

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, August 28, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Ms. Teresa Stewart, Chair; Ms. Myev Bodenhofer (arrived @ 3:10 p.m.), Ms. Maura Smith and Mr. Dave Catania.

Committee Member Excused: Dr. Joan Giblin (due to work commitment).

Administrators Present: Dr. Dave Thomson, Superintendent of Schools and Ms. Karin Sheridan, Director of Finance and Operations.

The Chair welcomed everyone to today's special School Committee Meeting. She thanked everyone who could make this meeting. She informed that Mrs. Bodenhofer should be here shortly and Dr. Giblin could not make today's meeting due to her work schedule.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson informed that the Committee Members each received a letter from Jerry P. McDermott, Sheriff, Norfolk County, informing that he will be convening the Sheriff's Task Force on Juvenile Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Sheriff McDermott as asked for volunteers to serve on this Task Force, adding that the first meeting will be in September.

Mr. Catania and the Chair both volunteered to serve on this Task Force.

Ms. Smith made a motion to appoint Mr. Catania and Chairwoman Stewart to serve on this Task Force, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 3-0.

Budget: Request to Town Accountant Special Education Accounts: Ms. Sheridan reported that the way the SPED and Transportation accounts are set up in MUNIS, it shows that the accounts are over and due to the restrictions that are set, MUNIS wont allow any bills to be paid.

Dr. Thomson said that at this point, the numbers are estimates and these accounts aren't balanced until the end of the year when the Circuit Breaker money is set. He informed that the Town Accountant needs a letter from the School Committee stating that it is all right to remove the restrictions on these accounts.

After some discussion, Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion asking Mr. McQuaid to remove the restrictions, as we have faith in our Business Director that in the end,

we will have balanced accounts, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

Old Business: Coakley Middle School Request for funding of Feasibility Study:

Chairwoman Stewart welcomed Mr. Riccardi to today's meeting. Dr. Thomson reminded that we are still in the Eligibility Phase with MSBA for a new middle school, but going forward, we hope to make it to the Feasibility Phase. He explained that Ai3 has estimated that the cost for the Feasibility Study will be up to \$1.5 million dollars. Dr. Thomson informed that the Town of Beverly did a study for a new middle school a few years ago and it cost \$1.1 million.

Mr. Riccardi reviewed the timeline for the different phases of the plan and said we are still in the beginning stages of what could take approximately 6 years (from when the application is submitted to when a new middle school finally opens its doors). Mr. Riccardi said he believes that the town will be reimbursed for the cost of the Feasibility Study whether we are selected or not.

Mr. Riccardi reviewed the history of the Coakley Middle School's HVAC issues:

- 10 Years ago, the School Department did a study to review the HVAC System at the Middle School;
- The new High School project eventually bumped the Coakley HVAC project;
- The Callahan boiler issues ended up pushing the Coakley HVAC project back;
- The HVAC System at the Coakley should have been addressed 10 years ago and might have to keep running for another 6 years if we are approved to build a new middle school.

There was some discussion regarding the wording of the Article that is proposed.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to formally ask the Selectmen to put this request on the fall's Town Meeting Warrant (with the suggested wording change), which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

STM Warrant: Mrs. Bodenhofer reminded that while the Committee was going through the long budget process last year, Town Meeting voted to take the money in free cash from the Forbes Estate and appropriate it (approximately \$509,000) to the Schools if the override did not pass. She also reminded that we agreed to turn the money back over to the town if the override did pass. Mrs. Bodenhofer said at this point, she feels this item needs to go on the Town Meeting Agenda so we can send that money back to the Town.

Mr. Catania made a motion for the reallocation of that money to be put on the agenda for Town Meeting in the wording that they see appropriate, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted in favor 4-0.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith welcomed students and staff back to school and wished them all a great year.

Mrs. Bodenhofer echoed Ms. Smith's wishes.

Mr. Catania welcomed everyone back to a new school year.

Chairwoman Stewart reminded the Dr. Thomson's evaluations should be done and submitted by September 4th.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 4:15 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee