

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
April 25, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 6:30pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:38pm.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Elise Gorseth, Dr. Donna McKenzie, Catherine Brunell, Cathi Collins, Dr. Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn

Others Present: Dr. Anna Nolin Superintendent
Ms. Sue Balboni Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
Ms. Rose McDermott Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. Jefferson Wood Teacher Representative (remotely)

Announcements:

Dr. Nolin reminded the community that the SEPAC Dyslexia and Multisensory Learners Workshop was this Wednesday at 6:30pm. She informed the community that Town meeting begins tomorrow at 7:30pm, Bus subsidy and school budget is slated for Tuesday. There's a possibility that it may be revised. Dr. Nolin also called attention to the first Eco Natick Event on Saturday on the Common and to visit Econatick.org for more information

Review/Revise Vacancies for Subcommittee Assignments

Ms. Collins reviewed assignments that members of the Committee have signed on for. Some of the assignments were Dr. Fuxman will be a part of the Administrative Assistant Negotiations, Ms. Brunell will be a part of the paraprofessional negotiations and Ms. Gorseth will be a part of the food service negotiations.

Warrant Review

Chair Collins has signed two warrants since the prior meeting. If anyone would like to review those, they may reach out to Chair Collins.

Clarification of the Amendment to the Superintendent's Contract

Chair Collins clarified and explained the amendment to the contract. Dr. Nolin was unable to take 10 days of her vacation time because she wanted to make sure that the rest of the administration took their vacation. She covered for some of those vacations. The School Committee bought back those 10 days. Chair Collins apologized for not making that clear at the previous meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Public Hearing Minutes of March 7, 2022, School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2022 and March 21, 2022 and Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2022
2. Approval for Out of State Travel - NHS to Galapagos Islands
3. Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS Choir to Orlando

Chair McDonough moved approval of the consent agenda. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Last Day of School for the 2021/2022 School Year – Ms. McDermott summarized the changes before them. The last day of school would be June 21, 2022 except for Lilja School. They're last day will be on June 22, 2022 and it will be a full day. Chair Collins moved approval of the last day of school to be June 21, 2022 for all schools EXCEPT Lilja School. Lilja School's last day will be on June 22, 2022. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
2. Review and Approve Changes to the 2022/2023 School Year Calendar – This change is due to the EAN's request. There was an overwhelming discussion surrounding how we addressed Labor Day. They would prefer to come back on Monday vs. the previous Friday and to have school in session on the Friday prior to Labor Day. Ms. Sonneborn moved approval of the revised 2022/2023 Julie seconded. Ms. McDonough seconded. Dr. McKenzie informed the Committee that the policy subcommittee has met many times and are working on a new calendar to take other holidays into consideration and the homework assigned on those dates. There are listening sessions scheduled to listen to the wishes of students, families and staff. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.
3. Vote to Dissolve the KMS Building Committee – Ms. McDonough motioned that the The Natick School Committee (NSC) hereby dissolves the Kennedy Middle School Building Committee (Building Committee) and authorizes Stephen Meyler, Building Committee Chair, and Jonathan Freedman, Building Committee Vice Chair, to act as their agents in closing out all financial decision making and final construction plan resolutions through the completion of final punch lists and financial reconciliations. Chair Collins seconded. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Summary of the KMS Building Project

Dr. Nolin introduced Bryan Jarvis, Project Manager on the building project. Mr. Jarvis gave a review/summary of the project's timeline. The project was completed ahead of schedule. We will be wrapping up the landscaping this spring. Leed certification was achieved in March. The final closeout documents have gone to the MSBA for the final audit. Spring 2023 there will be a final reimbursement from MSBA back to the Town of Natick.

Recognition of KMS Building Committee

Dr. Nolin thanked the Committee, staff, AI3, Compass, NPD, parents/students and abutters/neighbors. Steve Meyler spoke and thanked all of the collaborators. He appreciated the opportunity. The Committee met every two weeks for six years and then recently only monthly. There were spirited debates. Jonathan Freedman added that the foundation they all worked from was a clear vision on what the administration and Committee wanted to accomplish. The project has been on time, under budget and a success. Chair Collins extended the School Committee's thanks for the hard work and building a state-of-the-art middle school and 10 million dollars under budget. She went on to say they were great stewards of the faith the community put into this project. Ms. McDonough as a member of the building committee, thanked Steve and Jonathan who ran the committee efficiently and effectively. You managed a very aggressive timeline. It was a complex construction project. Chair Collins also acknowledged the dedication of Mr. Evans who could not be present this evening.

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates

Dr. McKenzie reviewed the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee of approving the updates to policies JICE, EEAG and GDQD. The changes for the following policies were made under direction of our counsel as well as MASC. These will be voted on at the next meeting.

Preview of Operational Override - Information and Timeline - Town Administrator

Dr. Nolin introduced Jamie Errickson, the Town Administrator gave a financial planning timeline that was updated in April of 2022. He gave a detailed review of current debts and facility updates. He also gave a

recap of the formulation of the FY23 budget. He discussed in building the FY23 budget, it gave way to discussing the FY24 budget. He reviewed our reliance on revenues and using free cash. Due to the Pandemic, we have had to utilize stabilization funds. He gave a review of the way we have used funds. We are down about 10-12 million dollars due to loss revenue. It's a significant number to keep in mind going into the FY24 budget. Our stabilization funds have taken a big hit. Our policies have remained consistent coming out of the pandemic. Mr. Errickson discussed investing in our employees, Town and school, and it's extremely important to keep that in mind. He reviewed our capital plan. We want to make sure we keep up maintenance with those investments. He believes we are still a very strong Town and we just need to work on how we can address the structural deficit. Mr. Errickson welcomes feedback from the School Committee and the community.

Update to the Panorama Data (Student SEL/Race/Culture)

Dr. Nolin had shared the strategic plan with the community. Dr. Nolin reviewed the School Committee's purview. Full data summaries are available. She will be bringing the School Committee a new suggested curriculum for social and emotional learning. Dr. Nolin reviewed surveys and screenings currently at work in NPS. Dr. Nolin gave an overview of SEL, race, culture and wellness data on staff and students. She reviewed trauma signs and symptoms. Dr. Nolin gave an overview of student survey responses. She reviewed the changes between the fall vs. winter screenings. Students are struggling to control their emotions and sustain behaviors like they used to. Emotional regulation has continued to worsen. Self-efficacy gains were huge. Dr. Nolin reviewed the supportive relationships scores. We are only in the 10th percentile for grit, that's an area of concern. Dr. Nolin reviewed what's next - goal attainment plans for students, panorama playbook accessible by all teachers, counselors, and principals. She informed all that an RTI bank of SEL interventions have now been created for the district. Dr. Nolin reviewed the SEL Committee's achievements thus far this year.

At approximately 9:18pm, the School Committee took a recess. At approximately 9:25pm the School Committee returned and resumed the meeting.

Dr. Nolin and Katie Sugarman of Natick 180 have reviewed the MetroWest adolescent key indicators. Dr. Nolin reviewed the family survey history. She believes there are problems with this survey. They are too long. There are many things that haven't happened in two years. Dr. Nolin reviewed the school fit by subgroup. This is the first time our White and Asian families don't feel as good a fit. There's been some improvement and stability in our mix-race subgroups and Hispanics. Dr. Nolin believes listening sessions for following up in the future would be a good idea. Mr. Woods reminded everyone that we are still in a pandemic and we want to be careful about addressing issues that may have been created or exacerbated by the pandemic. Dr. Nolin will be pushing a lot more of art and music. It can help takeaway some of the trauma. She has commissioned a muralist to make a piece of art out of all of the plexiglass to commemorate the Johnson community. It will be a cohesive piece that will then exist in 5 separate pieces. Dr. Nolin hopes that all community members will participate.

Grants Update (FY22 and Funding Positions for FY23)

Dr. Nolin provided a memo prior to the meeting, and she provided an update to grants. We would like to provide tutoring for students. Dr. Nolin reviewed on-demand tutoring. We have been beta testing with some department heads. Dr. Nolin believes it's a compelling new tool. It is chat based. It is also in several languages. We will pilot this during this summer. Ms. Brunel reminded the Committee of Mass General Law, chapter 44, section 53a and to follow it, these grants need to come back to us. Dr. Nolin reminded the School Committee that they have a policy that delegates to the Superintendent acceptance of grants. The discussion will be taken up at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting and Ms. Brunell would like a consultation by our counsel. Dr. Nolin reminded everyone that our counsel will be coming to the next Policy Subcommittee meeting, and this can be addressed by him.

Future Meeting Agenda Items

Dr. McKenzie would like to have Katie Sugarman, from Natick 180 and she is very interested to hear from her. Ms. Brunell would like to fit in the RFB for the Strategic Plan before the end of the year. She also asked that the Superintendent's evaluation have a more efficient process and that we squeeze that into the last two meetings so that everyone can go on vacation. She also requested that we look at the Johnson reassignment map. Chair Collins will take it under consideration.

Public Speak

Ms. Collins had received an email from Ms. Doran. Ms. Doran spoke remotely and was concerned about one School Committee's member's ideas regarding transparency. You can't pick and choose when to be transparent. She's questioning why the choice for the vice chair was made. She believed there must have been side conversations.

At approximately, 10:20pm, Dr. Fuxman moved to adjourn. Dr. McKenzie seconded. 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:

Superintendent's Presentation

Subcommittee Assignments

School Committee Public Hearing Minutes of March 7, 2022, School Committee Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2022 and March 21, 2022 and Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2022

Out of State Travel Documents - NHS to Galapagos Islands

Out of State Travel Documents - NHS Choir to Orlando

2021/2022 School Year Calendar

2022/2023 School Year Calendar

Panorama Data

Grants Update

Policies - JICE, EEAG and GDQD