

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 6:00pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:01pm.

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

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn, (arrived at 6:04pm), Julie McDonough (arrived at 6:53pm)

Others Present:

Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sue Balboni	Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Ms. Kyra Hacker	Student Representative
Brielle Sherriff	Student Representative
Inkyoung Lee	Student Representative
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 if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body 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

Chair Collins – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 5-0-0.

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

At 7:16pm, the School Committee returned to open session.

Introduction of New School Committee Student Representative

Chair Collins began by thanking Kyra Hacker for her service for the last two years. Kyra is heading to Bowdoin College in the fall. She will be playing soccer for the College. Ms. Hacker thanked everyone. She learned a lot about Town government and how the School Committee decisions affected her directly. Chair Collins introduced Inkyoung Lee who will be stepping into Kyra's shoes. Chair Collins thanked Brielle for continuing in her role next year.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin reminded the community that Monday, June 19th school will not be in session. This is a new holiday Juneteenth Day. She also reminded the community of the last days of school and that the 22-23 school year calendar was changed. Ms. Brunell reminded the community that Wednesday at 6pm, will be the last coffee hour with the School Committee.

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.

Warrant Review

Chair Collins signed one warrant since the last meeting.

Discussion of Public Speak Timing on Future Agendas

Chair Collins explained that other towns have Public Speak after discussions. A member asked what problem are they trying to address? Dr. Nolin explained that sometimes we start our meeting and sometimes it's difficult to deal with starting our meetings that way because you can't answer. It worries Dr. Nolin to touch it at all. Two members of the School Committee approached Chair Collins about it. Dr. McKenzie is opposed to moving it on the agenda. Lisa Tabenkin, former School Committee Chair approached the podium. She expressed her annoyance with the Committee. She also felt that they become better School Committee members because of it. Public Speak is for members of the public to tell you what's on their mind. This policy cannot be changed. We were the test case for this. Henry Haugland, former School Committee member also reminded everyone that job of the School Committee members or elected officials is to represent the public.

Action Items

1. Approval of School Committee Policy AC:

Dr. McKenzie moved that we approve the proposed AC policy which combines the old AC and ACR policies. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Dr. Nolin thanked Mr. Wood and his team. Many districts struggle through negotiations, and we couldn't be farther from that. Dr. Nolin expressed her gratitude to School Committee members that were involved. It is this moment and moments like this that show we are a unified team. We put teachers and kids first. This contract respects educators and values what they do for children. This union show time and time again their care for their members. We are grateful for their contributions. Chair Collins called for a vote. It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

2. Ratification of EAN Units A & B Contract

Dr. McKenzie motioned to ratify the EAN contract negotiations Unit A & B. Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair Collins called for a vote. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

3. Vote on Extending the Vaccination Policy for Staff, Contractors, Vendors and Volunteers

Ms. McDonough asked to offer friendly amendments to the policy. Dr. Nolin reviewed some updates she made. Her main priority is for staff health/attendance. Ms. McDonough reviewed the lines she wanted to make changes to. Ms. McDonough made a motion to insert a sentence to replace the sentence that started with particularly - put in place - "To mitigate impact of absences due to COVID-19 on school building operations, the district, consistent with public health guidance. Seconded by Ms. Brunell. Chair Collins asked for a vote. It was approved by a vote of 6-1-0. Ms. McDonough - motioned to change and insert This policy will remain linked to the CDC definition of "fully vaccinated" and may be amended should the CDC revise its definition. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. The motion was then amended to add: and shall be

renegotiated should that definition change. Chair Collins asked for a vote. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Ms. Sonneborn moved to remove in the sentence that says other contracted and consulting employees...Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair Collins amended to return everything that's been crossed off in the bottom of the document, remove everything that says student and make it individual. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote on the amended motion.

Chair Collins – no

Ms. McDonough – yes

Dr. McKenzie – no

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – no

Ms. Brunell – yes

It was approved by a vote of 4-3-0 (for the amendments put forth by Ms. McDonough).

Third Quarter FY22 Budget Update

Dr. Peter Gray gave a review - as of March 31st and embedded is the encumbrances for payroll. Dr. Gray explained what a balloon payment in the summer is. We make teacher payments up front in their last payroll in June.

Preliminary FY22 End of Year Projections

Dr. Gray gave a projection. We are projecting saving 1million dollars in salaries. There is a surplus of 2,216,314.00. This will be updated as of tomorrow sometime. Will have a good handle on how the year is ending.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Nolin provided an update on enrollment. There are no changes. Dr. Nolin reminded the Committee that each year we wait, and in the summer, we look at the move ins and move outs. There is typically a lot of movement in the summer. Dr. Nolin had provided a real estate assessment done by a local realtor and it shows the market has slowed down dramatically.

Enrollment Projections and Class Sizes for 22-23 School Year

Dr. Nolin reviewed projections and she would seek to solve all the issues surrounding the districting currently in place. The posting closes for the interim Principal at Johnson on June 20th. We are looking for a good commitment for that position. This will be a two-year interim position.

Review Goal 2, 3 Deliverables

Dr. Nolin reviewed the deliverables and the process. What were the objective goals and action steps? Was making a year of growths, expected? Her evaluation memo lists some of the achievements and she looks forward to their feedback. A big accomplishment was a workshop conducted to other districts - like the feedback from them how it made an impact on their return to normal. Maybe just high level. deliverables.

Future Meeting Dates/Agenda Items

A discussion ensued regarding member's calendars and schedules. Who would be available to review all the deliverables.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of May 2, 2022

Chair Collins called for a vote. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Subcommittee/Liaison Updates

Ms. Gorseth gave an update via a letter from SEPAC, that they have restarted their autism support group. They plan on continuing going forward. There will be a Policy subcommittee meeting on Thursday from 1pm-2:30pm.

Representative Updates/Concerns

Mr. Jefferson Wood explained that it's been a long and difficult year and any somber reflection on that isn't necessary. The hardships the year has brought. Was a rough year and it took its toll on individuals and a district. Ratification - process was satisfying and rewarding for all of us involved. A good example for the way we do business in Natick despite the fact there are differences. Even though he made strong comments earlier in the year, everyone was able to put those aside to overcome the difficulties.

At approximately, 9:33pm, Dr. Fuxman moved to adjourn. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Chair Collins called for vote: It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin

Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Attest: _____

Rose McDermott
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda and materials used at this meeting:

Superintendent's Presentation

School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of May 2, 2022

Policy AC

Strategic Plan Goals

FY22 Budget Update

Preliminary FY22 End of Year Projections

Enrollment Reports

Middle School Class Sizes