

**TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Remote (On-Line)
Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

A remote (on-line) meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, June 3, 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.

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.

Chair Stewart welcomed everyone to this evening's meeting and reminded that we would be using the following email:
npsschoolcommittee@norwood.k12.ma.us for questions and comments for Public Forum this evening.

Minutes: Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2020, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 27, 2020, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there were no warrants for Mr. Catania to sign last week on behalf of the Committee.

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Dr. Thomson said he would save them for Superintendents Report/Late Agenda.

Appearances: School Health Council and Wellness Policy update: Mr. Quigley was here this evening to share some of the ideas the School Health Council has had this past year and updated regarding the Wellness Policy.

Mr. Quigley shared that the group is made up of the following people:

Ryan Quigley – Wellness Department Chair 6-12;
Teresa Stewart, SC Chair;
Paul Nimblett, CMS Wellness Teacher;
Donna Twohig, Nurse;
Eli Norris, NPS Food Services;
Kelsey Massis, NPS Food Services;
Aubrey Ciol, IMPACT Norwood Coordinator

Mr. Quigley said that they are looking forward to expanding the group.

Some of the accomplishments and future plans for the School Health Council are:

- Draft Wellness Policy for School Committee Review/Vote;
- Make recommendations to NPS Administrative Team and teachers regarding opportunities to improve overall wellness of all students;
- Explore opportunities for a Community Wellness Event.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve the policy as written, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Oldham Elementary School Improvement Plan – (1 year): Dr. Thomson welcomed Mr. Bob Griffin (Interim Oldham Principal) and Mr. Steve Olson (newly hired Oldham Principal). Dr. Thomson thanked Mr. Griffin for coming out of retirement and for bringing his expertise to the Oldham. Dr. Thomson said it was a pleasure to work with him. Dr. Thomson then said he feels like we hit gold with the addition of Mr. Olson coming on board as the new principal of the Oldham.

Mr. Griffin started by saying that he has not regretted coming back for a second, adding that his year at the Oldham has re-energized him.

Mr. Griffin was here this evening to present the Oldham Elementary School's Improvement Plan. Mr. Griffin reviewed this past year's goals and then shared the goals for 2020-2022.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Oldham Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor unanimously 5-0.

Mr. Olson said he is excited to start at the Oldham and join the community. He added that he is ready to get in there and to see where we can move things forward.

Callahan Elementary School Improvement Plan – (1 year): Mrs. Brown was here this evening to present the Callahan Elementary School's Improvement Plan. Mrs. Brown reviewed this past year's goals and then shared the goals for 2020-2022.

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the Oldham Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted in favor unanimously 5-0.

Willett/LMPA School Improvement Plan – (1 year): Ms. Robbins was here this evening to present the Willett / LMPA School Improvement Plan. Ms. Robbin reviewed this past year's goals, updated on remote learning with the kindergartners and preschoolers, and then shared the goals for 2020-2022.

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the Willett/LMPA Improvement Plan, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted in favor unanimously 5-0.

At this point in the meeting, the Committee agreed to move ***New Business:*** May Center Institute up in the agenda.

New Business: May Center Institute: Ms. Pamela Raymond and Ms. Andrea Potoczny-Gray of the May Center Institute, was here this evening to share some information about the May Center and inform that the May Center has found a wonderful location in Norwood. (They will be purchasing land behind Stop and Shop on Route 1 that they owned years ago).

The Chair informed that the Committee needed to vote on the May Center's curriculum. (A one-time vote).

Mr. Catania made a motion to approve the Curriculum of the May Center, as presented this evening, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson updated that the Commissioner of Education has been having weekly zoom meetings with all the Superintendents. This week he was talking about guideline for September school openings. Dr. Thomson said the guidelines will be very specific. He has spoken about partial openings and partial remote learning. Dr. Thomson said he has formed a Task Force to start planning and preparing. He added that summer protocols will be coming out next week.

Dr. Thomson then updated that on-line payment system should be up and running soon for the buses.

Tomorrow, at 4 p.m., Dr. Thomson said he would be doing another Facebook live.

Dr. Thomson wanted to thank Ms. Smith for her three years of service on the School Committee, as this is her last meeting. He said he appreciates all that she has done for the Norwood Public Schools.

Dr. Thomson ended by updating that yesterday he sent a letter out to families and staff from the Administrative Team. He gave credit to Dr. Galligan and Ms. Derrane for putting this letter together about social injustices and all that is going on in our society the past week. Dr. Thomson read the letter for the public.

Budget: Bus Fees / Reimbursements: The Chair reminded that we discussed this issue last week and chose to postpone this item for a week for the public to be able to weigh in. At this point, no one from the public has reached out.

Ms. Sheridan shared what other districts are doing.

Dr. Thomson's recommendation is to not give refunds, as we are still paying for the buses and will need to add more buses, which will increase costs next year. At this point, only two families have requested refunds.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to not refund the bus fees, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Ms. Smith voted against).

Budget Transfers: There were no budget transfers this week.

Old Business: School Calendar 2020-2021: Dr. Thomson said that, due to the Corona virus, Patriot's Day and the Boston Marathon were postponed until September 14th. This Committee voted to approve the calendar change to include a day off from school, as it was going to be a state holiday. This past week, the Governor cancelled the state holiday and marathon, still due to the Corona Virus. Dr. Thomson asked the Committee to vote the calendar back to the original calendar, cancel the September 14th day off and end the school year on June 18, 2021 (180th day).

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Policy: Sub Committee Update:

- (1) Budget Transfer Policy: After many questions and comments, Dr. Giblin suggested to postpone this vote to firm up this policy to answer the questions members have.

- (2) MASC Policy Audit Services: The Members received the Draft Agreement with MASC to bring MASC on-board to help this Committee update our policy manual. We would give them a copy of our manual and they need 120 days to review the policy manual. They then start meeting with the Policy Sub Committee to go over their findings. The cost of the service is \$10,500, which can be paid in three installments.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to enter into this contract, which was enthusiastically seconded by Dr. Giblin. The committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Superintendent Evaluation - Recommendation on SC Individual Evaluation Process: The Chair reminded that this year's election was postponed due to the Corona Virus. She also reminded that tonight is Ms. Smith's last School Committee Meeting. The Chair asked for guidance regarding the Superintendent's evaluation as MASC recommends that when the evaluation timeline and election cycle don't align, the outgoing member can complete an individual evaluation. Past practice in Norwood has been that the outgoing member does not complete the evaluation and the new member does. The Chair reminded that typically elections are in April and evaluations are late summer/fall. This time, with the elections moved to June, the timeline is much more compressed. After some discussion, the Members did not make any motions, so the past practice stands that the outgoing member will not be completing an evaluation.

Ms. Smith said that she believes the new Member should make her own decision as to whether to participate or not in the evaluation, as an elected Member of this Committee.

The Chair said this item would be on the next agenda to solidify the timeline.

New Business: May Center Institute: (Moved up in the agenda).

Consent Agenda: None

School Committee Addenda: Mr. Catania read a prepared statement said he felt both fortunate and blessed for the time he has worked with Ms. Smith on this Committee. He talked about the passion she spoke with about keeping important services during the override last year.

Dr. Giblin said many of her favorite moments working with Ms. Smith came during Executive Sessions. She praised her for being a ray of sunshine during Executive Sessions and for always speaking her thoughts and asking the hard questions no matter what the consequences were or how uncomfortable it was.

Mrs. Bodenhofer said one year ago tonight, she was standing at Town Hall celebrating with the Finance Commission, Jody Smith, the members of One Norwood as the Override passed. Mrs. Bodenhofer said Ms. Smith ran for School Committee

partly due to knowing this Town needed an override. She said she will really miss working on this Committee with Ms. Smith.

The Chair thanked Ms. Smith for all her hard work and direction, and being so instrumental around the budget and override, adding that she asked a lot of hard questions and kept everyone accountable. As long as the Chair is on this Committee, she will continue to work hard on the initiatives Ms. Smith started. She finished by saying there is no doubt Ms. Smith will continue to work to make the world a better place.

The Chair then wanted to thank Dr. Thomson, Dr. Wyatt and the Administrative Team on the letter they sent out yesterday. She stated this evening that, unequivocally, black lives matter. She read a prepared statement that she promised to listen, to continue to learn and improve and to help and create and uphold safe and empowering spaces. Through the implementation of social emotional learning, Norwood Public Schools is creating a culture of care, inclusion and safety for every student and their family in Norwood.

Ms. Smith congratulated the Class of 2020 on their graduation this past Sunday. As she was out running last weekend, she was heartened with all the people who decorated the yards along the route to make it such a special day for our seniors. She said it has been a real honor and privilege to sit on this Board advocating as best as she can. She added that it has been a real joy working with this Board and all the other Board Members she has worked with over the past three years. She ended by thanking her lovely wife, Kate Smith, for bearing with her these past three years

Executive Session: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there would be an Executive Session for Contract Negotiations.

Ms. Smith made a motion for Executive Session at 9:26 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion for adjournment at 10:20 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