

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Remote (on-line)
Wednesday, April 15, 2020

A remote (on-line) meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 15, 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.

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 April 8, 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 April 8, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: None.

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: Dr. Thomson will save these for *Superintendent's Late Agenda*.

Appearances: None.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson reported that 250 pans of lasagna were given out to Norwood families this week as they town has begun handing out family dinners once a week to families that need some help.

Dr. Thomson was proud to update the Committee that Dr. Margo Fraczek, Principal at the Coakley Middle School, is a state finalist for Principal of the Year for Middle Schools.

Dr. Thomson then updated on the Oldham Principal search, saying that the 2nd round of interviews are scheduled for tomorrow evening. On April 21st there will be a Staff and Parent Forum, which will start around 6:30 p.m. A Google form will be sent out to parents and both candidates will have a chance to answer the questions sent in. This forum will be broadcast on NCM.

Dr. Thomson reminded that next week, we are not going to take April break. He said academics would be going on Tuesday through Friday, as Monday is a holiday.

Dr. Thomson then updated that a law has passed through the legislature giving the Commissioner some extended powers and responsibilities during this Covid-19 crisis. The deadline for the Student Opportunity Act Plan deadline has been extended to at least May 15th. Dr. Thomson said the plan is put together, and just needs to be put on paper as a final plan. Dr. Thomson said the other piece to this is that the Commissioner has decided that MCAS testing will not happen this year.

The Chair informed that next Wednesday the School Committee will be having its Budget Hearing and the same e-mail can be used for questions and comments regarding the Budget Hearing: npsschoolcommittee@norood.k12.ma.us.

Budget: FY20 Budget Transfer: Ms. Sheridan updated regarding a budget transfer request from the Callahan School.

Transfer From:		Transfer To:	
SCH IS/TB Callahan Txbk:	\$12,000.00	SCH Equip-Callahan	\$12,000.00
Acct. Balance	\$16,429.00	Acct. Balance	\$1,927.00

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

Capital Outlay – priorities for summer: At last week's meeting, the Committee discussed the Capital Outlay projects and the request to wait until fall Town Meeting for capital requests. Dr. Thomson prioritized the requests as some of them need to be done when school is not in session (summer time).

The requests that should be presented at Spring Town Meeting:

- Transportation: Rolling Stock Replacement:
 - Either 6 vans should be presented at Spring Town Meeting or 4 vans for Spring and 2 vans for Fall Town Meeting;
- Technology:
 - New District-Wide VOIP Phone System: Approx. \$175,000;
 - NHS Classroom A/V Technology Replacement: Approx. \$164,000;
 - NHS Computer Science Lab – Pathways Program: Approx. \$18,750.

Fall TM and Postponed Projects:

- Technology:
 - Network Switch Replacements – Approx. \$21,000;
 - Replacement Teacher Laptops at the Elementary Schools – Approx. \$56,250;
 - 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 Replacements and PreK Expansion (22): Approx. \$63,800.

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

Buildings and Grounds – All postponed until Fall TM;

The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns.

Ms. Smith made a motion to pare down Capital Outlay requests to just the rolling stock replacement for vans, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin for discussion.

Dr. Thomson shared his reasons as to why the items on his priority list should be presented first.

Both Dr. Thomson and Dr. Wyeth felt strongly that the NHS Computer Science Lab – Pathways Program should go before Spring Town Meeting or there will not be a Pathways Program in the fall.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Joe Kidd, Director of Technology, joined the meeting to explain that there are still Chromebooks at each school available if families need them.

Ms. Sheridan informed that today she got the invoice for the 20 new computers Mr. Kidd ordered from the new Covid-19 Account and she understands that he also ordered new Chromebooks as well.

Ms. Smith asked Mr. Kidd if he could price out what it would cost going forward for each child to have a Chromebook in case remote learning goes on indefinitely (into the fall).

Mr. Catania suggested putting in the requests as prioritized, saying that by the time Town Meeting comes up, we will have a better idea of what our future will look like.

Ms. Smith tabled her motion for now and made a motion to table this item until the next meeting when Mr. Kidd comes back with the information she asked for, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer.

Dr. Thomson said that the Town Manager wants to keep Town Meeting as short as possible and wants to push capital projects back to the fall. He added that a few weeks ago the Town side contacted Mr. Kidd to see if they can work together to get the new phone system in place for both the Town and school sides. This will work out as we can “piggyback” on the town’s portion and get it done sooner.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0 to table this item.

Old Business: Superintendent Goals/Standards: Evaluation Timeline: Chair Stewart led the conversation regarding the Superintendent’s Evaluation. She said the Members should have received the updated Goals and Standards Document that she sent out. There was some discussion regarding the timeline.

- Superintendent’s Self-Assessment – due middle of July;
- Committee’s Individual Assessments – due for August Meeting;
- Composite – due early September

The Chair reviewed each goal and the Members had an opportunity to suggest any changes. Many of the goals were adjusted to go only up until March 6th due to the Corona Virus situation.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion that we will use this document to guide the Committee for Dr. Thomson’s evaluation, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Long Term Agenda discussion: Chair Stewart reviewed the long-term agenda and asked the Members for feedback and suggestions that they think should be changed or added.

Ms. Smith asked for a salary analysis for the food workers as we are asking them to work with the public serving the grab and go breakfasts and lunches and feels we could give them a little help for the hazardous work they are doing.

Mrs. Bodenhofer would like to see an updated FY20 budget report before Town Meeting.

Policy: None.

New Business: TEC Agreement: Dr. Thomson said the Members received the TEC Agreement in their packets this week. He informed that Medway has been invited to join the TEC Program and the Committee needed to take a vote on the Agreement.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the TEC Agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Dr. Thomson said June 5th would be the next TEC Meeting.

Consent Agenda: None.

School Committee Addenda: Mrs. Bodenhofer sent her sincere condolences to the family of Norwood High School student Taylor Lynch on her sudden passing.

Dr. Giblin had none.

Ms. Smith echoed Mrs. Bodenhofer's condolences and sent her condolences to the students and staff on the passing of Taylor Lynch. Ms. Smith also congratulated Ms. Teresa Drummey on being chosen Teacher of the Year this year.

Mr. Catania also sent his condolences to the family and friends of Taylor Lynch. Mr. Catania also sincerely thanked Eli Norris and the Food Service Department on working so hard to feed our students.

Chairwoman Stewart updated that as of today, our food service department has served 31,706 breakfasts and lunches to our students. The Chair also informed that we would be hosting a food pantry at the High School. On Friday, Mrs. Derrane will be heading up food drop offs that will be bagged and given out to NPS families that need help. The Chair also congratulated Teresa Drummey for being chosen teacher of the year. She congratulated the four other finalists:

-Jason Andrews – English – CMS -Janet Lynch – SPED – Cleveland
-Kate Gorman – 1st Grade –St. Catherine's -Chrissy LaRaia – TASC - NHS

Executive Session: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 8:45 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