

TOWN OF NORWOOD  
School Committee Meeting  
Remote (On-Line)  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

A remote (on-line) meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 (remote 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 Business Meeting) for the purpose of Crisis Planning and Safety Updates.

**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 and Ms. Karin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations.

**Minutes:** Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of April 15, 2020, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Warrants:** Chairwoman Stewart asked Mr. Catania to share his report on the Warrants that he signed last week. Mr. Catania gave a quick report of warrants:

Accounts Payable	\$ 40,519.79
	\$ 12,051.01
	\$ 3,482.63
	\$ 9,900.87
	\$266,403.02
	\$ 9,740.50
	\$367,889.68
	\$ 39,093.18
	\$ 9,427.57
	\$ 1,132.00
	\$138,726.50
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$898,366.75</b>

**FY21 Budget Hearing - (7:05 p.m.):** Dr. Thomson shared a power point presentation on the FY21 Budget.

**FY21 Superintendent's Budget Rationale:**

- FY20 Budget without capital outlay and extra free cash
- Add 3.5% Override Pledge
- SOA Plan
- Additional Monies for Excess OOD Tuitions
- Additional Monies for ELL & SPED mandates we could not absorb into FY21 Budget

**FY21 Budget** **\$52,736,691**

Dr. Thomson then shared the Budget drivers as well as the Circuit Breaker calculations.

The Committee had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Thomson explained the CARES Act, saying there is \$215,000,000 coming for enhanced programming, but it hasn't been defined yet. He added that there is so much still up in the air.

The Chair explained that at the last Budget Balancing Committee Meeting, the BBC wanted to proceed with the current budget as it, and the Town Manager wanted to come back to talk about an alternative budget possibly in June.

Ms. Sheridan reminded that the guidelines around grants have been loosened up at this point.

The Chair reminded that we voted to approve this budget at the last meeting. She checked and there were no comments or questions from the public.

At 7:27, the Chair declared Public Hearing closed.

**Announcements:** None.

**Appearances:** None.

**Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda:** Dr. Thomson shared that the Governor has made the decision to close the schools for the remainder of the year. Dr. Thomson said he feels the same loss as everyone else that we cannot come back together before the end of the year. He said there have been some creative ideas being passed around for end of years celebrations. He said for the immediate future, the Commissioner will be coming out with more information for remote teaching shortly. Dr. Thomson then shared that the MCAS testing has been cancelled for the rest of this year, but the 10<sup>th</sup> grade test will be rescheduled for some time in the future.

Massachusetts will be receiving \$215,000,000 from the Cares Act for enhances learning. We may be able to use some of this funding towards our summer program.

Announced that our temporary food pantry handed out bags of groceries to about 80 families. He then said that approximately 30 families came after they ran out of food, and those families were redirected to other sources.

**Budget: Bus Contract:** Ms. Sheridan updated that a group of about 15 districts that got together to negotiate with Connolly Buses regarding contracts. Ms. Sheridan felt that Connolly Buses were very fair and transparent.

For Norwood, Connolly gave Norwood a rate of 56.1% of daily rate for remainder of the days (63 days). Savings of \$10,541.80

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

FY20 Budget Transfer: Ms. Sheridan informed that Mr. Longley is requesting this transfer (for softball/baseball supplies):

<u>Transfer From:</u>		<u>Transfer To:</u>	
Sch Athletics – Medical	\$10,755.00	Sch Athletics Supplies/Equip	\$10,755.00
Account balance:	\$19,550.00	Account Balance	-\$ 457.00

Mr. Catania made a motion to table this request as school has been cancelled for the rest of the year, which was seconded by Ms. Smith.

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

The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

**Old Business: Capital Outlay Requests and Priorities:** Mrs. Bodenhofer spoke recently with Mr. Maloney, the Chair of Capital Outlay. At Town Meeting, there will be a discussion as to delaying the capital requests. At this point, there are no more Capital Outlay Meetings scheduled and she added that if there are items that the schools want to delay or not delay, it would be up to us.

Dr. Thomson informed that we currently have 600 Chromebooks that have not been handed out to families at the elementary level, due to no responses to emails and letters the schools have sent out. There also will be 525 more purchased this summer, so we will be able to go 1:1 at the elementary level.

The early childhood staff is not relying on technology at this point.

Dr. Thomson said that if we did not need items that were placed on the Capital request we would not have added them to the Capital request list.

There was much discussion and concern from the Members as to the inability to know what the future is going to bring at this point.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to bring the following capital outlay requests to the spring Town Meeting: (\$120,000) for 4 vans; (\$60,000) for VOIP phone system; (\$164,000) for A/V Technology Replacement; (\$19,000) for Pathways Program at the High School, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. (\$363,000 total requests) The Committee voted in favor 3 – 0 (Ms. Smith and Dr. Giblin opposed).

**Policy:** None.

**New Business:** Consent Agenda: None.

**School Committee Addenda:** Dr. Giblin said she appreciates the spirited nature of the School Committee discussions during the last couple of weeks. She wanted to publicly thank the teachers who are working so hard these days with the students.

Mr. Catania had none.

Ms. Smith had none.

Mrs. Bodenhofer had none.

The Chair shared some great resources for families which can be found on the Impact Norwood website.

**Executive Session:** Chairwoman Stewart informed that there would be an Executive Session for Contract Negotiations, Food Services Pay Analysis and Extended Day.

Mr. Catania made a motion for Executive Session at 8:36 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee was polled and voted in favor 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion for adjournment at 10:25 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk  
Norwood School Committee

