

# Norwood Board of Education Newsletter

Summer 2010



## Dear Norwood Residents

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Norwood Board of Education! We hope this update is the first of many communications throughout the year. As your Board, we encourage strong two-way communication, and our hope is that this newsletter helps us towards that goal.

In this edition, you'll read a little about the mission, goals, and purpose of the Board, and about recent events and accomplishments by both our faculty and our students.

We want to ensure that the Norwood community feels connected to our school and all that we achieve. If there are topics you'd like us to address in future newsletters, please feel free to reach out to one of us.

We're looking forward to the upcoming 2010-11 school year with anticipation, and we look forward to helping Norwood maintain its strong tradition of educational excellence for our kids.

## Your Board of Education

Michael Sprague, President  
Mathew Ross, Vice President  
Kyung Kay Kim  
Elizabeth Krapels  
David Hausmann  
Kumhwa Kim  
Joel Rubin

Dr. Jeffrey Feifer, Interim Chief School Administrator  
Joan Dunn, Interim Board Secretary/Business Administrator

## What Does Your Board Do?

The Board is the policy making body. Its primary task is the formulation and evaluation of all policies necessary for the operation of the school district. Examples of the board's legal responsibilities include:

- Policy Making
- Curriculum Overseer
- Negotiator of Contracts
- Approver of Employee Hiring
- Evaluator of the Chief School Administrator
- Advocate for District's Public Relations Needs

## Channels of Communication

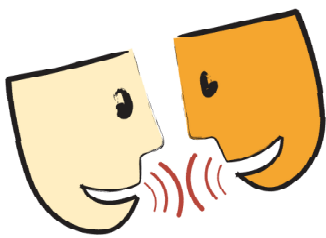
**The Board of Education welcomes commentary from the public on matters involving the Norwood School.** Initial comments, suggestions, and complaints should be made to the parties most directly involved. This encourages prompt and effective resolution of the problem at the point of their origin. It also ensures communication and feedback, which are crucial to the ongoing pursuit of a positive educational program that meets the individual student needs.

**Concerns of an individual nature having to do with students, teachers and classroom operations, are to be discussed with the school staff before being brought before the Board of Education.** Complaints should first be made to the teacher(s) involved, discussed together and , hopefully resolved at that level: then to our Principal who will seek to problem solve the issue.

**Most issues should be resolved at the first or second level.** On those rare circumstances, the few unresolved issues should be brought to the attention of the Chief School Administrator. He will try to resolve the issue to the benefit of the student and the mutual acknowledgement of the staff member and parents. It is expected that the overwhelming percentage of concerns will be addressed by this level.

Issues not resolved at the other levels may need to be brought, **in writing**, to the attention of the Board of Education. The Board Secretary/ School Business Administrator will forward such concerns to the board.

Issues of general school district nature should first be directed to the Chief School Administrator. As the **executive member** of the Board of Education, he is best equipped to secure an informed response. However, if he deems the concern to be a policy issue not dealt with in existing policy, he may choose to bring the matter before the Board of Education. A copy of the relevant policy on grievances is available in our link for "policies" and is summarized in our parent handbook.



*“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”*

*--Sydney J. Harris*

## Retirement Dinner

On Tuesday June 15, the Norwood Public School community gathered at the Florentine Gardens in River Vale to celebrate the retirement of Principal Betty Johnson, after dedicating 38 years of service to our school. Mrs. Johnson shared the spotlight with other staff members who were also retiring; Mrs. Audrey Konigsberg, Mrs. Linda Verilli, Ms. Joan Paccione, Mrs. Anne Pedone and Mr. Hector Perez.

The evening was filled with speeches from colleagues, friends and parents reminiscing over Mrs. Johnson's accomplishments as a teacher and Principal over nearly four decades. The highlight of the evening was when Mrs. Johnson took to the microphone, thanking her staff, family and friend for her successful career at Norwood. Mrs. Johnson remarked that out of all the things she will miss, it will be the children. Mrs. Johnson was a caring, dedicated Principal in Norwood who will be clearly missed. Mrs. Johnson's position will be filled by interim principal, Gladys Grossman, which became effective July 1st.



## Our New Interim Principal

We are thrilled to welcome Gladys Grossman to Norwood Public School as our interim principal, replacing Betty Johnson, who retired after 38 years of service to Norwood Public School.

Mrs. Grossman comes to us from Demarest Public Schools, where she spent 40 years as a teacher and principal. She most recently served as principal of the County Road School and the Luther Lee Emerson School. She retired from the Demarest Public Schools in January 2010.

Prior to becoming principal in Demarest, Mrs. Grossman was a Language Arts teacher, and more recently, the district's Technology/Gifted & Talented Coordinator.

## Graduation

Congratulations to the Norwood Public School Class of 2010! Our graduates made us proud in the graduation ceremony held on Monday, June 21 at Northern Valley Old Tappan High School (and they looked great in their caps and gowns!).



## Student Achievement

Norwood Public School is proud to have a strong tradition of student achievement. In addition to celebrating the day to day academic accomplishments of our students, we congratulate the following students:

Leah Kim had her work published in an issue of *Creative Kids Magazine*

Norwood won the Bergen County Brain Busters Division V title. Congrats to Mrs. Ricco, our winning team—Ashley Keem, Esther Lee, Joseph Ludwig, and Foster Conklin—and our runner up team—Steven Kwon, Ronni Gallucci, Jane Choe, and Alexia Lee.

## Finance

The past couple of months have been busy ones for the Board. Thanks to your support, our 2010-11 school budget passed, despite the cuts in state aid of over \$400,000 and a 25% increase in health insurances costs for our faculty and staff. This budget season was incredibly challenging, and the Board would like to thank the residents of Norwood and the staff and faculty of Norwood Public School.

In light of the challenging financial environment we face, the Board continues to look for ways to save money. We have negotiated a number of services intended to save money throughout this coming school year and beyond.

In our continuing effort to share services with the borough, neighboring districts, and the regional district, we are “outsourcing” some Board office administrative work to the Northern Valley district. We expect savings to approach \$25,000 as a result of this collaboration. Additionally, we have replaced our older, inefficient copy machines with newer, less expensive ones and we’ve renegotiated our trash removal contract. We expect to save thousands of dollars over the next couple of years as a result of these improvements.

We understand that in a district of our size, every dollar counts, and given the opportunity, we’d rather channel money into the classroom rather than administration. We remain diligent and disciplined about our spending, and will continue to look for ways to trim expenses as the school year gets underway.