

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
January 10, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:00pm via a virtual meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:05pm. All members stated they were participating remotely.

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

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn – arrived at 6:10pm

Others Present:

Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sue Balboni	Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative

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

1. To Conduct Strategy With Respect to Collective Bargaining (Cafeteria Employees - Local #1116, Administrative Assistants Union, EAN Unit A, EAN Unit B, Unit S and Title 1), if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Bargaining Position of the Public Body and the Chair so Declares;

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. Collins - Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 6-0-0.

Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:05pm. The School Committee proceeded to a private virtual room to conduct this session.

At 7:24pm, the Committee returned to open session.

Public Speak

Chair McDonough had received two email requesting to speak. Ms. Carol Rossi, a Natick resident spoke regarding her opposition of eliminating Columbus Day. Mr. Brian Patachhiola a Quincy resident, was asked to speak by members of the Natick Community. Mr. Patachhiola spoke of their opposition to eliminating Columbus Day.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin informed the Committee about the antigen drive through created for NPS staff and Town of Natick Employees. Dr. Nolin informed the community that the National Guard has been in Natick to assist us with follow up testing. We are grateful to them for their service to us. Dr. Nolin reviewed the changes to the new COVID management guidance. We are expected to follow the Mass DPH and DESE expectations. She went on to review the extension of the mask mandate to last through February 28, 2022. Dr. Nolin announced that she had to shut down the district's social media pages: Twitter and Facebook. There has been some uncivil discourse among parents and students on these pages. The posts have been pulled down. That is not the place for parents and kids to get into debates and upset language with each other about school. Our social media fields are for information to be pushed out regarding our school events. She went on to announce and congratulate math teacher from Natick High School, Nick D'Antonio was named by the MIAA as the Unified Track and Field Coach of the Year. We are very proud of Nick and all that he has accomplished with the kids. Dr. Nolin announced that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Event, will now be virtual.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Donations
 2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of November 15, 2021, December 6, 2021 and Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2021
- Ms. Collins moved approval. Ms. Brunel seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:
- Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
- It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Updates to the 2022/2023 School Calendar
- Ms. Collins moved approval as amended. Dr. Fuxman seconded the motion. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:
- Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
- It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

Overview of Proposed FY23 Special Education/Circuit Breaker Budget

Mr. Luff gave a presentation for the Student Services proposed budget. He reviewed major factors in the budget. Some of those items were Special Education services for students pre-k-age 22 that are required by both Federal and State law, staffing requests, out of district costs, the Circuit Breaker offset, grants and revolving accounts, ensuring the integrity of in-districts Special Education programs, the collaboration with the department of Teaching, Learning and Innovation and other State requirements. Mr. Luff reviewed the required Special Education offerings for our eligible students, programs and services as

well as specialized programs we have provided over the years. He completed by reviewing funding sources for his department, his budget requests along with details on the increases and decreases from this fiscal year.

Overview of Proposed FY23 Teaching, Learning & Innovation Budget

Ms. Sue Balboni, Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation gave a presentation for the proposed budget. Ms. Balboni tied her budget back to our strategic plan and what our focus is which is on the academic and social development of our students. She reviewed the district goals; Profile of a Graduate Dismantle systemic barriers for equitable access to opportunities and social emotional learning and healthy living. Ms. Balboni reviewed instructional materials- expanding literacy centers and classroom libraries to provide students with rich and diverse texts that are accessible to all students. Digital tools to enhance learning at all levels. She continued by reviewing professional development opportunities for staff such as a TLI course, curriculum writing as well as testing and assessments. Ms. Balboni reviewed some RTI tools used for social and emotional learning.

Preview of the Homework Holiday Calendar

Dr. McKenzie gave a brief update. The Policy Subcommittee has not voted on this yet. They are leaning towards a consensus of adopting a framework that Dr. Nolin put forth and is adapted from the Westborough Public Schools. It weights the different holidays in terms of homework assignments, tests and quizzes. They have met with four religious leaders from the community for their input. There is another meeting this Thursday and they will continue the conversation.

Update on the Johnson Phasing Plan

Dr. Nolin provided an update. She and Ms. McDermott have been very busy continuing to meet with families. They have met with approximately 50 Johnson families as well as representatives from the School Council to develop an advisory group to assist in the transition. We have developed two key dates for grade level community meetings. These meetings will review and reshare all of the information we have provided during family meetings and provide the updated maps. These meetings are to enable families to have conversations surrounding their decisions. Once we have a better idea of the decisions families have made, we will provide that information. Ms. Brunell updated the Committee that she is now able to be part of these conversations now. She has tied things up with the Ethics Commission. She will not be able to vote on any items that will improve the condition of the building, weigh in/vote on the timeline or vote to turn the building back to the Town. A discussion surrounding swing zones and streets was had. As well as whether this is a redistricting or a reassignment of students. This is not a redistricting; this is a reassignment of Johnson students to three other elementary schools.

MSBA Process Overview

Dr. Gray gave a short presentation of the process. The district needs to submit a statement of interest to the MSBA. The submissions of the statement of interest will be accepted from January 28, 2022, to April 29, 2022. The statement of interest informs the MSBA about deficiencies that inhibit the delivery of the district's educational program. It is submitted by the School Superintendent. It requires a School Committee vote and a Select Board vote. Submissions will be accepted from January 28, 2022, to April 29, 2022. There may only be one statement of interest submitted, per school. Dr. Gray continued by explaining what building with the MSBA looks like. He reviewed the MSBA's eight stages or modules if approved. He also reviewed the projected timelines. Dr. Gray completed his presentation with informing the Committee with recent statements made by the MSBA, that they are interested in the next round of funding projects that are targeted towards renovations of existing facilities as opposed to building new facilities. If the Natick Statement of Interest is not included in the FY22 round of projects, it does not mean that the Natick Statement of Interest is not eligible for future funding.

Discussion of the Increase to the Maximum Balance of ACCEPT Collaborative's Capital Reserve Fund

Dr. Nolin reminded the School Committee that the ACCEPT Collaborative is the Special Education Collaborative and transportation service provider that we use. Dr. Nolin is the Vice-Chair this year. They have had a financial overhaul since receiving their new Director. They have had a surplus due to closure and they are asking for support to increase their reserve in case something happens to their van fleets or buildings. The School Committee only needs to vote if they disapprove of the increase. No vote was taken. The School Committee will support their increase.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Nolin provided an update. The only change was three less students in the district from the previous month.

Member Concerns

Ms. Brunell addressed her concerns regarding her belief that she would prefer pdf's vs. having a live document in Google docs. She believes it would be a good move to work towards documents that are established. Mr. Haugland believes this feeling is due to the fact that the tools we have to use are 1990 technologies. These issues were all anticipated and addressed by the district years ago and were hopeful for a dynamic dashboard system which would have brought us up to the state of the art 21st Century in terms on how to manage a complex recording environment. As conversations were being had about what to do for the next phase, March of 2020 and the Pandemic occurred which brought everything to a standstill.

At approximately, 10:36pm, Dr. Fuxman moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

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

It was unanimously approved by a vote of 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:

- Superintendent's Presentation
- School Committee Minutes of November 15, 2021, December 6, 2021 and Executive Session Minutes of December 6, 2021
- 2022-2023 School Calendar
- Donations Report
- MSBA Statement of Interest Draft
- FY23 Proposed budgets of Special Education/Circuit Breaker and Teaching, Learning and Innovation
- Enrollment Report