



**NORWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION - MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023**

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, Mr. Morlang.

ATTENDANCE:

President, Mr. Mike Morlang	PRESENT		
Vice President, Mrs. Nichol Bray	PRESENT	Treasurer, Mrs. Regan Snyder	PRESENT
Secretary, Mr. Walt Fourney	ABSENT	Mr. Randy Harris	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: Adding Neenan Presentation to old business. No discussion of additional items.

NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of Office given by Mr. Morlang to Mr. Rummel, Mrs. Hardman, and Mrs. Bray.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

President Nomination: Mr. Harris nominated Mrs. Nichol Bray for Board President.

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

Vice President Nomination: Mr. Harris nominated Mrs. Snyder for Board Vice President.

- a. Mr. Rummel seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** Morgan seconded
- d. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays".

Secretary Nomination: Mr. Rummel nominated Mrs. Hardman for Secretary.

- a. Mr. Harris seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** Mr. Bittner suggested having Mrs. Hardman as Treasurer instead since she has a financial background.
- c. **The original motion is rescinded by Mr. Harris and Mrs. Rummel.**
- d. Mrs. Snyder nominated Mr. Harris for Secretary.
- e. Mr. Rummel seconded.
- f. **Discussion:** None
- g. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays".

Treasurer Nomination: Mr. Harris nominated Mrs. Hardman for Treasurer.

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

UNBOCES Representative Nomination: Mrs. Snyder nominated Mr. Rummel for the UNBOCES Representative.

- a. Mr. Rummel seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** The next meeting is in February.
- c. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - "Ayes" and 0 - "Nays". Motion Carried.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

Cimmy Alexander – Mrs. Alexander stated she felt rescinding the COOP Agreement is affecting all students and staff and that it should not be approved to rescind. She felt it was a "slap in the face" to staff and board that has already been working on the agreements. It was stated that the board needs to worry more about the crumbling building than what jersey your kid will wear.

STAFF REPORTS

Administration – Mr. Bittner

- Thank you and appreciation for previous Board Members
 - a. During COVID, Mr. Bittner felt this board came through professionally and the kids came first. Mr. Bittner's first experience at this school was nothing but kind and wonderful. Mr. Bittner presented Mr. Morlang with a gavel plaque in appreciation of his years of service.

CELEBRATIONS

Mr. Ryan and Jennie Thomas took over the Lego robotics team. They had to divide into two teams because of so many kids. Both teams did great, one team excelled and are competing in the state competition. One team received 1st place in core value which exemplifies all house programming that the school has been implementing. This is the second year in a row Lego robotics won core values in a large competition.

Ms. Colbet sent a team of FFA students with Nucla to an FFA conference. Ms. Colbet stated she was pleased with how they handled themselves and she plans on getting them on the agenda to present themselves for what they learned. Darcy Bray and Brycen Rummel were nominated and selected out of 5 students for the HOBY Leadership Conference.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Approval of October 18, 2023, Minutes
- B. Approval of October/November General Fund Bills
- C. Approval to schedule work session dates.
- D. Approve to rescind Co-Op agreement with the West End School District for the 24-26 sports cycle.
- E. Approval of new signers on bank signature cards
- F. Approval of BEST Application moving forward
- G. Approve Revision to Policy AC- Nondiscrimination EO Policy

MOTION: Mrs. Snyder motioned to approve Items A, B, and E.

- a. Mr. Harris seconded.

Discussion: Mrs. Snyder asked to explain the signature card process. Carla explained that adding Mrs. Hardman and removing Mr. Morlan will take place and she will contact Mrs. Hardman for her signature.

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

MOTION: Mr. Harris motioned to approve Item C.

- a. Mrs. Snyder second.

Discussion: Mr. Bittner wanted to discuss work sessions, no longer than 2 hours. Would like to have one once a quarter. The next one is important for BEST Grant Application possibilities and updates.

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

MOTION: Mr. Harris motioned approved Item D.

- a. Mr. Rummel seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** Mr. Harris asked if the Co-Op Agreement with all details have been worked out with the West End. Mr. Bittner stated there is a Draft Handbook, but it has not been approved and details are still being worked out. No coaches were involved with the Handbook, just the athletic directors and administration and the school boards were asked for their feedback and suggestions. Mr. Harris asked why the Co-Op of the wrestling program that was approved on June 20th had not happened. Mr. Bittner stated that there could not be an agreement made with the two coaches. Mr. Rummel felt that the wrestling program should have been a “no brainer” and seems odd that it didn’t happen. Mr. Rummel asl felt it has been difficult to get everyone to agree and be on the same page and felt that maybe staying statutorily would be best. Mrs. Snyder was disappointed and felt it was strategic with new board members. She felt that maybe there could of or are other options, but the majority of the board did vote for in favor of the Co-Op. Mrs. Snyder stated that kids made a choice on where they enrolled in school based on the Co-Op Agreement and she felt the board is “going back on our word” even in academics too which is what’s more important. Mrs. Bray stated that it wasn’t adequate time with the community from the beginning. She commented that in previous discussions about the Co-Op, Mr. Bittner stated if coaches weren’t on board, then we (Norwood School) wouldn’t continue the discussion, but most coaches were not in favor of it, so it also was disgraceful to them too. Mrs. Bray said there needs to be more discussion and planning. Mrs. Snyder stated the community can still go to CHSAA to petition and the final decision is still up to CHSAA. Mr. Rummel asked why wrestling didn’t work out in the past. Mr. Harris stated he felt that is a difference in the philosophy of coaches. Mr. Rummel felt if wrestling was ideal, and they couldn’t come to an agreement on that one sport then it was going to be even more difficult for all sports. He also felt if it is done correctly then it could work but if it is not well thought out it will make the fracture worse in a time when things are working well. “Example: if it’s not broken why fix it.” Mr. Harris agreed with Mr. Rummel’s statement about making the fracture worse, he stated Hotchkiss and Paonia are still dealing with consequences, and they combined school and athletics not just athletics.
- c. **Roll Call Vote:** 3 - “Ayes” and 2 - “Nays”. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mrs. Snyder motioned to approve Item F.

- a. Mrs. Hardman seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** BEST Grant application is due the first of February. Norwood School will need to let the state know before November 30 for intentions of applying. **Mrs. Snyder rescinded her motion to better word her motion.**
- c. Mrs. Snyder motioned to approve moving forward in submitting the BEST Grant in the next available cycle.
- d. Mrs. Snyder seconded.
- e. **Discussion:** None
- f. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - “Ayes” and 0 - “Nays”. Motion carried.

MOTION: Mr. Harris motioned to approve Item G.

- a. Mrs. Snyder seconded.
- b. **Discussion:** Mr. Bittner discussed the redline “quote”. Just making it clear in the revision.
- c. **Roll Call Vote:** 5 - “Ayes” and 0 - “Nays”. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Business Manager – Carla Reams

- a. Overview of Financials and Reports – Mrs. Reams gave a power point presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **None**

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Board Training - Colorado Springs**

December 5-9th Morning of the ninth is the end. Mrs. Bray is planning on attending and Mr. Harris will see if he can attend.

- B. **Neenan (added)** – Introductions of Neenan personnel. PowerPoint Presentation. They explained they are just hired for the Master Planning process not hired for Design and Engineer, yet. They gave an overview of Master Plan and how they got there. The new BEST Grant will reinforce the need, urgency, and increase confidence in the solution and project cost. Application due the first week of February. They would like to educate the taxpayers to also get their input at the work session next month.

PRINCIPAL REPORT (WRITTEN REPORT IN PACKET)

No Discussion

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT (WRITTEN REPORT IN PACKET)

Mr. Bittner highlighted voting results and what could have been done differently. The committee did a good job with the resources they had in front of them. General Election will have more turnout and we need to leverage that. Mr. Bittner is looking at getting a waiver to mitigate the impact on taxpayers and he believes there is a solid argument to stay at 10.2mil not the 11.4mil that it should have been. Transportation is becoming an extreme hardship and needs should be addressed quickly.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Harris motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58pm.

- c. Morgan 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