

TOWN OF NORWOOD
(Traveling) School Committee Meeting
Coakley Middle School
Wednesday, October 9, 2019

A meeting of the Norwood School Committee was held on Wednesday, October 9, 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: Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019 and the Executive Session Minutes of September 25, 2019, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 7, 2019, (Safety Meeting), which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee vote in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Correspondence: None.

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

Payroll Warrants	\$115,479.20
	\$1,515,458.67
	\$101,119.10

Accounts Payable	\$9,046.62
	\$13,591.48
	\$33,810.29
	\$3,348.30
	\$14,169.91
	\$5,590.99
	\$63,834.67
	\$4,768.00
	\$2280.00
	\$782.42
	\$129.88
	\$108.07
	\$95.16
	\$4721.00
	<u>\$2,591.20</u>
Total Expenditure:	\$1,890.924.96

Public Forum: None.

Announcements: Dr. Thomson was happy to announce that the Prescott Elementary School was named a Blue Ribbon School. Principal Bryan Riley and many of his staff were here this evening to share some background on how they became a Blue Ribbon School. He informed that last year the staff decided they were up for the challenge so a Committee was formed. He said about 75% of his staff worked on the application and help with the process. Mr. Riley said this award just shows what great things can happen when everyone works hard together.

Appearances: Green Communities Program: Mr. Joe Collins was here this evening to give a general overview of the Green Communities Program that provides grant funding for certain Communities who promise reduce the carbon footprint over a five year period by 20%. Mr. Collins informed that there were five criteria that need to be met and a November 22nd deadline for the application to be submitted. He explained that Norwood has already met three of the criteria, which are planning and building code related.

The remaining two criteria, Energy Reduction Plan and a Fuel-efficient Policy, need to be approved by the Selectmen and the School Committee.

The Fuel Efficient Policy requires the town and schools to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles as they become commercially available.

The Members had some questions and concerns.

Mr. Riccardi said that if we qualified for grant funding, one of the first things he would like to be able to do is to use some of the money to bring in some help to take the 320 energy efficient lights he received from MassSave to replace all of the lights in the hallways of Norwood High School. This will make a huge difference in saving energy.

After some discussion, Dr. Thomson felt this item could be tabled until the next meeting for a vote.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to table, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

School Improvement Plan – Coakley Middle School – and Update on Electives: Dr. Fraczek welcomed the School Committee to the Coakley for the Traveling School Committee Meeting. She introduced four students, Danielle D’Amadia, Emily Spadorcia, Anthony Cavanaugh and Daniel Gomez, who shared with the Committee what electives they chose and then explained the projects involved with their elective. The students shared that they really like being able to choose courses around their interests.

The Members had an opportunity for questions and comments.

Dr. Fraczek then reviewed the Coakley Middle School Improvement Plan with the Committee. She said they have three big goals:

- Improve students' social and emotional capacity at school to create a positive, safe and supportive leaning environment;
- Improve student writing across all content areas that will result in an aggregate increase in school wide ELA score of 5 points, gains for all sub groups in ELA, and improve SGP for all sub groups;
- Implement the improved programming for al middle school students that provides engaging content, rigorous material, and relevant skills will focus on college and career pathways at the high school level.

Dr. Fraczek shared some of the upcoming events and programs and shared that the CMS has 44 students who receive direct ELL Services but added that 77 students are being monitored. She also updated that they are sending math and ELA teachers out for *Train the Trainers Coaching Program* so that teachers can come back and share what they have learned with other teachers.

Dr. Fraczek said it is so amazing to her that they have gone from one adjustment counselor to 2.6 counselors. She said they have been able to do so much already.

Dr. Fraczek explained what the *Renaissance* Data Program is and how it works. She said it is very easy to use and data is available right away. She added that it really helps teachers to assess where the students are and how they are progressing.

School Improvement Plan – High School / Portrait of the Graduate: Dr. Galligan and Mrs. Derrane were here to review the NHS School Improvement Plan. They shared their four goals:

- SEL/Safety;
- Technology Integration;
- Portrait of the NHS Grad; and
- Career Pathways.

Mrs. Derrane shared that they are in the process of selecting peer models who will receive training on bias, race relations and many other areas which will help students work with other students to promote a safe, secure and emotionally healthy environment for all students at NHS through a focus on diversity, equity and inclusion. They explained how students will be selected as well as the training program they will receive.

Ms. Derrane and Dr. Galligan explained what *Portrait of a Norwood Graduate* was all about and the 5 C's that define it.

- Collaborators;
- Creators;
- Communicators;
- Critical thinkers and problem solvers; and
- Citizens.

With regard to Career Pathways, Mr. Blunt has provided a proposal for another pathway in communications. Mrs. Derrane and Dr. Galligan said there are already many opportunities in that field right around Norwood and they are very excited to expand this program. They also updated that Moderna had been added to the healthcare pathway, along with Norwood Hospital.

Dr. Galligan updated that the High School participated in the Collaborative Conference portion of the NEASC Accreditation process last November, adding that NEASC has totally revamped the way in which they do accreditations. He said this is a much more inclusive process. He explained that the Collaborative Conference was a two-day visit from a four-person team and they helped identify and solidify the goals. A NEASC Improvement Plan was submitted on October 1st and the next visit will be in December of 2020.

Regarding the Renaissance Program, Dr. Wyeth shared that we have purchased the Flo 360 for ELA and Math. We are focusing in on grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-10 on kids who need extra support. If this proves really successful we will be expanding on this. He shared some of the programs that will help teachers assess students' progress. He congratulated Joe Kidd and Stephanie Beaudoin of the Technology Department for all their help in getting this all set up.

The second part of it is a practice part, which is really where the intervention piece comes in. He shared some information on the Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math. He said training for this part comes through the Professional Development component, adding that we have identified 3-4 teachers at each school who will be trained (*Train the Trainer Program*) so they can train the rest of the teachers in their buildings.

Superintendent's Report and/or Late Agenda: Dr. Thomson said the Members have received the October 1st Enrollment Report, which has not changed much other than two new students enrolled at the Balch.

Also, Dr. Thomson said he would like the Committee to take a vote this evening for the principal, superintendent and one teacher from the Prescott to be allowed to attend a professional development opportunity in Washington, DC, as part of the Blue Ribbon Award. The budget will be less than \$2,000 and will be taken from the PD Fund.

Mr. Catani made a motion to approve this request, which was seconded by Dr. Giblin. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Budget: Transportation Report: Mr. Bishop and Ms. Sheridan updated regarding the Transportation Department. Mr. Bishop said, at this point, we have 25 van and short bus drivers (2 on disability) and 16 monitors. He said we are always looking for new drivers and monitors. He said he went on a campaign when he took over as Director and was able to bring in 7 new drivers. Mr. Bishop said that we currently transport 153 students daily. We also transport students from the LEAD Program, LMPA and overflow students to Extended Day. Our vans and buses are also used for class/sports/fine arts outings.

Mr. Bishop said that he would really like to professionalize the relationship with the drivers to lessen turnover. He shared some areas in which he would consider addressing, including benefits and updating policies.

Ms. Sheridan addressed the use of cameras in buses. Connolly bus said they would be willing to add cameras in the regular school buses, which they could break down over three years. The cost would be \$1,355 per bus, which would work out to \$5,871.67 per year.

Mr. Catania made a motion to table this item until proposals of benefits are received, which was seconded by Mrs. Bodenhofer. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Mr. Bishop addressed the issues of bus passes. He shared the involved process of getting the applications, filling out the information one at a time in the computer, designating a bus route, and creating the actual bus pass.

Ms. Sheridan said that Al has been wonderful to work with in his short time here. Dr. Thomson shared those sentiments and said it has been great that he has been able to get a bunch of new drivers this year, and his hard work is not going unnoticed.

ELL Staffing Report: Dr. Wyeth updated on ELL Staffing needs and the increased number of “high-needs” (level 1 and level 2 students)

ESL Additional Staffing Request

- 1.0 at Balch: increasing their ESL FTE's from 2.0 to 3.0;
- .5 at Oldham: increasing their ESL FTE's from a .5 to a 1.0;
- .5 at Willett: increasing their ESL FTE's from 1.5 to 2.0.
- .5 at CMS: This will allow a reading specialist to go back to providing reading services to middle school students (35 currently not being adequately served).

The additional ESL Staff will bring the district into compliance.

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

Old Business: Elementary ELA Committee Pilot Update:

The Chair welcomed Stefanie West, Elementary ELA Coordinator to this evening's meeting to give an update on ELL.

She updated on the three pilot programs:

- Wonders – McGraw Hill;
- Pearson – My View;
- National Geographic – Reach for Reading

She then said that teachers at different schools were selected to pilot these programs and added that 60% of the elementary classes are involved in the pilot program (over 900 students). Teachers will have 12 weeks for working with these programs and then in December a program will be chosen so there will be plenty of time to order the program and get the staff trained in the new program.

Dr. Wyeth thanked Ms. West for joining the Norwood Schools and jumping all in from day one.

Joint Facilities Committee Update: Mrs. Bodenhofer updated that the Committee will be meeting again the last week in October.

Superintendent Raise: Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to increase Dr. Thomson's salary by 2.5%, which is what is in the budget, which was seconded by Ms. Smith. The Committee voted unanimously in favor 5-0.

Policy: None.

New Business: MOU: Dr. Thomson said he has worked out a memorandum of agreement with Unit A and Unit 50, which agrees to the exception to the rule with regard to two new staff members (school nurse and adjustment counselor) who are grant-funded to be allowed to be in Unit A and not in Unit 50.

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement, which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Committee voted in favor 4-0-1 (Ms. Smith abstained).

Presentation on Accountability System: This item was tabled until the next meeting.

Consent Agenda:

Acceptance of Three (3) Donations:

- Musical Equipment – Mr. Matthew Lane
- Roche Bros \$50.00 Gift Card – Coakley Middle School
- A+ School Supplies \$322.10 Donation – Coakley Middle School

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

Personnel: None

School Committee Addenda: Dr. Giblin had none.

Ms. Smith had none.

Mrs. Bodenhofer had none.

Mr. Catania reminded that we asked for the override, we got the funding and that is why we are seeing these long meetings where we are seeing the excellent work everyone is doing with access to more funding.

The Chair agreed with Mr. Catania, and said this is just a small presentation of what our staff is doing. She said our elementary teachers are doing a lot these days, and she added that we appreciated all their hard work.

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

Mrs. Bodenhofer made a motion for Executive Session at 10:20 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Catania. The Members were polled and voted in favor 5-0.

Adjournment: Mr. Catania made a motion for adjournment at 10:45 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