

TOWN OF NORWOOD
School Committee Meeting
Savage Educational Center
Wednesday, September 25, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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.

Minutes: Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve the regular session minutes of September 11, 2019, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Correspondence: None.

Warrants: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there were warrants to be signed. She then read the amounts:

Payroll Warrants	\$78,636.90
	\$1,437,840.13
Total Expenditure	\$1,516,477.03

Public Forum: Chairwoman Stewart informed that this was the time in the meeting for members of the public to address the School Committee with items that they would like to see on a future agenda.

Mrs. Ann Haley was here this evening as a concerned citizen and Town Meeting Member to talk about the override and possible implications to senior citizens in Norwood. She informed that there is a group of people now working with seniors and veterans who are struggling to pay their taxes. Mrs. Haley wanted to get the word out to the public regarding the Senior Work-off Program, adding that the general government has been using it and she wanted to see if the Norwood Schools could participate. Mrs. Haley said 13 people can work towards paying down their taxes, but last year, only 10 people took advantage of the program. Mrs. Haley asked the School Committee to consider looking to see if there are any possible ways seniors could help out and get some assistance with their taxes at the same time. Mrs. Haley also asked the schools to consider possibly using interns to provide some help in the schools.

Mrs. Haley then switched hats and said at this point, she is here from the Finance Commission as the liaison to the School Committee. She informed that she is stepping back as the liaison to the School Committee and introduced Mr. Bob Donnelly, who will be her replacement.

Mr. Donnelly thanked Mrs. Haley and acknowledged her for all the hard work she has done as liaison.

Mrs. Haley continued by saying that she is quite impressed with all the great work School Committee has accomplished this past year.

Announcements: None.

Appearances: (moved up in the agenda) Cottage for Prescott: Mr. Riley and Mr. Riccardi were here this evening to update the Members regarding the educational space needs for the Prescott Elementary School. Mr. Riccardi informed that three bids have been received.

- (1) \$39,000
- (2) \$22,770
- (3) \$20,000 (this one did not include a handicapped ramp or stairs).

Mr. Riccardi said he recommends going with the bid that came in at \$22,770. He said this trailer was 12' x 44'. He also informed that a three-year lease would be \$7,590 per year, which included the \$3,900 one-time cost for adding a handicap ramp and stairs.

There was some discussion and the Members reminded that due to their commitment for fiscal transparency, they would like more detailed financials prior to the meetings.

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

Elementary Schedule Update: Mr. Bryan Riley, Mrs. Diane Ferreira, Mr. Robert Griffin, Mrs. Donna Brown and Mrs. Nancy Coppola were here to answer any questions regarding the Elementary Schedules the Members still had.

The Members had received a copy of a letter from the Elementary Principals to the families, which shared some changes that have been implemented since the override in June. Some of the changes included:

- Full-time Adjustment Councilors at each elementary school;
- Piloting the new Reading & English Language Arts Curriculum;
- Common Planning Time for teachers; and
- More time for students to have lunch along with some flex-time for needed breaks.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Student Services Update: Ms. Lori Cimeno was here this evening to update the Committee regarding Special Education. She began by reviewing the Special Education Programs:

- LBLD (Language Based Learning Disability Program)
Balch, CMS, NHS
- LEAP (Learning, Exploratory, Academic Program)
Balch
- PACS (Practical Application of Curriculum and Skills)
LMPA, Prescott, Oldham, CMS
- PLC (Pragmatic Learning Center)
Cleveland, CMS, NHS
- TASC (Teaching Academic & Social Curriculum)
Callahan, CMS, NHS
- LEAD (Live, Engage, Achieve, Develop)
Savage

Ms. Cimeno then updated that there are currently 57 students in Out-of-District Programs in 23 different schools.

- 18 Private Schools
- 4 Collaboratives; and
- 1 Other Public School.

Ms. Cimeno then updated that 7 new students moved in over the summer who require special education services.

Ms. Cimeno shared the current staffing needs due to new students enrolling:

- Balch – needs 1 FTE paraprofessional aide for LEAP Program;
- HS – needs 1 FTE paraprofessional aide for ASE Block.

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

Ms. Cimeno then shared her thoughts about having a central registration location and the benefits involved. The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson invited everyone to *Pennies for Patients* on Saturday, October 5th. He said there would be a mini-golf course set up in the NHS Gymnasium and everyone is welcome.

Dr. Thomson also updated regarding the following:

- TEC Update: Enrollment is up and TEC ended the last year in good financial standing. The Fuse Fellowship Cohort #2 has begun and we have two more teachers involved.

-We are looking to get bike racks at some of the local schools as a result of as initiative by Mr. Mazzucco. The Town will purchase the bike racks and we would need to accept them. There was some discussion regarding this item.

-Senior Class Fundraiser: Members of the senior class will be painting mustang logos at the end of driveways. He added that anyone that is interested should put their name on the list soon as the list is growing.

Class of 2019: Dr. Thomson shared the wide range of colleges that the Class of 2019 are attending. He said that out of the 238 students in the Class of 2019, 83% have continued their education.

Dr. Thomson reminded that the October 7th Executive Session Meeting has Been moved to the High School Library at 5:00 p.m.

Finally, Dr. Thomson informed that the Norwood Public Schools have started *Hello Week*, which is an initiative started as a result of Sandy Hook. He said that our schools are half-way through practicing safety drills.

Budget: FY20 Budget Transfer: Ms. Sheridan informed that there was a request for budget transfers:

Budget Transfer From:			Budget Transfer To:		
551100-20	Sch IS/TB Willett	\$3,500	524100-20	Sch Equ. Rep Will	\$3,500
551100-20	Sch IS/TB Willett	\$1,000	551200- 20	Other Inst. Matls	\$1,000
Total Transferred From:		\$4,500	Total Transferred To:		\$4,500

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

Old Business: Superintendent's Evaluation: Mrs. Bodenhofer gave the members an updated Evaluation and she shared the minor corrections and a few word changes that were suggested by the Members.

Mrs. Bodenhofer read the overall performance rating out loud.

The Members had an opportunity to share their thoughts.

Dr. Giblin made a motion to approve the date changes on the first page as well as the additional wording to the first sentence of the final change of the document, which should read "*The overall rating of "Developing" reflects the majority of the Committee's beliefs*", which was seconded by Mr. Catania.

Chairwoman Stewart said she believes Dr. Thomson should have an overall rating of “Proficient” and it will be reflected by her vote.

With regard to the motion on the table, the Committee voted in favor 4-1 (Chairwoman Stewart voted against).

Dr. Thomson read a prepared statement:

- First, I would like to thank the Committee for their comments and feedback. Once we decided to pursue an override effort, we should have revised the goals and evidence required as all were not going to be feasible given the time and resources to accomplish this monumental task. Having said that, we have made progress on instructional practices, but not as much I would have hoped for when we set this goal. We have chosen a language of instructional practice, normed our expectations for instructional strategies, and address key aspects of instructional practice in our faculty meetings. This work along with our strategic plan will guide the growth of the district moving forward. I would be remiss if I did not express my gratitude to my administrative team for all of their hard work and effort over this past year. I want to close by reiterating that this evaluation process is very difficult simply because the evaluators do not work with their subject day to day and a full picture of the work of the superintendent is difficult. I look forward to working with the committee to continue my personal growth and to improve our process.

School Start time Task Force Update: Chairwoman Stewart said the Members received copies of the last Task Force minutes. She updated that the Committee reconvened last Monday and has a great group of people meeting to brainstorm on this topic. A parent survey and a survey for middle school and high school students will be the next topic that the Task Force will be working on. The Members got to review a draft survey and share their thoughts.

The Chair said the Task Force has already approved this survey.

Mr. Catania made a motion to remove Question #16 from the Student Survey and Question #29 from the Parent Survey, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee vote in favor 3-2 (The Chair and Mrs. Bodenhofer opposed).

Policy: Wellness Policy & School Health Council: Chairwoman Stewart updated regarding policies that are pending review and updates. Dr. Giblin shared that we do have students from Northeastern that will work with us and she hopes to connect with them by the end of the week.

The Chair updated that the first official School Health Council meeting is scheduled for November 21st. She reminded that the School Health Council is supposed to meet quarterly and hasn't met in years. The following people will serve on this council (along with Members of the Community, parents and students that have not been named yet):

Ms. Teresa Stewart, SC Chair

Dr. Joan Giblin, SC

Dr. Dave Thomson

Dr. Alec Wyeth

Ryan Quigley, 6-12 Wellness Chair - will serve as Chair of this Council

Eli Norris, Director - Food Services

Kelsey Massis, Food Services

Travis Farley, Rec. Dept.

Stacey Lane – Norwood Health Dept.

Aubrey Ciol – Norwood Health Dept.

New Business: Middle School Building Committee Update: The Chair updated that she, Dr. Thomson and Mr. Catania attended the recent Middle School Building Meeting and informed that Alan Slater was voted Chairman of this Committee. Mr. Tony Mazzucco will be putting together a presentation for Town Meeting. The Members agreed that they would like to see the presentation before Town Meeting.

Superintendent Goals and Evaluation Process for 2019-2020: The Chair updated that the process for the Superintendent's goals and evaluation changed this past summer. The Chair said there are new standards and rubrics. She added that the Superintendent needs to do a self-assessment first according to the new standards and rubrics. She also informed that Dr. Thomson as well as School Committee Members could present evidence of goals. The Chair said we would spend some time next meeting defining "proficient", "developing", etc. Dr. Thomson will still need four goals. The Chair said we should do a mid-year review, which needs to be put on our Long Term Agenda.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Four (4) Donations: Dr. Thomson recommended accepting four (4) donations:

Cleveland PTO – Swing Set;

Bay State Textiles Rebate – August \$481.50

Norwood Women's Club - \$150.00 Fine Arts
Lifetouch - \$270.00 – Oldham School

Ms. Smith made a motion to accept these donations, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Personnel: None.

School Committee Addenda: Ms. Smith had none.

Mrs. Bodenhofer had none.

Dr. Giblin had none.

Mr. Catania had none.

The Chair thanked everyone for all the hard work this Committee has been doing.

Executive Session: Chairwoman Stewart informed that there would be an Executive Session for Union Contract Negotiations and Superintendent's Salary.

Ms. Smith made a motion for Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. , which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Members were polled and voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 10:35 p.m., which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna G. Doliner, Clerk
Norwood School Committee