



**NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Norwood Public School District Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by School Board President, Nichol Bray.

ATTENDANCE:

President; UNBOCES Rep, Mrs. Nichol Bray	PRESENT		
Vice President, Mr. Randy Harris	PRESENT	Treasurer, Mrs. Jackie Hardman	PRESENT
Secretary, Mr. Morgan Rummel	ABSENT	James Evans	PRESENT
Superintendent, Mr. Todd Bittner	PRESENT	Principal, Sam Ryan	ABSENT
Amanda Pierce	PRESENT	Carla Reams	PRESENT

Others: Those in person (not listed above) were asked to sign in on the sign in sheet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All those present cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

Paige Starks as volunteer volleyball coach

MOTION: Jackie Hardman motioned to add Item Q - Approval of Paige Starks as Assistant Volunteer Volleyball Coach FY24-25

- a. Randy Harris seconded.
- b. **Roll Call Vote:** 4 - “Ayes” and 0 - “Nays”. Motion Carried.

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Eighth Grade Class Trip – Class presented with a slideshow.

In addition to the sessions, college, and history tours they learned about interacting with diverse people, tipping, time management, learning self-responsibility, and so much more. They wanted to thank True North, Mr. Ryan and Ms. Colbet and the families for letting them go.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

None

CELEBRATIONS

Staff Appreciation Week – Survivor themed “Wheel for Fun” with prizes and events. Nichol Bray and the board wanted to tell the staff how much they are appreciated.

HS Track – Multiple kids are going to state this week. Strong team!

AG Day – Nucla had to cancel the Ag Day that we usually attend, and Norwood staff stepped up and put together a Norwood Ag Day with a great turn out for a short period of time to put it together.

Upcoming Graduation– Scholarships will be presented at graduation instead of at a luncheon beforehand.

Graduation consists of seven students who have received over two million dollars in scholarships.

Prom- Students stated it was best they had been to. A fantastic job for the Junior class and all that helped make it happen.

Elementary Rec Center Day – Went well and the kids had a blast.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS

FY24-25 Proposed Budget Overview – Legislative session passed three house bills but the finance formula that changed and will go into effect FY25-26.

Operating in a large deficit. Will not be working in as much of a deficit as it looks but Carla added a little cushion to ensure flexibility. Plan for full time employees with benefits but may not end up hiring so that helps build fund balance. It will take many years to build it back up, but Carla is working hard on how to grow it.

Nichol Bray asked some clarifying questions about line items and differences in last year and this year differences in the Proposed Budget. Nichol Bray suggested a work session to take a deeper dive into the budget.

Carla Reams has been wanting to keep working to bring up salaries, but it is just not possible for longevity. Admin wanted to do a bonus for staff in lieu of a pay increase.

Budget will not need to be voted on until June. Carla asked that the board send questions to her ahead of time and she will get items answered and be prepared for the work session.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of April 12, 2024, Minutes
- B. Approval of April 13, 2024, Minutes
- C. Approval of April 17, 2024, Minutes
- D. Approval of lease agreement for 42142 Hwy 145 rental
- E. Approval of Part-time Athletic Trainer (Contract) FY 24-25
- F. Approval of Part-time Activity Driver FY24-25
- G. Approval of Ramona Rummel as Head HS Volleyball Coach FY24-25
- H. Approval of Sheri Carr-LaCosse as Assistant HS Volleyball Coach FY24-25
- I. Approval of Brad Campbell as Head HS Football Coach for FY24-25
- J. Approval of Blayde Harrigan as Assistant HS Football Coach for FY24-25
- K. Approval of Morgan Rummel as Assistant Volunteer HS Football Coach for FY24-25
- L. Approval of Kyle Dinsmore as Head HS Wrestling Coach for FY24-25
- M. Approval of Justin Franklin as Assistant HS Wrestling Coach for 24-25
- N. Approval of Kyle Dinsmore as Head MS Wrestling Coach for FY24-25
- O. Approval of Dustin Weitzel as Assistant MS Wrestling Coach for FY24-25
- P. Approval of Randy Harris as Assistant Volunteer MS Wrestling Coach FY24-25
- Q. *Approval of Paige Starks as Assistant Volunteer Volleyball Coach FY24-25 (added)*

MOTION: Randy Harris made a motion to approve Items A through O and Q

- a. Jackie Hardman seconded.

Discussion: James Evans asked about the lease agreement. Todd Bittner stated it is a one-year lease agreement that will allow the district to put a staff member in the home that Sam Ryan was renting. Carala explained that the Athletic Trainer is a line item that could allow for a grant that could bring in a certified athletic trainer with multiple school districts, so they added the line item in hopes to get that position.

Roll Call Vote: 4 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion Carried.

MOTION: Jackie Hardman made a motion to approve Item P.

- a. James Evans seconded.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: 3 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays" and Randy Harris did not vote. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of K-5 and Secondary Principal Positions - Todd Bittner

- Todd Bittner believes that going back to two principles (PK-5 and 6-12) is the best option for our school, students, and teachers. Jackie Hardman felt that if it better supports teachers and students then she likes the idea. Nichol Bray also felt helping with the work/life balance is important for longevity. James Evans confirmed that it was a full-time administrative not a combined teacher also. Mr. Bittner said yes administrative only but every principal jumps in when needed. A consensus from the board to support splitting the principal position into two (PK-5 and 6-12).

OLD BUSINESS

A. Superintendent Search Update - Nichol Bray

* Two applicants have been approved and vetted that will need to be interviewed. The board decided Tuesday, May 21 at 6pm and Jackie will get the call in info, if possible since she will be on vacation. Nichol Bray stated that the board needs to narrow down the interview questions to eight questions, so she asked that each board member send her their top two questions. Nichol will send those questions to the board for them to review and choose.

Jose Ortego decided to stay where he was and wanted to stay with his daughter but wanted to extend his gratitude for the opportunity and the work the board put into offering the position.

PRINCIPAL REPORT

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

UNBOCES – Tammy Johnson is retiring and will come back for one more year. When we offer remote or in person, they will always choose remote. Nichol felt having one day in person speech therapist was vital. Todd stated that that person resigned yesterday. Nichole said she is fighting for an in person and will fight for that to be most important.

BEST and Waiver – Todd presented his two minutes for Best and is still waiting to hear the outcome. He asked for a two-million-dollar waiver from the state in addition to the \$600k from district and we were approved for the waiver. Now only eight million for bond capacity. Tomorrow at 3 they will be announcing who they are funding for BEST. Waiver is only good for one year and will stay good for bond even not best is not approved.

Principal Search Update – Have candidates and working on interviews.

There will be a Budget work session from 6-6:45 before the next regular board meeting then continue into the board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: James Evans motioned to adjourn at 8:10pm

- c. Jackie Hardman seconded.
- d. **Roll Call Vote:** 4 - “Ayes” and 0 - “Nays”. Motion Carried.

APPROVED

APPROVED AS CORRECTED

DATE APPROVED:

Minutes Taken by Amanda Pierce