



January 31, 2024

Dear Review Board and Members,

I am writing this letter of support for the Norwood Public School District. I fully support the application for the BEST Grant in building an updated educational and athletic campus for the students in our community. Without a school, I believe our community will not succeed and that alone puts this project at an all-time high to ensure this BEST Grant gets approved not only for our students, staff, but the future of our community.

I cannot explain in one letter the importance and total dedication to this project that I have. The Norwood Public School District and its staff have been diligent in community feedback processes and master planning for the future of student's education. Not only have they been ensuring the best education for our students while trying to educate them in a dilapidated and deteriorating building, but they have been making the best out of the situation. Norwood Public School staff and administration have brought the "fun" back in education and as the Mayor of the Town of Norwood, I cannot express how appreciative I am of the education our students are getting. The educators at Norwood Public School are working tirelessly to guarantee compliance with education guidelines and doing their best to make education exciting. It is our job as a community, and you as the BEST Grant review board to safeguard funds that will be distributed to schools and community that need it the most; so please see the need of the Norwood Public Schools application.

The complete disarray of the school is sad and a risk to our students and staff of my community. Both students and staff now and in the future deserve to educate and be educated in a building and environment that is safe. When many community events are held in the school it is VITAL that it is a safe functional building that the community can enjoy along with our students. As stated in the letter of support from the board of trustees, our Town of Norwood Master Land Use Plan supports the new campus.

I recently read an article in Navigate360 regarding school safety and this stuck out to me *"When students do not feel safe, their mental health suffers, negatively impacting their academic performance. To thrive academically, emotionally, and socially, students require a safe and supportive school environment as the foundation for success. The need for a secure learning environment is vital in shaping the long-term success of our students, both at school and in the communities they inhabit. Amid rising concerns over self-harm, violence, and weapons on K-12 campuses, ensuring school safety has become a critical imperative."* Please consider this when reviewing Norwood Public Schools BEST Application, our students deserve to have a foundation of success in a safe and secure school.



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Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions about our support for this project or with any questions about how the Town of Norwood could help ensure this project comes to fruition for our students and community. I greatly appreciate you taking the time to review Norwood Public Schools application and I truly hope you take into consideration how important this is not only for bettering the education of our students now and in the future but also the importance this is to our community.

Please reach out to me with any questions or for further feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Candy A Meehan".

Candy A Meehan
Town of Norwood Mayor