

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 6:00pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:02pm.

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

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 (remotely)

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

1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Units A,B, and S if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares;
2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with Non-Represented Personnel; Central Office Administration, Planning/Budget Analyst, P/T Clerical, All Tutors, Student/Community Coach, Instrumental Accompanist, Late Bus Coverage, Cafe Monitor, Substitute Coordinator, Permanent Sub Teacher, PSAT Proctor, Floater and Supervisor, On-Line Learning Coordinator, Wellness Center Supervisor, NHS Student Supervisor, NHS Permanent Sub/Site Liaison, Wall of Achievement Coordinator, Virtual Education Supervisor, Principals, Nurse Leader, Director of Student Services, Technical Director, Theater Manager, P/T Nurse, Nurse Assist., Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Certified Licensed Assist., Executive Assist. to the Superintendent, Recording Secretary to the School Committee, Administrative Assist. for Human Resources, All Daily, Long Term and Permanent Teacher Substitutes, Math Club Interventionist, Mini University/Professional Development, Curriculum Writing, Instructors for Graduate Credit Courses, Study Group Facilitator/Leader, Instructors for all Workshops, Instructor Prep Time for all Workshops, all ASAP Staff, All Summer School Staff, All Metco Personnel, Instrumental Music Instructors (private & semi-private, group), Data Entry Clerk/Clerical, Tech Workshop Presenters, Project Coordinator Full Year, BOKS Instructors, All Technology Staff, Technology Intern, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining position, and the chair so declares;

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

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

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

Chair Collins stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:00pm. The School Committee proceeded to a private room to conduct this session.

At 7:01pm, the School Committee returned to open session. Ms. Brunell announced that she was now participating remotely.

Announcements

Dr. Fuxman announced that SPARK Kindness were having an event on Saturday at 11am with award winning author Johnny LaRocca. Nolin reminded the community of the last day of school. Reminded the community that the 22-23 school year calendar was changed.

Recognition of the Wilson Jazz Band and Wilson Winds

Dr. Nolin congratulated the Wilson Jazz Band and Wilson Winds, along with Director Kevin Goddu. On Thursday, May 12, 2022, the Wilson Jazz Band competed at the MAJE Jazz Festival in Southborough MA. At this competition, our students performed their selected pieces of music for a panel of judges who evaluate their playing on a large rubric of skills and techniques. On Saturday, May 14, 2022, both our Jazz Band and Wilson Winds traveled to the Music in the Parks Festival. For this festival students performed for a panel of judges in the same manner at the MAJE and MICCA competitions.

Recognition of Metrowest Student Film Festival Finalists

Dr. Nolin congratulated Teacher and film director Lisa Olivieri and the finalists. Ms. Olivieri informed the community that two of our students: Lynne's Honors TV Broadcasting student Rachel Garrity, and an Independent Study student Ari Klawans were selected as finalists for the MetroWest Student Film Festival. Ari's film, Respectful Vampires of the Greater Boston Area, was selected in the live action short category and Raehel's film, What Art Means to Me, was selected in the documentary short category. Twelve films were chosen as finalists out of over 200 films! Their films screened at The Natick Center for the Arts with a small reception following.

Recognition of Nick DiAntonio, Unified Coach of the Year

Dr. Nolin introduced Nick DiAntonio who has been selected as Unified Coach of the Year. This is a huge honor and Natick is very proud. Mr. DiAntonio simply stated, when an individual finishes with the Unified Track and Field season at Natick High School, if one can look in the mirror and affirm he or she has become a better person as a result of participation with our team, we have succeeded as coaches!

Introduction of Jay Hoye, Interim High School Principal

Dr. Nolin introduced Jason Hoye. He is the interim High School Principal. Mr. Hoye is honored to take the position. This is his fourteenth year, and he is a product of Natick Public Schools through 8th grade himself. Mr. Hoye is excited and nervous but what inspired him was the students, community and staff. Dr. Nolin congratulated him.

Introduction of Erin Miller, Director of Student Services and Equity

Dr. Nolin introduced Erin Miller. She has been promoted to the position of Director of Student Services and Equity. Ms. Miller is most proud of being a lifetime educator. She began her career as a paraprofessional. She is excited to take some of the work she has done at the high school and bring it to all the other students.

Public Speak

Chair Collins asked if there was anyone present who wanted to participate in public speak. There was no one in person and she did not receive any requests via email.

Discussion and Vote on Extending the Vaccination Policy for Staff, Contractors, Vendors and Volunteers & Vote to Rescind the Student/Extra Curricular Activities Vaccination Policy

Dr. Nolin reviewed the policy. We have received many letters from PTO's. We have had one hundred different versions this year of how to address the contact tracing and vaccination cards. This policy doesn't propose that PTO's must collect vaccination cards. It means that if someone is volunteering in schools, and students are compelled to attend school, that those students are not exposed to unvaccinated students. If a volunteer is coming in to work with students. We treat those individuals the way we treat our staff. Dr. McKenzie stated that the Policy Subcommittee has voted to extend this policy. It is out of the purview of the Policy Subcommittee to determine how that policy is enforced.

Dr. Nolin explained that this second policy is about students. It has an expiration date. Her recommendation is to let this policy expire on that date. We don't need to vote on it. It just goes away. Dr. Nolin introduced Dave Mangan, who has been working with NPS as an advisor and Michael Boudreau, the Director of Public Health. They were here to answer any questions anyone may have. The motivation is to be able to staff the schools. A member doesn't think she can support the piece of the policy about volunteers needing to be vaccinated. Would like to amend to be during school hours. Another member is concerned about fully vaccinated language. Maybe how long they will be present in the schools, etc. Mr. Mangan again reiterated that the priority is to keep staff healthy. Ms. McEnaney, Co-President of the EAN spoke about union negotiations and the vaccine. While this was put in for protective measures, the continued demand to keep up with boosters could become an issue. Dr. Nolin reminded all that we have changed the language from up to date to fully vaccinated for that reason.

Dyslexia Programming Update

Mr. Luff, Assistant Superintendent, reminded the Committee about last year's updates from DESE regarding dyslexia as well as conversations with parents. We had identified key issues surrounding screening, identifying and providing services for Dyslexia. Mr. Luff introduced our literacy specialists and special education coordinators, - Celina Calderon, Holly McKean, Marti Neugarten, Becca Comiskey and Jen Braham-Parikh. Collectively they gave a presentation and shared what we have done around the topic areas that had been discussed over the course of the year. Their update and presentation included screening identification process, elementary and middle school instruction and resources. They also reviewed high school interventions. Dr. Gerry Goldberg, former Superintendent in Natick approached the podium. He spoke about how technology has offered students a marvelous way to interact with text and the latest research surrounding students that use iPads, show significant gains in reading acquisition. He asked if we were using them. We are using them as well as touch Chromebooks.

Review of the Strategic Plan Deliverables - Goals One, Four and Five

Dr. Nolin reviewed the goals and has provided artifacts of the district's progress towards the expected outcomes. Dr. Nolin reviewed her action plan. Her document provided the actions steps and outcome expected to the goals. This document provides a one-stop document for them to review. Dr. Goldberg approached the podium and relayed his hope that the School Committee will leave the meeting tonight with a stronger sense of what it means to be a Superintendent in today's ever-changing climate as well as reinforcing what you successfully do. He referred to Dr. Nolin as being a remarkable Superintendent and went on to state that as he read all of the data, he finds a Superintendent with great vision and the capacity to cultivate a team of caring adults who model opportunities to engage and practice appropriate actions in a

plan that emphasizes continuous improvement and high-quality implementation every step of the way. All in the interest of providing the best education and services for the students in Natick.

Chair Collins moved the rest of the items to the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Minutes of April 25, 2022
2. Appoint the Superintendent as the Natick School Committee's Representative to the ACCEPT Board of Directors for the FY23 Fiscal Year.
3. Approval to Decommission Books

Ms. Gorseth moved approval of the consent agenda. Ms. McDonough seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Ms. Gorseth – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn- Yes

Ms. McDonough - Yes

Chair Collins – Yes

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

Warrant Review

Chair Collins had approved an accounts payable warrant in the amount of \$181,640.34 since we last met.

Review of policies AC, ACR, and Proposed Equal Access and Evaluation of Bias Policy

Dr. McKenzie reviewed the policies AC and ACR. They are currently two separate policies and we have been advised by legal counsel to combine them. The School Committee will be voting to approve the combination of the two. The Policy Subcommittee has been meeting regularly and will be bringing other policies forward. We also have received guidance from legal counsel to review other district's equal access and bias policies.

Action Items

1. Discussion and Vote on Extending the Vaccination Policy for Staff, Contractors, Vendors and Volunteers:
2. Vote to Rescind the Student/Extra Curricular Activities Vaccination Policy: Not required the policy expires at the end of June.

3. Approval of the 2022/2023 School Committee Meetings Schedule: Ms. McDonough moved approval of this meeting calendar. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Ms. Gorseth – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn- Yes

Ms. McDonough - Yes

Chair Collins – Yes

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

4. Approval of Non-Represented Salary Schedule: Dr. Fuxman moved to approve the memo with the non-representative salary wages and merit. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:
Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Ms. Gorseth – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn- Yes
Ms. McDonough - Yes
Chair Collins – Yes
It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Ms. Brunell brought up a concern regarding future meeting items. Ms. McDonough explained how the document housing future agenda items works. It simply gives people a sense of when items will be covered but not what the calendar of items is.

At approximately, 10:19pm, Dr. McKenzie moved to adjourn. Ms. McDonough seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:
Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Ms. Gorseth – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn- Yes
Ms. McDonough - Yes
Chair Collins – Yes
It was unanimously approved by a vote of 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 April 25, 2022
List of Decommissioned books
Policy AC, ACR, GBEF, Student/Extra Curricular Activities Vaccination Policy
2022/2023 School Committee Meetings Schedule
Non-Represented Salary Schedule
Strategic Plan Deliverables - Goals One, Four and Five
Dyslexia Programming Update
FY22 Budget Update
Preliminary FY22 End of Year Projections
Enrollment Reports
Middle School Class Sizes