

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 1, 2015*

The School Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, July 1, 2015 at 6:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall. Chair Mistrot called the regular meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. following an Executive Session in the Training Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall.

Members Present: Anne Blanchard, Tom Campbell, Paul Laurent, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed, Lisa Tabenkin

Dirk Coburn joined the meeting in progress at 6:25 p.m.

Others present: Peter Sanchioni Superintendent of Schools
Anna Nolin Assistant Superintendent

At 6:50 p.m., Lisa Tabenkin had to leave the meeting.

Public Speak

Ms. Katie Joyce, Natick parent and Town Meeting member expressed her concerns for kindergarten classes at Ben-Hem with 26 students. She is hopeful that the situation may be remedied and anticipates that the administration will be creative to address the large class sizes. Knowing that adding an additional classroom at Ben-Hem is a non-starter, perhaps additional support could be provided. Chair Mistrot and Dr. Sanchioni stated that the numbers are being monitored. Any new kindergarten registrations will be districted to Brown. If a class hits 26, additional support will be provided by the KEIPS.

1:1 Laptop Sustainability Update

Dr. Sanchioini provided an update to the 1:1 Laptop Sustainability Program for Natick High School. Approximately 100 parents chose to purchase the MacBook Air through the Voluntary Purchase Plan offered in June. Given feedback from School Committee members, through a parent forum held before the end of the school year, and through faculty feedback, the administration has restructured the Laptop Sustainability Program as outlined below.

Natick High School Current Reality

- Current Device – White MacBook
- For 2015 – 2016, devices will be entering their 4th or 5th year of service
- In 2014 - 2015 we have added 200 new devices to address rising enrollment and the need for loaners; therefore, some laptops are newer and only two years old
- For 2015 – 2016, we will reissue the existing inventory of white MacBooks as well as the new MacBook Air laptops purchased through the Parent Participation Option (100).

NHS Sustainability Plan

- During 2015 – 2016, we will work with faculty to address any curriculum or integration issues required by the introduction of the new Chromebook device.

- Starting in the fall of 2016, NPS will issue a new 13-inch Chromebook to each student in the incoming freshmen class, which will be the device they will use for their four years at NHS.
- In each subsequent year, the freshmen class will be provided a new Chromebook or appropriate substitute given the ever-changing nature of technology integration
- Annually, the freshmen class Chromebooks will be purchased utilizing operating budget funds.
- For 2016 -2017, Grade 10-12 will continue using the existing white MacBook inventory. Parents will continue to have the option to purchase a MacBook Air.
- Staff will be given the option to use either a Chromebook or a MacBook Air.
- NPS will determine the best use of the newly created and funded 1:1 Technology Stabilization Fund to support the MacBook inventory that will remain in place but be phased out over the next four years.

MAC Voluntary Program

- Benefits of participating in the new voluntary program:
 - **Students Keep Laptops Year Round:** As long as payments are made (No need to collect them over the summer.)
 - **No Annual Fee**

Advantages of Mac Air Device Choice

- **New MacBook Air:** Model MD760LL/B (Exact model is subject to change based on availability) 13” Screen, 4 GB RAM and 128 GB SSD and 1 year manufacturer warranty. (Same laptop used in grade 8 classrooms during 2014 – 2015 school year)
- **Accidental Insurance Coverage (Unlimited Incidents):** This includes accidental damage such as drops, cracked screens, liquid spills, liquid submersion, theft, fire/flood damage, vandalism, natural disasters and power surge due to lighting. A \$200 deductible will be collected for each incident.
- **Technical Support & Repair Work:** Is still available in school or at the Apple Store. All laptops come with a 1 year manufacturer warranty. All warranty repairs are done at no charge by our on-site certified technicians. Accidental damage will be repaired after payment of \$200 deductible.
- **GPS Tracking of Laptop:** Families will be provided instructions to implement Apple iCloud to protect against theft or aide with locating a lost device. This is free and instructions available on our website.
- **Software Included:** OSX, Apple IWork Suite (Keynote, Pages and Numbers), iLife Suite (iPhoto, iMovie, Garage Band) and Google Apps for Education.
- **Full Administrative Rights:** This will be provided to students and/or parents to manage laptops and install software independent of the software provided by NPS. The Natick Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) remains in force at all times:
<http://www.natickps.org/departments/technology/laptopprogram/acceptableuse.cfm>
- **Parental Controls:** Parents can implement “Parental Controls” to place restrictions on laptop use as they see fit.

Dr. Sanchioni and Dr. Nolin responded to questions from Committee members. Dr. Sanchioni and Dr. Nolin made assurances that Chromebooks will support the learning environment and that they are not an inferior product. The product has been vetted and would not be offered if it was not a good value. Development of Cloud computing and storage has developed to a point where the Chromebook is a fully viable option for NHS, which had not been the case in prior years but technology develops so quickly that it is now.

Communication about these changes will be sent to parents.

FY'17 & FY'18 Budget Discussion and Approval of Funding Request

Dr. Sanchioni provided the School Committee with the FY'17 & FY'18 budget forecasts, which has been requested by the Financial Planning Committee (FPC). FPC has made the request for a more solidified budget projection so that they may quantify the overall needs of Natick, make a fair assessment of the municipal 3-year structural deficit, and create recommendations for remediation based upon the current forecasts.

Dr. Sanchioni provided a document which included the following:

- FY 17 - Level Service Plus Budget; Level Service Budget and Level Staff Budget
- Staffing list for FY 17 showing positions being added for a Level Service Budget and a Level Service Plus Budget
- FY 18 - Level Service Plus Budget; Level Service Budget and Level Staff Budget
- Staffing list for FY 18 showing positions being added for a Level Service Budget and a Level Service Plus Budget
- FY17 and 18 New Curriculum and Equipment Expense
- FY17 Operating Expense Increase Explanation

The Level STAFF forecast does not allow for any new staff, which will denigrate the services provided to students due increased class sizes resulting from continued, projected, enrollment growth of 100 new students annually.

The Level SERVICE forecast adds additional staff to address rising population but does not add desired programming enhancements or provide enough staff to reduce larger class sizes.

The Level Service Plus forecast allow NPS to add strategic positions.

A discussion continued where School Committee members and members in the audience (Katie Joyce, Dave Mangan & Dennis Barr) felt the need to add an additional column that would address the need to provide funding and staff to move the school system from “good to great” and to provide for previous-year requests that had been made but not funded.

There was lengthy discussion about the title of the column headings as it was felt that each title should be more illustrative/descriptive of the impact from funding scenario, such as Regression Budget, Stand Still Budget, Recover Budget, Improvement Budget.

Committee members expressed their concerns with the Level Staff Budget and thought it should be removed from the spreadsheet so it was not perceived by FPC as a credible option; however, Chair Mistrot suggested it should remain as an example of why it was not a legitimate funding request to show what it does not provide.

Mr. Coburn moved to approve that the budget document provided and outlined this evening be forwarded to the Financial Planning Committee, with the addition of new column headings and footnoted descriptions (to be determined by the administration), and to add a column that budgets for strategic improvement in the district but have never been put forth due to fiscal restraint. He further moved that the School Committee endorse the Level Service Plus Budget (Restorative) as the recommended budget scenario. Ms. Reed seconded. It was approved by the six members remaining. Ms. Tabenkin had left the meeting at 6:50 pm due to a family commitment.

Approval of Adjustment to 2015-2016 School Calendar

Dr. Sanchioni requested that the School Committee approve an adjustment to the approved 2015-2016 school calendar due to a conflict with PARCC testing. He wishes to change the early release day of May 17, 2016 to May 24, 2016. Ms. Blanchard moved to approve this change. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Non-Rep Salary Adjustments

Dr. Sanchioni requested that the School Committee approve the salary adjustments for non-rep employees, specifically, the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Director of the Fitness Center as outlined in Executive Session earlier this evening. Both increases are moderate and due to increased responsibilities. Ms. Blanchard moved to approve these increases as outlined. Mr. Campbell seconded. It was unanimously approved.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Coburn moved to adjourn. Mr. Campbell seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Attest: _____

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

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided via NovusAgenda

Update on FY'17 & FY'18 Projected Budget

Adjustment to 2015-2016 Calendar

Presentation on Update to 1:1 Laptop Sustainability Plan