

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Remote Meeting (On-Line)
Wednesday, April 8, 2020

A remote (on-line) meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 (due to the Covid-19 virus). The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing.

"In addition, all members of a public body may participate in a meeting remotely; the Open Meeting Law's requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at the meeting location is suspended.

Executive Session: There was an Executive Session this evening at 6:30 p.m. (prior to the Open Meeting) for the purpose of negotiations.

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

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.

Chairwoman Stewart welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and reminded that we would be using the email: npsschoolcommittee@norwood.k12.ma.us for questions and comments for Public Forum until 7:15 p.m. this evening.

Minutes: Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of March 25, 2020, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of March 25, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes (part 1) of March 30, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes (part 2) of March 30, 2020, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes (part 1) of April 1, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes (part 2) of April 1, 2020, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained)

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Report on Signed Warrants by David Catania:

Payroll Warrants	\$0
Accounts Payable Warrants:	
	\$ 18,564.46
	\$ 6,433.45
	\$ 17,910.07
	\$ 26,342.48
	\$ 60,118.88
	\$ 6,723.70
	\$ 192,759.98
	\$ 6,723.70
	\$ 470,343.49
	\$ 6,288.15
	\$ 9,427.57
	\$ 6,723.70
	\$ 395,537.14
	\$ 277,052.65
	\$ 10,099.98
	\$ 175,077.30
	\$ 26,576.66
	\$ 27,208.37
	\$ 16,936.71
	\$ 12,419.47
	\$ 8,148.32
Total Expenditure:	\$1,777,416.23

Public Forum: Chairwoman Stewart informed that, as of 7:15 p.m., she has not received any email questions or comments, and she then declared public forum closed. The Chair informed that members of the public can send a question or comment at any time to this email address: npsschoolcommittee@norwood.k12.ma.us and she will address them at the next meeting.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson asked Dr. Wyeth to update on remote learning to date.

Dr. Wyeth did a detailed demonstration on how families can access their children's schoolwork through the Norwood Public School's website. He showed how student's assignments are spread out so it shouldn't be overwhelming to families. Dr. Wyeth added that this remote learning also provides good connections for students and staff. Dr. Wyeth then shared some professional development opportunities for staff. The Members had an opportunity for questions.

Dr. Wyeth updated that principals have let him know that student participation is increasing. He is hoping that at this point, people should be getting more comfortable and hopeful with this path forward.

Dr. Thomson updated regarding the Oldham principal search. He said that the new process is similar, but it is a little reversed and accelerated. The posting does not have an end-date, as he will continue to accept applications until he has a good pool.

Dr. Thomson was on School Spring this weekend and invited some people to apply for the position.

Dr. Thomson said that the Commissioner of Education has the ability to decide to adjust the school calendar and schools could work four days over April vacation. Our 185th day is June 26th at this point, which is late in the year. He feels we just got on a good plan with the remote learning. He feels that it is unlikely that the world will get back to normal on May 4th, adding that schools are usually the last group to get back to normal. Dr. Thomson said many districts are looking into continuing with the learning for four days over the April break.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to allow the superintendent to adjust the calendar so there would be four teaching days over April vacation as he sees fit after polling the stakeholders, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: FY21 Budget: Dr. Thomson shared a slide presentation of the FY21 Recommended Budget.

FY20 Budget without capital outlay and extra free cash	\$ 49,190,040
Add 3.5% Override Pledge	\$ 1,721,651
SOA Plan	\$ 575,000
Additional monies for excess OOD Tuitions	\$ 1,000,000
Additional monies for ELL and SPED mandates we could not absorb Into FY21 Budget	\$ 250,000
FY21 Budget	\$ 52,736,691

Dr. Thomson recommended the School Committee approve a budget in the amount of \$52,736,691.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the FY21 Budget as presented, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget Balancing Committee Update: Mrs. Bodenhofer updated the Committee on the last Budget Balancing Committee Meeting. She said the first thing they did was approve the bottom line School Committee Budget number (that the School Committee just voted on) to formalize the updated numbers that Mr. McQuaid provided.

Mrs. Bodenhofer said the Budget Balancing Committee had a discussion about potentially creating a special education reserve account. She explained that this would be a mechanism for handling sudden changes in out of district tuitions. She also informed that we would need approval from Town Meeting so there are some steps involved. The Budget Balancing Committee had suggested creating an MOU talking about the extra \$1,000,000 of out of district tuitions, explaining that these are real needs that are outside of what we can handle in our budget. She added that this is just a verification system.

The Committee Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the MOU pending acceptance from the Finance Commission, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Capital Outlay Discussion: Dr. Thomson updated on Capital Outlay projects. Dr. Thomson said there was some discussion as to waiting until the fall for some of the projects. Dr. Thomson said that many of our school projects need to be done when school is closed, preferably over the summer. The Chair asked Dr. Thomson to create a list of capital projects that need to be done when the kids are not in school.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

The Chair said we could talk more about this at next week's meeting after Dr. Thomson puts his list together.

Old Business: Updated MOA: Covid-19 Emergency Procedures Compensation: We have been working on this MOA in Executive Session and are ready to vote in open session.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the MOA, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Policy: JFADB: Educational Rights of Children & Youth in Homeless Situations –

Final Approval: On March 18th the School Committee voted in favor of this policy, but because it is a new policy, it needed to go on the website for 2 weeks. We now need to take another vote.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve Policy JFADB, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

New Business: MASC Guidance on Superintendent Evaluation during COVID-19 Outbreak: The Chair updated that we should have had the mid-cycle review in March, but due to the Covid-19 issues, we were not able to do the mid-cycle review. (see video)

Dr. Giblin agrees that we should include the Covid situation, but disagrees that we should only go to March 6th.

The Chair said some items may have to be put on pause around March 6th, but in the areas of remote learning, Dr. Thomson is excelling in so many areas. The Chair suggested reviewing the goals at the next meeting and making some adjustments then.

Community Collaboration Updates: The Chair shared on some of the Community Collaborations that are currently going on.

- Impact Norwood brought in a speaker that was remotely attended very well;
- There will be some coffee hours scheduled in the near future;
- Resources for parents of students of all ages (but will be good for people of all ages).

Consent Agenda: Acceptance of One Donation:

Norwood Cultural Council - \$642.00 CMS ELL Student Field Trip
(Belkin Farm)

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to accept this donation, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Catania thanked all the staff, including the food services, for all their hard work and dedication over the past few weeks.

Dr. Giblin thanked everyone who is trying to bring some kind of normalcy to the world. She thanked all the teachers, adding that adaptability and flexibility are powerful lessons that we are teaching our kids.

Mrs. Bodenhofer echoed everyone's comments and thanked Ms. Smith who was supposed to end her tenure on Monday, but due to the Covid-19 virus, she will be staying with us for a bit longer.

Ms. Smith thanked the police and fire departments, as well everyone who is working so hard to keep things running for us all.

The Chair said the field of mental health is an area she cares deeply about. She said it is ok to not be ok at this time. Everyone has hard moments and it is really hard for families to be home all-together every day. The Chair thanked the Town Manager for the new call center that just got up and running to keep the community informed.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there was an Executive Session before the meeting this evening and we do not need to go back into Executive Session at this time.

Adjournment: Dr. Giblin made a motion for adjournment at 8:54 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee