closed this past Friday;
- Compiling of Applications have started;
- An Organizational Meeting of the Search Committee will be on Feb. 3rd;
- Interviews will be scheduled between Feb. 24th and Feb. 27th;
- The Committee will meet on March 3rd to talk about finalists;
- Superintendent Interviews and Community and Staff Forums will be sometime between March 4th-11th;
- Announcement will be made by March 25th.

Enrollment Update: The Members received an updated enrollment sheet as of January 13, 2020. Dr. Thomson reviewed the numbers. He said he is currently looking at the 4th Grade Oldham numbers compared to the rest of the district as the numbers are up at this point. (Two students moved in before the holidays and two have moved in since the holidays).

Dr. Thomson reminded that tomorrow he will be at a Superintendent Conference where the Commissioner will be talking about the Student Opportunities Act and the plan we need to come up with the April 1st on how we will be using the increased funding towards closing achievement gaps.

Dr. Thomson then reminded of the Character Breakfast at Norwood High School this coming Saturday morning .

The Chair updated that at last night's Selectmen's Meeting, Mr. Plasko made a motion to change the name of the *Board of Selectmen* to the *Select Board*. No one seconded the motion, but the Chair drafted a letter to the Board and was wondering if she should send the letter from the School Committee or from her as an individual.

After some discussion, the Chair agreed to send the letter out from herself as an individual.

Budget: Budget Subcommittee – Survey finalized: The Members received an updated version of the School Committee Community Survey, which had some revisions that Mrs. Bodenhofer made after she received the Members' feedback. There was some discussion.

FY20 Budget Transfers: Ms. Sheridan informed that there were three budget transfer requests this evening:

<u>Transfer From:</u>		<u>Transfer To:</u>	
(1) Sch IS/TB Prescott	\$1,786.44	SCH Equip Rep-Presc.	\$1,786.44
(2) Sch IS/TB Willett	\$10,000.00	Sch IS/TB Willett Inst. Sup.	\$10,000.00
(3) Sch IS/TB Cleveland	\$15,000.00	Sch IS/TB Cleveland Inst. Sup.	\$15,000.00

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Old Business: Long term agenda update: Chairwoman Stewart reviewed the Long-Term Agenda and asked the Committee Members for feedback regarding additions/changes to the future agenda. The Chair informed that the next meeting officially begins Budget season.

Student Government Day is usually later in the year, but has been moved to February 26th. The Chair said that is a very heavily scheduled meeting that day and asked for the Members' thoughts on this item.

The Committee Members agreed that February 26th would not work, but the Chair will reschedule for another lighter meeting.

School Start Time Taskforce Update: The Chair addressed a rumor she has heard that this initiative has been abandoned. She wanted to let everyone know that the Taskforce is still working on this and will be coming before the Committee on March 25th to give their recommendation. She updated on the surveys that went out to the families and staff. She also reminded that should there be any changes to the start times, it would begin in the fall of 2021, not this coming fall.

Policy: Debt Management Policy: The Chair sent the Members an update from Ann Haley that she received this morning. The Chair reminded that at the last meeting the School Committee approved the Debt Management Policy with the exception of Page 7, third paragraph regarding the maximum debt limit. She read the language that Ann Haley, Paul Bishop and the Chair agreed on.

Mrs. Bodenhofer then made a motion to approve the language, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

New Business: Norwood Recreation Department's Pool Feasibility Committee: Mr. Farley of the Recreation Department is requesting a Pool Study Committee and is looking for members from the Boards/Committees to serve on the Committee. The Chair reminded that we have students from the Extended Day Camp that use Father Mac's pool.

The Chair said she will go to the first meeting, but might not be able to do all the meetings.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Two (2) Donations:

- Norfolk County District Attorney – Nasal Naloxone (2) per school:
(19 doses valued at \$2,660.00)
- Bay State Textiles – December Rebate - \$414.00

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to accept these donations, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith had none.

Mrs. Bodenhofer said after the last meeting she looked into the Transportation vote that the School Committee took three years ago to extend some

sick time to drivers, and informed that we do offer some sick time to drivers. She said the Transportation Department is reviewing to make sure that is in place.

Mr. Catania wished a Happy Lunar New Year to everyone that is celebrating.

The Chair attended the T.O.N.Y. Awards and updated that there were 24 students nominated, and 10 students won awards. The Chair said that this year, she said the School System is in a good place thanks to the override. It made her think of how important it is as a school system and town that we give our students all the wonderful opportunities that are available.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Stewart informed that they do need to go back into Executive Session for contract negotiations.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion for Executive Session at 9:30 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee Members were polled and voted in favor 4-0.

Adjournment: Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion for adjournment at 11:10 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee