



**NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEETING MINUTES
February 21, 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, Mrs. Nichol Bray	PRESENT		
VACANT, Vice President	VACANT	Treasurer, Mrs. Jackie Hardman	PRESENT
Secretary, Mr. Randy Harris	PRESENT	UNBOCES Rep., Mr. Morgan Rummel	PRESENT
Superintendent, Mr. Todd Bittner	PRESENT	Principal, Sam Ryan	PRESENT
Amanda Pierce	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: None

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Melissa Merrill - Melissa Merrill had concerns about how the kindergarten teacher’s absence was handled and communicated. She felt what was happening in the classroom and not having a teacher only was communicated when parents raised their concerns to the principal. Additionally, she felt the poor communication has been a pattern.

Terri Lamers – Terri Lamers wanted to remind staff that the agenda needs to be posted at the post office. She also suggested that it may be a good idea to put board meeting information on the marquee out front as well as Facebook. She wanted to address the dark entrance for school board meetings. Lastly, Terri Lamers wanted to give her support to Brandi Griffith who applied to be on the school board.

CELEBRATIONS

- Sarah Holbrook with Pinhead Institute and True North helped to purchase a \$2500 3D printer for students.
- Jackie Hardman wanted to shout out the Valentine Day Farm field trip was great for the kids.
- The school has partnered with the Food Hub and Foodbank to provide meal bags to students every Thursday. This is a great program to help with family insecurity. All kids will receive the meal bags but if a family does not want to participate then they are asked to opt out with Sarah Franklin.
- Amanda Pierce wanted to shout out Norwood High School Wrestling. She stated that 6 out of 7 boys placed at Regionals and 4 of those boys qualified for State. This is a huge accomplishment for a team comprised of only freshman and sophomores.

BOARD VACANCY

A. Board Candidate Interviews

Candidates we interviewed based on the order that the applications were received. Additionally, each candidate was asked the same question in the same order.

- **Brandi Griffith**
- **James Evans**

Board Follow Up Questions/Remarks: Randy Harris asked each board candidate about how they would handle being frustrated with administration and not being able to move forward from that. *Each candidate gave their answers.* Nichol Bray asked about each candidate's time commitment and reiterated what is needed and the substantial time commitment that is needed from board members. *Each candidate gave their answers.*

Brandi Griffith

Roll Call Tally: 1 - "Ayes" and 3 - "Nays". Motion carried.

B. Vote/Appointment of New Board Member to fill Board Vacancy

- a. Brandi Griffith **Roll Call Tally:** 1 - "Ayes" and 3 - "Nays". Tally Carried as "Nay"
- b. James Evans – Appointed based on the above tally.

C. New Board Member Oath of Office

- a. Presented and given by Nichol Bray to James Evans

D. Election of Board Officer(s)

➤ **Vice President**

MOTION: Jackie Hardman motioned to nominate Randy Harris to be Vice President.

- a. Morgan Rummel seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** None
- c. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion carried.

➤ **Secretary**

- a. **Discussion:** Mr. Bittner stated that the school board is not required to have a secretary. Only required to have a Vice President and President. Nichole Bray brought up the need to have a secretary for signing paperwork.

MOTION: Randy Haris motioned to nominate Morgan Rummel to be Secretary.

- a. Jackie Hardman seconded.
- b. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion carried.

➤ **UnBOCES**

- a. Nichol Bray will take over being the UnBOCES Representative.

AUDIT PRESENTATION

Presented via Zoom. Mr. Bittner made mention that starting back in September there has been constant communication back and forth with staff and auditors, ensuring every detail of the financials was addressed.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of January 17, 2024, Minutes
- B. Approval of January 24, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval of February 5, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- D. Approval of FY 2022-2023 Audit
- E. Approval of Resolution authorizing the use of a portion of Beginning Fund Balance in the FY 23-24 Revised Budget
- F. Approval of Appropriation Resolution for FY 23-24 Revised Budget
- G. Approval of Second Reading of Policy GCBE Tuition Reimbursement

- H. Approval of Amendment of Policy BE-School Board Meetings (with revisions)
- I. Approval of Sheri Carr-Lacoste as Middle School Track Coach

MOTION: Randy Harris made a motion to approve Items A through I.

- a. Jackie Hardman seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Bittner reiterated the BE- School Board Meeting Policy is just to update the date change of the board meetings. Policies are ongoing and are reviewed continually as statutory revisions as needed to ensure the school stays compliant.

Sheri Carr-Lacoste was the only person who applied for the middle school track coach position.

Administration wanted to reiterate the 10k in tuition reimbursement is for this year only, but he is hoping to build on the program and would like to see that amount double for staff.

Nichol Bray asked about the 100k food transfer. Carla Reams stated the resolution allows for her to transfer if need but they haven't needed to. Nichol Bray was worried about 3-month payback but since it wasn't transferred that no longer needed to be a concern.

The February 5th minutes should say am not pm. (... was called to order at 7:30 P.M)

Roll Call Vote: 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

There was a work session scheduled for February 28th but cancelling since there have been plenty of meetings for the superintendent search. Superintendent survey closes Friday.

PRINCIPAL REPORT (VERBAL)

Jenny Thomas and Sam Ryan have been through 3 threat assessments and creating safety plans for each of those which has been an extremely tedious process. RTI Meetings were this evening, and conversations were that things are going to be different; Norwood School has 8 new Spanish speaking students that need help with translation and need help to adjust. Continual in-person training for staff is needed to keep them knowledgeable and more comfortable. The school budgeted for 186 students and now the current student enrollment is 198 and there will be 200 enrolled students by the end of next week. That is at least 12-15 kids that we will not receive funding for. SPED student numbers have increased from 17 to 32 students since the beginning of the year. Almost the 100th day of school, next Monday. The Safety Backpacks that were previously purchased have disappeared and new safety buckets are being put into place in case of lockdown. Most buckets have been distributed to classrooms and the school is working on a unification plan.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (WRITTEN REPORT)

The classification committee at CHSAA met and confirmed with will stay status quo with our statutory sports programs. Mr. Bittner stated the West End School would like to discuss creating and working out a COOP Agreement for 27/29 cycle and to start a handbook discussion.

Mr. Bittner discussed his plan for retirement, he does not plan on leaving the area, but he is having some medical issues. Sam Ryan will be the main contact while Mr. Bittner is out with some medical appointments.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Morgan Rummel motioned to adjourn.

- a. Jackie Hardman seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** None
- c. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion Carried.

APPROVED

APPROVED AS CORRECTED

DATE APPROVED:

Minutes Taken by Amanda Pierce