



**NORWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION  
BOARD MEETING  
MINUTES  
February 13, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by school Board President, Mr. Morlang. Those in attendance: Mr. Harris, Mr. Fourney, Mrs. Bray, Mrs. Snyder, Mr. Bittner, Mr. Ryan, Mrs. Rasmussen, and Mrs. Reams. Citizens signed up to address the Board were: Mollie Lee, Cimmy Alexander, Ramona Rummel, Tracy Hill and Amanda Pierce. Other citizens were present.

- A. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all in attendance.
- B. Request for Additional Items: There was no request for additional items.

**II. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Mollie Lee thanked the Board for serving. She stated that she was representing herself and her family, she gave an overview of her experience as a highschool competitor in track in both 1A and 2A, as well as her experience now as a Manager of several subordinates, and how the experience of having to work hard to earn achievement is a good life lesson. She spoke in favor of co-oping.

Cimmy Alexander spoke in favor of co-oping, reminding those present that the kids and parents wanted this.

Ramona Rummel discussed three different perspectives (parent, coach and taxpayer). She feels the process that led to the decision to co-op was rushed. She asked if there was a financial analysis done in consideration of co-oping. (Mrs. Rummel's full statement regarding her concerns about co-oping are included as an attachment to the minutes per her request).

Tracy Hill, former teacher, coach and administrator, asked that the decision to co-op be reconsidered. She also requested more discussion to take place prior to a decision being made. She does not feel that this is for the betterment of the two schools, having been

involved in CHSAA legislative committees and basketball committees. She has asked the question, “Why, what is the draw to 2A?” She is asking this of both school boards and please understand where those who do not want this, are coming from. Ms. Hill stated that she coached the only 2A title team to victory, and that was in 1998 and that it is tough to be competitive in 2A.

Amanda Pierce stated that when the 4 day school week was being discussed it took approximately 9 months. She expressed frustration that there had not been more community discussion regarding co-oping and that the decision was rushed.

### **III. CELEBRATIONS**

Norwood School District has one student athlete that will be participating in the State Wrestling Tournament, Jackson Dinsmore!

### **IV. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

### **V. STAFF REPORTS**

#### **A. Universal Pre-K Kindergarten - Sara Rasmussen**

Mrs. Rasmussen gave an update on the UPK program. This ensures that every child in the year prior to Kindergarten is eligible for half-day (15 hours) of state-funded preschool beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.

Three year olds with qualifying factors will be eligible for 10 hours. The 4 year old afternoon class will be capped at 15 students.

Norwood preschool will offer 15 hours for children turning 4 on or before October 1 of 2023-2024 school year, and 10 hours for 3 year olds with a deadline of October 1, 2023.

Next steps are to meet with staff and Primetime to determine families that will need financial support for additional care for the other half of the day when kids are not participating in preschool.

### **VI. APPROVE CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Approval of December 13, 2022 Minutes
- B. Approval of January 17, 2023 Minutes
- C. Approval of January 20, 2023 Special School Board Minutes
- D. Approval January/February General Fund Bills
- E. Approval of Resolution authorizing the use of a portion of Beginning Fund Balance in the FY 22-23 Revised Budget
- F. Approval of Appropriation Resolution for FY 22-23 Revised Budget
- G. Approval of Resolution to nullify the vote from December 13, 2022 pertaining to item “O” the sports programs with the Nucla High School for 2024-2026 CHSAA Athletic Cycles.
- H. Approval to coop *all athletics* programs for Norwood High School and Nucla High School for the 2024-2026 CHSAA Athletic Cycles and to ratify all prior actions of the

Superintendent related to the COOP of District Athletic Programs with Nucla High School.

Mrs. Snyder made a motion to approve Consent Items A, B, C and D. Mr. Fournery seconded the motion. No discussion took place. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Snyder made a motion to approve Item E. Approval of Resolution authorizing the use of a portion of Beginning Fund Balance in the FY 22-23 Revised Budget. Mr. Harris seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Bittner stated that the budgetary process is changing. Mrs. Reams briefly reviewed the changes that were made to the budget per CDE and the recent need for a new resolution (also included in the finance report). Mrs. Snyder thanked Mrs. Reams for her work on the financials and commended her for joining the financial cohort to gain more knowledge. She reported that we still have not yet received our audited financials. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Fournery made a motion to approve Item F. Approval of the Appropriation Resolution for FY 22-23 Revised Budget. Mrs. Snyder seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Reams stated that this resolution shows the full amount of our expenses. She briefly explained the change on the food service budget, which took into account the amount of \$80,000 that had historically been transferred to the General Fund. CDE stated that currently there appears to be too much money in the food service account, so this amount should not be included in the revised budget. (CDE stated that as a rule of thumb we should not have more than 3 months of expenses in the food service fund balance). Mrs. Bray asked what is included in the Student Activity Fund. Mrs. Reams stated that it accounts for each class or extra curricular activities fund (such as student council, FFA, Junior or Senior class, etc.) These are funds that are student raised and should be spent during the time these students are in those particular classes or activities. Currently, these funds are not tracked in Aptafund. Mrs. Bray asked what happens to the funds when the students graduate. Mr. Ryan stated that they can be used for a certain number of years for reunions and such. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Mr. Morlang read the resolution regarding Item G. nullifying the vote from December 13, 2022 pertaining to item “O” Cooping the sports programs with the Nucla High School for 2024-2026 CHSAA Athletics Cycles, aloud. Mr. Fournery made a motion to approve Item G. Mrs. Bray seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Bray stated that for the record the revote was per the request of the school attorney, not a board member or a community member. Mr. Bittner clarified that because of the gravity of this particular item, the attorney wanted to be certain that there was clarity in the process. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Mrs. Snyder made a motion to approve Item H. Approval to coop all athletics programs for Norwood High School and Nucla High School for the 2024-2026 CHSAA Athletic Cycles and to ratify all prior actions of the Superintendent related to the COOP of District Athletic Programs with Nucla High School. Mr. Fournery seconded the motion. Discussion: Mr. Harris asked for clarification on the prior

actions that are being ratified. Mr. Bittner stated that all that had been done thus far was filing a form together with the Nucla High School that was sent to CHSAA regarding the cooping. He stated that they will be attending a meeting with the CLOC to explain rationale for requesting to remain in 1A. Anyone can listen in to this meeting, though Bittner will be present in person.

Mrs. Bray asked if any team names, mascots were chosen. Mr. Bittner stated that Norwood/Nucla or Nucla/Norwood is what has been used and as of now the uniforms are the same. Mrs. Bray then asked how long will we coop before making a determination whether or not it is successful. Mr. Bittner stated that the commitment is for 2 years (2024-2026), then the board can bring it back for discussion to determine whether or not to re-apply. Mr. Harris stated that he agrees we need to get the kids together, but would like to stick with what is working. Since the last meeting he has heard from several people, some for cooping and some against it. All wondered why there hadn't been more community involvement in the decision making process. He feels that there needs to be a lot more discussion and a lot more that needs to be resolved. He is uncomfortable with voting to coop when he doesn't feel that he can answer all of the questions that are being asked of him by the community members who have approached him. Being combined seems like an advantage from his perspective and he doesn't understand why we would want to give that competitive edge up. He would like to see us come up with an Memorandum of Understanding between the schools on combining in order to give our athletes a better chance to be competitive.

Mr. Harris made a motion to amend the current motion to postpone the decision with regard to cooping for 6 months, or until there is a full MOU that is agreed upon by both schools. Mr. Morlang added for the record that this conversation about co-oping began in January of 2022 and that it has been included on the agenda several times throughout the last year. Mrs. Bray stated that we have had one public meeting. She stated that because the board is elected by the community, not only by the parents and students, there needs to be consideration of the entire community, not just the parents and students. She stated that we owe it to the taxpayers and to ourselves to have more information provided before making a decision of this magnitude. Mrs. Bray seconded the motion. Discussion: Mrs. Snyder stated that because the Board has already taken action previously and committed to form a co-op. She feels that there are a lot of people for this and that we need to go back to the original vote, which was the majority of the Board. Mrs. Bray stated that she spoke with the attorney and that if this Action Item fails then all prior actions and ratification fail as well. There was some discussion for clarification on voting on the amended motion and protocol of how to go back to the original motion. Mr. Morlang stated that this vote is currently on Mr. Harris' amendment to the motion, seconded by Mrs. Bray to amend the current motion to postpone the decision with regard to cooping for 6 months, or until there is a full MOU that is agreed upon by both schools. Roll call vote: "ayes" 2, "no's" 3. Motion failed.

Pertaining to the original motion of Mrs. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Fourney to approve Item H. Approval to coop all athletics programs for Norwood High School and Nucla High School for the 2024-2026 CHSAA Athletic Cycles and to ratify all prior actions of the Superintendent related to the COOP of District Athletic Programs with Nucla High School. Discussion: Mrs. Bray stated that she would like to point out for the record that the committee consisted of Mrs. Snyder and Stan Galley and as Ken Watt

stated in the last board meeting, the committee came back with no recommendation and all of the Coaches that were present at the December board meeting were not in favor of cooping so she is uncertain where the idea that this is in the best interest, when those involved do not see it that way. Mrs. Snyder stated that there were several coaches that were for it. Mr. Harris does not feel comfortable as a Board Member going against the recommendation of what our Staff is telling us. Mr. Fournery stated that he is under the impression that his responsibility is to the community and not with Staff. Mr. Harris stated that it is, but because we have Coaches we should trust what they are telling us. Roll call vote: “ayes” 3, “no’s” 2. Motion carried.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Current state of the High school**

Mr. Bittner would like the Board to come in and do a walk through of the buildings and Primetime to see some of the issues that are going on with the building. Because the roof is flat and snow/ice is melting, we now have water coming into the building. An insurance claim has been filed and an adjuster is scheduled to come in, as well as a Civil Engineer Inspection and mold mitigation company to look at the structure and look for mold. There are concerns with the health conditions and structure of the high school building.

An alternative of possibly moving students and staff to the Tech building and closing the high school is being investigated. Mr. Bittner and Mr. Ryan will be coming back to the board with an update and possible proposal once more information is received.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Update on Town of Norwood property purchase**

We are waiting for one final survey to be completed. Everything showed that the property is buildable. There are no issues with zoning. We will need to put fire hydrants in as part of the new building process. We would likely need a couple of raw water taps for this property.

### **B. Update on BEST Grant/Neenan**

The BEST grant has been filed; it ended up being \$69 million. This is for K-12, football/baseball field, pavement around the building, easements, and the abatement, which includes the demolition of the highschool building. There was no asbestos found in the interior of the K-8 building so there is no abatement required.

Mr. Bittner went on to explain the process of the BEST grant application and points process. Our bond capacity is \$10.2 million.

Mrs. Bray asked what happens to the K-8 building if it needs structural repair. Mr. Bittner stated that we could potentially work with a community partner to get the repairs made so that it could be usable by the community, but we are not currently assessing that.

## **IX. PRINCIPAL REPORT**

Included in packet

## **X. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Included in packet

## **XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **XII. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Work Session (March 6th)**

Mrs. Bray stated that she spoke with CASB about the worksession. Mr. Bittner would like to do Board policies and general board meeting rules. The work session was scheduled for March 6th at 6 PM.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Bray made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Fourney. Roll call vote: “aye’s” 5, “no’s” 0. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carla Reams