

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 23, 2015*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, March 23, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall. Chair Mistrot called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Campbell, Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, David Margil, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed

Anne Blanchard arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Others present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	Liam Hurley	Director of Finance
	Timothy Luff	Director of Student Services
	Susan Haverstick	Teacher Representative
	Sammy Ferrera	Student Representative
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary

Approval of Statement of Interest for Kennedy Middle School

Mr. Hurley requested approval from School Committee for submission of a third Statement of Interest to the MSBA for a Kennedy Middle School project. He provided the School Committee with a copy of a resolution that would be submitted indicating the intentions for a feasibility study for the renovation or replacement of Kennedy Middle School. This also requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen which he will also be addressing this evening. It reads as follows:

FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 23, 2015, prior to the closing date, the School Committee of the Town of Natick, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA by no later than April 10, 2015 for consideration in FY'15 for the Kennedy Middle School located at 165 Mill Street, Natick, MA. which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future; priority # 2, elimination of existing severe overcrowding; priority # 4, prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollment; priority # 5, replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility and priority # 7, replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Natick to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the resolution outlined above. Mr. Coburn seconded. It was unanimously approved by majority vote of six members. Ms. Blanchard abstained as she had just arrived.

Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS DECA Nationals

Mr. Michael Russo, Natick High School Teacher, requested the School Committee's approval for Natick High School Students in the Distributed Education Clubs of America (DECA) to travel to Orlando, FL on April 25 to 29, 2015 to participate in the DECA International Career Development Conference. Mr. Coburn moved to approve this trip. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved. Ms. Reed asked if financial assistance is available for those that can't afford to attend. Mr. Russo indicated that DECA does provide some financial assistance and opportunities are available for fundraising. A Go Fund Me page has been set up for donations at: <http://www.gofundme.com/NatickDECA>

Public Speak

Chair Mistrot asked if anyone came forward for Public Speak. Mr. Richard Sidney came forward and apologized for the tone of his statements at the last meeting pertaining to the budget process. He felt he could have made his points come across in a different manner. It was out of character for him - he will do better next time.

Recognition of David Margil - School Committee Member Since 2008

Members of the School Committee recognized Mr. David Margil for his service on the Natick School Committee since September 2008. All members offered individual praise for Mr. Margil's dedication, diplomacy, and integrity continually shown during his over six and half years of service. Mr. Coburn, on behalf of the Committee, presented Mr. Margil with two books, which will be donated to the Morse Library in his name, as well as personal gift of a Natick Public School blanket. Mr. Margil stated that he is truly honored and thankful to have worked with all of them. He also extended thanks to the townspeople for allowing him to serve. He provided a quote from Benjamin Franklin, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Introduction to Rasheedah Clayton, METCO Director

Dr. Sanchioni introduced Rasheedah Clayton, the newly appointed METCO Director who has been on the job here in Natick for approximately 1 month. Ms. Clayton stated that she is extremely excited to work here in Natick. She has had several meetings with the faculty, administration, parents, students and community. She is in the process of getting 12 seniors ready to graduate and looking at new students to enter in the fall. She is looking into opportunities for METCO students to be involved here in Natick activities, for community service and to establish a program for host families. School Committee members welcomed Ms. Clayton to Natick and commented that they have already seen the positive impact that she has started to make. Dr. Nolin stated that Ms. Clayton will be back in the fall to present her formal entry plan.

Update from Tracy Sockalosky - Poland Trip

Ms. Tracy Sockalosky, grade seven Social Studies teacher at Wilson Middle School, came before the School Committee to share her experience during a professional development opportunity in Poland in January, the focus of which was the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Ms. Sockalosky was chosen as one of 25 applicants worldwide by the Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual

History and Education and Discovery Education. Ms. Sockalosky has a long-held interest in, has taught and currently teaches about the Holocaust so was excited to gain first-hand knowledge on this trip. She attended workshops about the historical landscape of Poland before, during and after the Holocaust and visited historic sites, including Auschwitz. She also had an opportunity to meet and speak to Holocaust survivors. She said the experience was humbling and the impact of which continues to reveal itself to her as she continues to assess the trip even after her return.

Ms. Sockalosky spoke to how important this kind of professional development and on-site opportunities are for teachers and encourages the district to continue to provide impactful professional development for teachers and field trips for students as first-hand experience can augment classroom instruction so deeply. Members of the School Committee were very moved by her report and thanked her for sharing her experience. Ms. Sockalosky will provide the School Committee with a link to her photos.

Discussion on Canine Search

Chair Mistrot introduced the discussion on the canine search held this past Friday at Natick High School. She stated that the committee previously voted to support Dr. Sanchioni to use administrative discretion to conduct canine searches at Natick High School through the end of the 2014-2015 school year with a request for a future presentation on the activity to determine efficacy for future use. Chair Mistrot expressed that concerns have been raised that it was not communicated in the letter to parents that backpacks would be searched. Dr. Sanchioni reported that the search was flawless. It took 16 minutes to search part of the building and parking lot and no contraband was found. He sees this as a deterrent and only one part of the many things being done in the schools and community to prevent drug abuse. He reported that the handbook states that backpacks can be searched if there is reason to believe contraband is present and sees the latest canine search as adhering to the described protocol. Ms. Reed expressed her concern about the communication not being precise about searching backpacks as did Mr. Coburn. Mr. Campbell, as stated before, is very much opposed to canine searches. He too feels that it should have been communicated that backpacks and personal property would be searched. Mr. Campbell indicated that the student handbooks do not state that student belongings are subject to dog sniffing. If this practice is to continue, handbooks should be updated with this language. He would also like to see in writing the discipline consequences if a student refuses to leave the room and their belongings as ordered by the administration. Ms. Blanchard doesn't feel that the communication should be that detailed or the searches won't be an effective tool. A member of the public, Patty Campbell, came forward and stated that she disagrees with the policy but accepts it but feels that the communication to parents implied something different and was occurred was well beyond what they were told. She is sad that the kids had to be subjected to this – "the end doesn't justify the means". Chair Mistrot stated that more information will be added to future communications. Dr. Sanchioni stated that many districts do canine searches and provide no notification. He feels his actions are justified and it is his priority to keep our schools drug free.

Continued Discussion on FY'16 Budget

Dr. Sanchioni provided a presentation on the updated FY'16 budget appropriation in the amount of \$53,817,355. He recommended increasing the staffing request from 6.9 to 9.9 additional staff without increasing the previously approved \$53,817,355 appropriation request. The additional three staff would be funded from additional retirements that have been shared with the district as well as through additional expense reductions.

The three additional positions would be for a second KMS teacher to create a mini team in the eighth grade, a yet-to-be-designated NHS teacher, which will be decided when class schedules are completed to determine the greatest need, and an elementary teacher for the Brown School, which is anticipated to address a cohort in second grade with either 25 or 26 students in each of the four classes.

Should actual enrollments vary from what is currently projected, the administration will review real-time needs and adjust resources as necessary. Any required changes would be shared and discussed at a future School Committee meeting.

The 9.9 staffing requests are outlined as follows:

Classroom Teachers

Elementary

- 1.0 Grade 2 Teacher for Brown –

Middle School

- 2.0 Teachers at Kennedy (Additional 45 students)

High School

- 1.0 English Teachers (23 sections above 25)
- 1.0 TBD Possibly split among two disciplines

Pupil Services Staff

- 1.0 Special Education Teacher at Kennedy – Grade 8
- 1.0 Social Worker at NHS
- 0.5 English Language Learner Teacher at Kennedy
- 0.4 English Language Learner Teacher at NHS
- 1.0 Nurse split between Kennedy and Brown (Kennedy Ratio -1:660)

Other

- 1.0 NHS Dean for Instruction, Data and Student Initiatives
- 0.2 Increase World Language Teacher (Mandarin IV) **Funded from international student account**

The School Committee needs to cover \$150K as part of the overall appropriation request. There were concerns shared during the 3/16 BOS meeting about the need to increase or add additional NPS fees and a desire by two members to increase funding to NPS to eliminate the need for the fee changes. There was the caveat that additional funding would be used solely to eliminate or hold fees constant and that NPS would not fund additional positions should the BOS secure additional funding over and above the currently articulated shortfall strategy. Given that the BOS have not formally made an offer to provide additional funding, members of the School Committee did not feel that they could consider eliminating the fee discussion as part of the budget appropriation request strategy.

As part of the appropriation request, an increase in the athletic fees from \$150 to \$225, an increase in hockey fees from \$150 to \$400, and the creation of a \$200 student-parking fee at NHS are being considered to help support the NPS budget.

There was also discussion about NPS non-rep salary increases that resulted from the shortfall strategy discussion at the 3/16 BOS meeting as articulated by Jeff Towne, Deputy Town Administrator/Finance. In each of four possible shortfall funding strategies, the municipal side showed a \$270K “savings” if both union and non-rep salary increases were reduced from initial expectations. Martha White, Town Administrator, stipulated that she would consider this option if NPS was willing to limit non-rep salary increases to 1% versus 2% as the NPS unions would be receiving for FY16. There was discussion of limiting the NPS non-rep increases to 1%; however, Jeff Towne joined the School Committee meeting to update the committee about decisions made during tonight’s BOS meeting at which there was no discussion for identifying additional funding to eliminate the need for the \$150K in increased NPS fee revenue as well as the \$270K in municipal

salary “savings” was not pursued making additional School Committee deliberation of either option unnecessary.

Mr. Coburn moved that the approved School Committee’s FY’16 budget appropriation request (\$53,817,355) now include the additional 3.0 positions described this evening to include a total of 9.9 positions with the funding for the last position added, most likely a second grade teacher at Brown School, to be determined by the administration with expense cuts in four or five areas including the non rep salary increases. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Coburn also requested that administration return a recommendation for increased fees for members' consideration at the meeting of April 6, which may include use of a revolving account, which could alter the fee strategy as currently articulated.

Reaffirm Vote to Name Memorial Field 1 the James L. Lavezzo Memorial Field

Mr. Andy Meyer and Mr. Paul Adams came before the School Committee again to seek their formal approval to name the Memorial Elementary School Field Number 1 in memory of James Lavezzo, dear friend and cherished member of the men’s softball league and former school employee for many years to be called the James L. Lavezzo Memorial Field. This was informally approved by the School Committee at their meeting of February 10, which allowed for a period of time to receive any public feedback. Today, the School Committee did receive an email from a member in the community who was under the belief that the field was already named after a Mr. Marso. Mr. Meyer did look into this and found that a small plaque has been placed on the backstop fence in memory of Johnny Marso but that no official field dedication had formally been done. He indicated that they have no objection to having the plaque remain on the backstop, which honors Mr. Marso. Mr. Coburn concurred and doesn’t believe that any formal naming of the field was done in the past and does not see this as a conflict. Mr. Margil moved to reaffirm the School Committee’s approval to name Memorial Elementary School Field Number 1 as the “James L. Lavezzo Memorial Field”. Ms. Reed seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Mr. Meyer stated that they will come to a future meeting with their ideas for a marker. An unveiling of the marker and celebration will take place at some point in the future. He reported that they have already received an outpouring of support on an informal basis. Mr. Paul Adams has set up a charitable donation fund with the Middlesex Savings Bank where donations, large or small, may sent to his attention to:

The James Lavezzo Memorial Field
c/o Paul J. Adams
Middlesex Savings Bank
6 Main Street – MO2-1
Natick, MA 01760

School Committee Endorsement of Bus Subsidy Spring Warrant Article #18

Dr. Sanchioni requested the School Committee’s endorsement to submit Article #18 Bus Subsidy Warrant Article for Spring Town Meeting. The School Bus Transportation Subsidy will continue the practice of providing funds to help offset the cost of regular school bus transportation in Natick. The purpose of the subsidy is to keep the bus transportation fee an affordable and attractive option for families. The recommendation for FY16 for the School Bus Transportation Subsidy is \$371,573 which is a 3% increase from

the FY15 appropriated amount. Mr. Campbell moved to approve the School Committee's endorsement to submit this warrant article. Ms. Reed seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Natick Historical Society's request to hang NHS Historic Panel copies at Bacon Free Library

Ms. Reed reported that she has received a request from the Board and staff members of the Natick Historical Society requesting permission to create reproductions of the series of historical panels which are located in the corridor of Natick High School. They would like to reproduce these panels, at their expense, to be hung on the walls of the double stairwell in the Bacon Free Library which leads to the Historical Museum. The series was created with the assistance of staff and researchers from the Historical Society. Mr. Campbell moved for approval to grant permission for the Natick Historical Society to reproduce these panels. Mr. Coburn seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Donation

Approval of School Committee Minutes - February 10, 2015

Approval of School Committee Minutes - February 23, 2015

Declassification of Executive Session Minutes

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the following:

- **Donation**

<u>Source/Donation</u>	<u>Amount/Value</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Alliance Francaise	\$400.00	Grant to offset cost of subscription to YABLA

- **School Committee Minutes of February 10, 2015**
- **School Committee Minutes of February 23, 2015**
- **Declassification of the following Executive Session Minutes:**

September 15, 2011	April 1, 2013	November 4, 2013
January 28, 2012	April 22, 2013	November 18, 2013
January 31, 2012	May 6, 2013	January 13, 2014
February 6, 2012	June 3, 2013	March 3, 2014
May 7, 2012	June 17, 2013	May 19, 2014
August 13, 2012	July 8, 2013	October 15, 2014
December 3, 2012	August 26, 2013	November 3, 2014
February 25, 2013	September 9, 2013	
March 18, 2013	September 23, 2013	

Mr. Coburn seconded. These items were unanimously approved. Mr. Coburn will be requesting the School Committee to reapprove the Executive Session minutes of March 21, 2011 as he wishes to amend them.

At 10:35 p.m., Mr. Margil requested an Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation - Corey Spaulding vs. Natick Public Schools in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) of the

Massachusetts General Laws. Mr. Coburn seconded. By roll call vote all members were in favor of entering Executive Session for this purpose.

Chair Mistrot indicated that the School Committee would not be returning to open session.

Attest: _____

Peter Sanchioni, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Secretary to the School Committee

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided via Novus Agenda

Out of State Travel Request - NHS DECA Nationals

MSBA Statement of Interest for Kennedy Middle School

Information pertaining to Bus Subsidy Spring Warrant Article #18

Request from Natick Historical Society's to hang NHS Historic Panel copies at Bacon Free Library.

Request to approve donation

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FY'16 Revised Budget Presentation

Information on Fees

Handouts

Projected Enrollments for 2015-2016