



**NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Norwood Public School District Board of Education was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by School Board President, Mrs. Bray.

ATTENDANCE:

President, Mrs. Nichol Bray	PRESENT		
Vice President, Mrs. Regan Snyder	PRESENT	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: Item K - Approval of Master Calendar change March 15 to March 1 Professional Day

MOTION: Randy Harris motioned to add Item K - Professional Development Day change from March 15th to March 1st.

- a. Morgan Rummel seconded.
- b. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion Carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

None – None

CELEBRATIONS

Randy Harris stated the Middle School wrestling team had their first tournament and the kids did amazing. Administration celebrated the completion of the semester.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Update on BEST Grant/ Neenan - Meg Donaldson
 - Meg Donaldson, Regional Representative for BEST Grant appeared via Zoom. This will be her sixth grant cycle. Mr. Rummel asked what is the highest statutory waiver that has been approved. Meg Donaldson stated she was unsure what the highest waiver approval was without further research. She also stated that a separate waiver approval is necessary as well as the actual project approval. Approximately fifty percent of waivers are approved, and it is beneficial to submit data to support the waiver request. Mr. Rummel asked about the waiver we had submitted last time and what we could have done better, Mr. Bittner reiterated that we did not apply for a waiver since it was our first bond request and needed to submit data on why we wanted to the waiver. Mr. Bittner stated it will be an ask for eight mil and felt it

could show voters we are taking over two million off the bond request and the data will show that businesses and Ag land are the ones who have the largest monetary loss. Meg Donaldson believes this year will be the highest construction costs would be and BEST is prepared for the high project costs from all applications. Last year, most applications were full replacement schools. Mr. Rummel asked for the availability of funding and Ms. Donaldson said based on revenues 110 million in cash and getting more and that will be determined by the legislature. Mr. Ryan reiterated that the BEST applications are based on a scoring rubric not on total ask. Mrs. Snyder asked the estimate the number of schools that went to bond first or best first (last year). Ms. Donaldson stated that everyone went for their BEST Application before going for Bond. Ms. Donaldson also added that out of approximately seventeen which went to bond first, two were bond dependent, one passed bond and was not rewarded, and Meg believes going for bond first would not affect the decision of the BEST board. According to Ms. Donaldson, being bond dependent does not affect score. She agreed with Mr. Rummel and Mrs. Snyder that it is a big ask but the need has been demonstrated and the BEST Board supports the large request. Mr. Rummel asked if we would have gone lower in the original request if it would have helped and Meg Donaldson said did not believe dollar amounts affect our score just the funds available and it does not negatively affect our application. Meg Donaldson stated it is normal for big projects to come in multiple years in a row and how well we scored the first time puts it in a suitable place for multiyear applications if needed.

STAFF REPORTS

None – None

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of December 13, 2023, Minutes
- B. Approval of January 3, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes
- C. Approval December/January General Fund Bills
- D. Approval of Colorado Minimum Wage from \$13.65 to \$14.42 per hour
- E. Approval of First Reading Policy GCBE Tuition Reimbursement
- F. Approval of Revised Budget for 23-24 SY
- G. Approval of reduction of hours for Amanda Brumfiel's 23-24 contract
- H. Approval of Dustin Weitzel as MS Assistant Wrestling Coach
- I. Approval of Kyle Dinsmore as MS Head Wrestling Coach
- J. Approval of Postponing BEST Application for the 2024 cycle to re-evaluate Master Plan and New School proposal.
- K. *Added* - Approval to change March 15 to March 1 for Professional Development Day

MOTION: Mrs. Snyder motioned to approve Items A through I and Item K.

- a. Mr. Rummel seconded.

Discussion: Statewide minimum wage increased as of January 1, 2024.

GCBE Tuition Reimbursement is getting more stringent. Norwood School has not offered this reimbursement program in the past. Mr. Ryan said it is a good-faith option to retain teachers especially with discussions about putting them in modulars to teach and this will help with morale. Mrs. Bray asked if it could increase, and Mr. Ryan stated that the goal would be to keep increasing to allow for more tuition reimbursement. Mrs. Snyder asked if tuition reimbursement was in the budget and Carla Reams stated it was already approved in the first budget. Mrs. Snyder asked for high level explanation of the revised budget. Carla Reams said it was in summary she sent but she explained why you do a revised budget in January, and she explained grant opportunities and how the state requires a revised budget for a true budget. CDE wants to school to use their template and Carla said she was still learning when she first entered the numbers and she soon realized medical, dental and vision did not calculate except one month of premiums and she did not catch it when she did the original budget meeting. Norwood School plans to purchase a new small school bus for \$119k. Food service expenditure increased because they added another half time staff to help serve. Mrs. Snyder asked about capital improvements towards planning and Mr. Ryan and Mr. Bittner explained that this was added as the one "ding" from BEST Board on our previous application. Going forward, Capital Improvements will be added yearly through policy. Recently moved some finances into COLO Trust which will increase the twenty-two-dollar quarterly

interest to almost four thousand a month. Audit is 99% complete, and auditors will come in February for further discussion of completed audit.

The change for the March 1st Professional Development Day is do a first language in service.

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

L. **MOTION:** Mr. Rummel motioned to approve Item J - Approval of Postponing BEST Application for the 2024 cycle to re-evaluate Master Plan and New School proposal.

a. Mrs. Snyder seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Rummel reiterated his concern for the cost of full development with the addition of roads and utilities. Mr. Rummel asked if taking a step back and waiting a year would be helpful to try and shave off ten million or more. Mr. Ryan once again reiterated that the amount is not what got us turned down on our application. Mr. Bittner felt that it would be detrimental to take a step back as there has already been over two years of work on this project. Mr. Harris stated that he believed that we could always apply and if the application gets denied then trim costs and re-evaluate at that point.

Roll Call Vote: 3 - "Ayes" and 2 - "Nays". Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Finance Discussion - Timelines

- Audit timeline is fast approaching starting in February and Carla is asking to have board members check their emails at least twice a week during the month of February.

PRINCIPAL REPORT (WRITTEN REPORT IN PACKET)

None

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

The new bus will be picked up in Grand Junction next week. The number of families attending the food bank is growing since having it at the school's campus. Mr. Ryan will be sending an email out to families about the Academic Assembly. We are fully staffed!!! Climbing wall will soon start to be utilized in partnership with Norwood Park and Rec District.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mrs. Hardman motioned to adjourn.

- c. Mr. Harris seconded.
- d. **Discussion:** None
- e. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion Carried.

APPROVED

APPROVED AS CORRECTED

DATE APPROVED:

Minutes Taken by Amanda Pierce