

School Committee ushers in new test

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

The School Committee approved new standardized testing for the elementary and middle schools to keep in line with what they predict will be the future for Massachusetts standards.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Alec Wyeth recommended that the School Committee adopt Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing for grades three through eight while keeping Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing for grades nine and 11. Massachusetts currently mandates grade 10 students to take MCAS.

Wyeth continued that the PARCC was similar to the MCAS for teacher evaluations, and that it is the direction the state is headed towards. The Assistant Superintendent said that the test is more rigorous, but that questions are tiered in order to judge skill level without exhausting or discouraging young minds. Wyeth said that the first year of PARCC results won't count for state standards, unless the school system's scores improve.

Superintendent James Hayden said that he doesn't want Norwood to fall behind the state, and that this is the future of customized learning. A benefit, added Hayden, was that the test doesn't ruin students' motivation because of the way the new test is formatted.

The new test can be administered in
PARCC Test
Continued on page 2



Boston Executive Helicopter and the Airport Commission's contentious discussions of expanding the company's operations have resulted in a failure to launch.

PHOTO BY JOE DIFAZIO

Unfriendly skies down at the airport Tenant files FAA complaint against Commission

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

Progress remains grounded as the Airport Commission and airport tenant, Boston Executive Helicopter (BEH), don't yet see eye to eye about expanding BEH operations.

Chris Donovan, president of BEH, and the company's counsel, Joshua Fox, appeared before the Commission about their ongoing construction of a fueling station and hangar, as well as their interest in expanding their operations at the airport.

BEH is interested in becoming a fuel provider at the airport, but say they need more space on the apron and airplane parking areas to do so. The area BEH is interested in leasing is known as the West Ramp. At the meeting,

Donovan reported that construction on their new hangars and operations is three to four weeks away from completion.

The Commission has not yet made a determination on leasing the amount of land that BEH is requesting. The Commission wishes to see more financial information from BEH, but also plans to do a feasibility study before determining their future plans with the West Ramp.

Earlier in the meeting, the Commission met with Jeff Tucker, of engineering firm Dubois and King, who is consulting the airport on a runway-straightening project.

They asked Tucker about the possibility of crafting a request for proposal to do a hangar feasibility and economic impact study of the West Ramp.

The Commission had offered BEH a

smaller additional lease of just over 6,000 square feet, but the Commission maintains that BEH declined the offer because they stated that it was an inadequate amount of space to become a fuel provider. According to Donovan, the West Ramp currently has 100,000 square feet of space available.

Commissioner Michael Sheehan motioned to table discussion of BEH's lease because of a complaint filed against Norwood with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), regarding economic discrimination at the airport and an unresolved letter that was issued to BEH regarding an unauthorized helicopter landing.

The Commission passed the motion six to two with Paul Shaughnessy

Airport Problems
Continued on page 2

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Sealed Bids will be received up to 11:00 A.M. (Verizon time), July 7, 2014, in the Purchasing Department, Norwood Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Norwood, MA 02062 for the following:

**Furnish & Deliver One (1) 55-Foot Hydraulic
 Articulating Material Handling Aerial Device Truck**

The complete Bid package may be obtained at no cost in the Purchasing Department between the hours of 8:15 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

The Bid must be filled out and signed as directed therein, sealed in an opaque envelope addressed to the Purchasing Department, endorsed with the name and address of the Bidder, and marked, "Material Handling Device Trucks – NLD-15-01".

A certified check or **Bid bond**, with acceptable surety in favor of the Town of Norwood and equal to at least **five percent** of the Bid, must be submitted with the Bid.

A **performance bond** or surety equal to **one hundred percent** of the contract amount will be required within ten days of award of contract.

Bids shall be prepared, considered, and the contract awarded in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) C. 164, §56 and all other statutes governing such contracts. Every Bid shall be on forms furnished by the Town. Bids submitted on other forms may be rejected. The award of the contract shall be made within 30 working days after the opening of Bids, Saturdays, and Sundays excluded.

An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not properly equipped to undertake and complete the work. The Town shall have the right to reject any and all Bids or parts thereof, or items therein, and to waive any defect or irregularities as to form, therein in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws as amended.

The Town of Norwood notifies all Bidders that minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin or handicapped status in consideration for an award.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to accept any part of a bid or the one deemed best for the Town.

By: John J. Carroll
 General Manager

Norwood Record, 6/19/14

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 TOWN OF NORWOOD, MA

Sealed Proposals will be received up to 11:00 A.M. (Verizon time), July 11, 2014, in the Purchasing Department, Norwood Town Hall, 566 Washington Street, 3rd Floor, Norwood, MA 02062 for the following Public Project:

Pavement Markings

The complete bid package may be obtained in the Purchasing Department between 8:15 A.M., and 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

The proposal must be filled out and signed as directed therein, sealed in an opaque envelope addressed to the General Manager, endorsed with the name and address of the bidder, and marked, "Pavement Markings - CONTRACT #NPW-15-01". The contract shall be for a one-year period.

A certified check or bid bond, with acceptable surety in favor of the Town of Norwood and equal to at least five percent (5%) of the bid, must be submitted with the bid.

The successful bidder shall, within ten (10) days of notification of award furnish the Town a performance bond and a payment bond in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the one-year bid price.

Bids shall be prepared, considered, and the contract awarded in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (M.G.L.) Chapter 30, Section 39M. Every General Bid shall be on forms furnished by the Town. Bids submitted on other forms may be rejected. The award of the contract shall be made within 30 working days after the opening of General Bids, Saturdays, and Sundays excluded.

An award will not be made to a Contractor who is not properly equipped to undertake and complete the work. The right is reserved to waive any informality and to reject any or all proposals in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L.

The Town of Norwood notifies all bidders that minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, creed, sex or national origin in consideration for an award.

The successful bidder shall be required to submit documentation that all employees to be employed in the work subject to this bid have successfully completed a course in construction safety and health approved by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration that is at least 10 hours in duration. Any employee found on a worksite subject to this section without documentation of successful completion of a course in construction safety and health approved by the United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration that is at least 10 hours in duration shall be subject to immediate removal.

Wages are subject to minimum wage rates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D inclusive, as most recently amended.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids or to accept any part of a bid or the one deemed best for the Town.

BY: John J. Carroll
 General Manager

Norwood Record, 6/19/14

Warning on Ticks and Lyme Disease

Lyme disease, spread to people and animals when they are bitten by an infected deer tick, is the most common tickborne disease in Massachusetts. The disease can cause serious complications if it is not recognized and treated early. Although much less common, these diseases are very serious. To prevent getting diseases transmitted by ticks, you should:

Use a repellent with DEET according to the directions on the product label.

Wear long-sleeved light colored shirts and long pants tucked into socks. This helps keep ticks off you and makes it easier to spot them.

Consider applying a permethrin-containing repellent to your clothes according to the direc-

tions on the product label.

Check yourself, your children and your pets for ticks once a day. Favorite tick places are armpits, hairline, groin, legs, thighs, or in and behind the ears. Tick checks are an important way of preventing infection. Remove any attached tick you find as soon as possible with a fine point tweezers, grasping the tick as close to the skin as possible and pulling straight out with steady pressure. Getting the tick off within 24-36 hours of its attachment is very effective in preventing infection.

For more information on ticks, please contact the Norwood Health Department or visit: www.mass.gov/dph/tick

PARCC Test *continued from page 1*

an online or paper version, but Hayden indicated that Norwood isn't ready to administer the test online.

The development of the PARCC assessment began in 2010 as a collaborative effort of 23 states to improve standardized testing for Math and English.

"PARCC is based on the core belief that assessment should work as a tool for enhancing teaching and learning ... they ensure that every child is on a path to college and career readiness by measuring what students should know at each grade level," states PARCC.

The School Committee also heard a presentation from Wyeth and Jill Milton about Norwood's summer reading and math program.

"If kids don't read, studies show kids can lose two months of instruction," said Wyeth.

Students are required to read three books: one fiction, one non-fiction and a book of their choice. Wyeth added that he encourages families to read with their children.

Airport Problems *continued from page 1*

and Hylie Hutchins dissenting.

Paul Shaughnessy then made a failed motion to untangle the matter. He said he wanted to further discuss the issue because of the economics involved. Shaughnessy said it would be most beneficial to have any study done before BEH finishes building their operations. Chairman Thomas Wynne responded by saying that the time frame was far too small to be able to do that.

The Commission then began discussion of the complaint that BEH had landed a helicopter in violation of Norwood Airport's rules.

Airport Manager Russ Maguire stated that video stills show a BEH helicopter landing in an area prohibited by the airport, in a place too close to an electrical transformer.

Maguire continued that the airport has three designated areas for helicopters to land, put in mostly to accommodate BEH. Where the helicopter landed wasn't one of the areas, which made it that it a safety issue.

Milton then presented the new technology integrated summer math program. Milton said the summer math assignments challenge students in both fact fluency and problem solving. Students can participate online or on paper versions of the assignments. Parents are instructed to sign off on math logs to ensure students are completing their work. Milton also said she will be able to monitor student's online responses and will have a wealth of information about how students are progressing, adding that the problem solving challenges will have fun topics.

"It's a balanced program," said Wyeth of the assignment he feels won't burden students.

The Committee also heard some good news when members of the Norwood High School baseball team came before them. Joey Ryzdzewski, John Galvin, Jack Sheehan and Mike Doliner brought in their trophy for the Division 1 Eastern Massachusetts Championship. They earned the championship by beating Andover 2-1.

"It's been great with the whole

town behind us," said Ryzdzewski.

School Committee member Paul Samargedlis and Joe Montesano, who both played baseball themselves, gave the players encouragement as they moved onto the state finals.

"A sport can bring a community together ... it's nice to get this," said Samargedlis.

Samargedlis also talked about the players' high moral character. He showed the Committee a baseball bat signed by the entire team, given to him as a gift for a sick relative.

Hayden was able to deliver another piece of positive news to the Committee, this time about leaky boilers at the Callahan School. The Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) approved a grant to Norwood that would help cover half of the estimated \$321,000 cost to fix the 27 year-old boilers. The committee hopes to have the work done next summer, but will begin the process soon.

The Committee also expects the improvements to pay for themselves within a few years due to the added oil efficiency the repaired boilers will have.

Paul Shaughnessy said that the airport rule regarding helicopter landing and hover taxiing seemed vague. Hutchins agreed, stating that it isn't a matter of common sense they were determining, but one of legality.

Donovan stated that he has been flying for 28 years and that the landing he made was not an illegal operation. He added that it seems like the rules at the airport are applied inconsistently to different users, an assertion he made several times.

Donovan said that if the rules were applied fairly, he would not land in that area and that he was one of the safest people in the room.

Wynne took exception to Donovan's statement, saying that airport rules are applied fairly to all users.

Donovan then continued to say that the FAA doesn't restrict helicopter-landing areas, while Maguire contended that, as the airport manager, he had the right to set the rules at the airport.

Commissioner Kevin

Shaughnessy added that the issue at hand was whether the Airport Commission and Manager have the right to set the rules at the airport, and that he thought it was clear that they did.

BEH then brought in former FAA safety inspector Jack Keenan to testify that what they did was safe.

Wynne ended the discussion by stating that this was a matter of rules, and that while BEH may have operated safely, it had broken an airport regulation. The Commission did not move to punish BEH in any way, but did move to ask the Airport Manager to study and make any recommendations to the Commission about clarifying helicopter-landing rules.

The meeting concluded with the Commission deciding to consider creating guidelines for Commission Conduct. Hutchins volunteered to speak with other Airport Commissions about their guidelines to begin the process.

Town comes together to look at downtown woes

Joe DiFazio
Staff Reporter

In a meeting attended by many town officials and downtown business owners, Norwood hashed out a variety of ideas to improve the economic development of downtown.

"We'll be looking at ideas to see if we can do something about the center," said Town Manager John Carroll to kick off the meeting.

Some of the main answers the meeting came up were developing more residential opportunities in the downtown, which was supported by 49 percent of the meeting and setting up local economic incentives which was supported by 22 percent of the meeting. Several voices also called for strengthening and better promotion of organizations such as the Friends of Norwood Center.

Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Mike Lyons, who was one of the main people who made the meeting come to fruition, talked about there being too many vacancies in downtown. He stated that as business owner of a downtown operation for 18 years he knew firsthand the challenge of owning a downtown business in Norwood.

Empty storefronts in the Norwood's downtown have

been a hotly debated topic of conversation in town for several years. Town Planner Paul Halkiotis states that in the Washington Street area there are currently 13 empty storefronts.

The Consensus Building Institute (CBI), a non-profit organization that helps lead discussions and broker agreements, hosted the meeting at the Old Colonial Café. The institute used electronic clickers to poll the attendees on several questions and had an activity where people affixed comments to poster boards set around the room that described elements of a downtown master plan. According to the polling that CBI did, 31 percent of attendees were business owners, and 16 percent were property owners.

Norwood commissioned a master plan for the downtown in 2011. Cecil Group, an urban planning consulting firm, developed the plan, and were represented at the meeting by its founding principal Steve Cecil.

Cecil made a presentation to the meeting of several highlights of the plan. Cecil started on a positive note, stating that many towns view Norwood's downtown as a success and a model. He then stated some keys of the plan's vision were residential development on the edges of downtown, improved

parking and circulation, making the center as pedestrian friendly as possible and building public-private partnerships. Cecil said that improving downtown would also take aggressive entrepreneurship on the part of business owners, which needed to attract shoppers from outside Norwood.

Alan Dana, a manager of Mayer Dana and Sons, one of the main owners of buildings in Norwood Center, also attended the meeting. He rebuked several comments made during the Selectmen's race that insinuated that he left several of the storefronts vacant for tax purposes. In fact, he stated that empty storefronts didn't help him economically, and that there are up to four new tenants coming to fill in some of the vacant spaces.

"We're making a lot of progress," said Dana.

The responses to several of the other poll questions weren't as optimistic. When asked about how the downtown has changed over the years, 57 percent of the meeting responded that there was a significant decline and 21 percent responded slightly worse. Business owners didn't seem to feel very confident either, 45 percent of who said they were barely hanging on, with another 45 percent responding

Downtown
Continued on page 5



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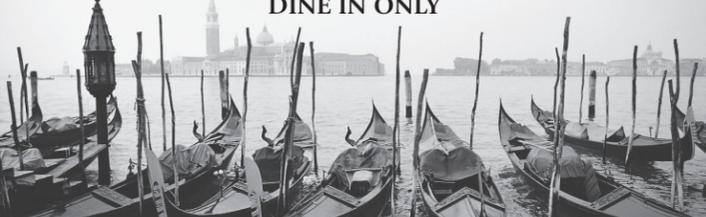
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