

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 23, 2020*

The School Committee held a meeting on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 4:00pm via a Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 4:05pm.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Henry Haugland, Donna McKenzie, Matthew Brand, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn arrived at approximately 4:10pm

Others Present: Dr. Anna Nolin Superintendent
Dr. Peter Gray Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Rose McDermott Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Public Speak

Due to the nature of a virtual meeting, the instructions from the Attorney General were to submit public remarks via email to Chair McDonough. Chair McDonough received no public remarks.

**Review New Town Financial Information, Including
Certified Free Cash, New Growth, and State Aid,
Review Town Administrator Appropriation of Funds,
Discuss Finance Committee Recommendations From 10.22 Meeting**

Dr. Nolin revealed that free cash was certified and came in a bit higher than expected. 2 million expected, 6.6 million came in and it was forecasted at 2 million. New growth was forecasted for 1 million and came in at 2 million. The School Committee had said that should the financial landscape change this year, we would want to come back to rediscuss restoring COLAs for teachers. We would come back to discuss what items we had cut, what could we bring back, etc. The week has been spent having conversations with Ms. Malone, Town Administrator and Department Heads. Dr. Nolin has lobbied to get other Town Departments their items cut by the budget. There wasn't enough understanding as to what the Town intends to do. The Finance Committee took no action, but Dr. Nolin believes someone will make a motion on the floor at Town Meeting. Last night at Finance Committee, what was put on the Powerpoint presentation were all of these other asks from the Town, they were all over the place. Dr. Nolin discussed the fact that the department heads have real needs. Problem is there is no recommendation from Finance Committee. Chair McDonough said the presentation was very last minute and thrown together. Mr. Bruce Evans from the Finance Committee thinks the previous statements are absolutely accurate. The presentation was put together on the fly and presented to the Finance Committee seconds before the meeting. They need to resolve this before Saturday. Chair McDonough declared that we need to all be on the same page to support the restoration of the COLA. Mr. Evans agreed that they are in agreement to support the restoration of the teacher's COLAS. It's supporting the restoration of the COLA and how we do that at Town meeting is going to be complicated. Dr. Nolin asked that the School Committee offer a statement to the effect that we also support the Town Departments to receive the commensurate funds. It has not been a good scene to pit Town departments against schools. We worked hard and tried to work collaboratively. The School COLAS are \$300,000 and merits are \$30,000. The School Committee was very clear months ago that the first order of business should the funding change was to bring the COLAS

back. There was not one other collective bargaining unit in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that put aside their COLAS in order to help make this budget work. Mr. Evans offered a conjecture - he's 99% sure that 2 motions, considered for Article 19 by the Finance Committee, will come through. He recommends that we contact the moderator and let him know this is the plan. This is not a motion out of the blue but one that has been proposed in the past.

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to Support Reinstatement of Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAS) and Merit Pay for Union and Non-Union Personnel, Which Were Eliminated From FY21 Budget:

Mr. Haugland moved that the School Committee endorse the restoration of the COLA by the EAN as being discussed during Article 1 right now. Mr. Brand amended to motion to read: Motion to support reinstatement of cost of living adjustments and merit pay for union and non-union personnel which were originally eliminated from the original FY21 budget. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Dr. Fuxman - Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Mr. Brand – Yes

Ms. Collins - Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Chair McDonough asked that we speak to support other Town Departments at Town Meeting. Mr. Evans conveyed to the School Committee that he has not spoken with one person in town that was not in favor of reinstating COLAS to the teachers.

At approximately, 4:48pm, Mr. Brand moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Dr. Fuxman - Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Mr. Brand – Yes

Ms. Collins - Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin

Superintendent

Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Rose McDermott

Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Attest: _____

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda and materials used at this meeting can be found [here](#).