

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 31, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:38 p.m.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Henry Haugland, Catherine Brunell, Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn, Cathi Collins

Others Present: Dr. Anna Nolin Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sue Balboni Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation

Public Speak

Chair McDonough asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. No one came forward.

Chair McDonough moved for approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session for this purpose:

1. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with Cafeteria Employees - Local #1116, Administrative Assistants Union, EAN Unit A, EAN Unit B, Unit S and Title 1

Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for this purpose:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn- Yes
Ms. Collins - Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 6:50pm. The School Committee remained in the room and closed the doors to conduct this session.

The School Committee returned to open session at 7:00pm.

2021-22 District Goals Update, Discuss Shifts and Developments in Strategic Plan Implementation, Student Achievement Deck Preview (MCAS/Renaissance/Panorama)

Data presentation
Determine purview
And what do we want to present to the community

How is RTI seeking to address the needs of a school system as we recover from the pandemic.

We have MCAS and we have Renaissance and here's the plan we have developed from that data.

What is our purview?

Interested in trends and how that informs the process

How does this data relate to budget priorities?

How does data inform our instructional practices?

In terms of the data is the “so what?”

What do you see the priorities moving forward? How does this data inform the strategic plan?

Discussion about the strategic plan as informed by the data.

Historical data is of “academic interest” only because the situation is so different right now with the pandemic.

What do we need to do to fix this situation for our kids? Are we on the right track? Do we need more resources?

MCAS data by itself is meaningless. Did goal attainment plans work?

Do not yet know COVID recovery

What is a good time for this presentation? Can it inform the budget?

What do we need from the administration to make decisions?

Comparing individual students might be more helpful.

What can be shown to tell us where kids are and how they are doing?

If we look at

What are the biggest problems we have right now?

3 pain points - K/1 and Grades 7/8 and sub-groups. Sub-group analysis (Black, Asian,

Resilience and grit are really low.

How do we push SEL into the classroom subjects - math, ELA.

How are we defining “marginalized” students?

Make case to support funding for what kids need. This is why we need these positions.

This is where we need to go. This is what we need to work on.

College prep vs. AP vs. Honors

If we want to do more writing and “writing across the curriculum” we have to make some fundamental changes in how we do things. Don’t know what the solution is.

Three priorities - discrepancy by race, SEL issues, and elementary school. Lack of early intervention.

May have significant challenges at elementary school. May not be ready to learn. This may be the place of urgency. How can we support these early grades.

Discussion of timing of data presentations. Most significant data analysis happens in June at the end of the year. Fall presentation after first data collection of the year, coupled with information from June, sets stage for budget development.

Spring data presentation shows progress over year. Committee settled on moving data presentation to April 2022 to allow more data collection from this year. This year is different than other years given COVID

Review of strategic plan and updates. There have been some pieces that just haven't happened because of COVID. Staff are clearly maxed out. Some items have not happened because of outside issues - Schoolzilla compatibility, town financial discussions and timeline. Information on completed items, including grids linked to specific artifacts will be shared at time of evaluation. This provides data in summary form and detail form.

Discussion of writing at the high school. Anna will follow up on specific questions about implementation of curriculum at College Prep level in English classes. Once this information is gathered, Anna will share and provide recommendation. Will determine if writing audit is needed or the implementation just needs to be fixed.

Dr. Nolin noted several major deadlines coming up as well as FinCom meetings. Committee should be cognizant of this workload in the next few weeks.

At approximately 9:10pm, Dr. McKenzie motioned to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. It was approved unanimously by those present 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie McDonough
School Committee Chair