

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 9, 2016*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, 3rd Floor Town Hall. At 7:15 p.m., Chair Mistrot called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, Dave Mangan, Julie McDonough, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed,

Members Absent: Lisa Tabenkin

Others Present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Liam Hurley	Director of Finance
	Mark Baranoff	Teacher Representative
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary
	Will Cuzzo	Student Representative
	Sarah Strand	Student Representative

Public Speak

None.

Sleep Documentary - NHS Student Erin Cummins

Erin Cummins, NHS Student, was invited to the School Committee to be recognized for being nominated for a People's Choice Award for her work in developing a sleep documentary which was entered into a film competition with the American Sleep Medicine Foundation (ASMF). Her film focused on insomnia in teenagers and how it affects student learning. Erin's video was played for the Committee. Erin announced that she did win the competition! Members of the School Committee and audience congratulated Erin for her outstanding work.

Presentation of Super Librarian Award to Amy Bloom

Amy Bloom, Wilson Middle School Librarian, was recognized for receiving the 2016 M.S.L.A. (Massachusetts Super Librarian Accolade from The Massachusetts School Library Association. This award recognizes a school librarian who shows excellence in promoting student learning through an exemplary school library program. The Massachusetts School Library Association works to ensure every school has a school library program that is fully integrated at all grade levels across the curriculum and has a significant and measurable impact on student achievement. Members of the Administration and School Committee congratulated Ms. Bloom on this achievement. Ms. Mistrot also thanked Ms. Bloom for her social/emotional outreach through the WMS library, which she makes a wonderful place for kids to spend time. Ms. Bloom thanked administration for their support of her ideas and programming as well as

extended her appreciation for the WMS Library Assistant, Jeanne Holihan, with whom she works closely and relies upon daily.

Approval of Social Media Policy

Ms. Marianne Davis provided the School Committee with a draft Social Media Policy for the Committee's approval. This policy was reviewed at the School Committee meeting of April 5, 2016. This policy is being implemented to protect staff, students and the district. She read the following preamble: *"The Natick Public Schools recognizes the proliferation and, in some instances, usefulness, of online conversation between employees and students and/or their parents or guardians. However, due to the nature of social media sites, there exists a risk that, without care and planning, the lines between one's professional life and personal life will be blurred. Staff should always be mindful of how they present themselves to the world, online and otherwise. If an employee "friend requests" a student on Facebook, follows a student's "Twitter" account, regularly engage in email "chat" with a student, exchanges text messages with students or engages in other electronic communication, the school district is concerned, and the educator should be concerned, that such activity may disrupt the learning environment by undermining the educator's authority to maintain discipline, encourage inappropriate behaviors, including but not limited to cyber-bullying, and compromise the educator's ability to remain truly objective with his or her students."*

Ms. Davis indicated that the policy still requires acceptance by the EAN. Mr. Coburn moved to approve this policy pending any adjustments that may be made from the bargaining units. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Meal Charge Student Account Balance Policy

Mr. Hurley and Kristen Gentili, Director of Food Service (Aramark) came before the School Committee to present a draft policy titled Meal Charge Student Account Balance Policy. This is a first reading and no action is expected during this meeting. They are asking School Committee for feedback.

Mr. Hurley reported that any uncollected food service debt must be covered by the school operating budget and the end of each fiscal year. In FY15, the school department had to absorb approximately \$23,000 to cover this uncollected debt. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education strongly recommend that districts adopt such policies.

This policy will establish guidelines for students with a negative balance to purchase food and to establish a clear and consistent approach to meal account procedures. They feel a clear policy and enforcement of that policy is imperative to collect as much revenue as possible from students and families that owe to avoid having to use operating funds to cover outstanding debt. Phone calls, letter and emails continue to go out to families with account balance information.

Mr. Hurley stated that they will be sensitive to families in need and strongly encourage any family in need to apply for the Free and Reduced lunch program.

School Committee members offered some suggested language which will be incorporated into a new draft which will be brought back to the School Committee at its next meeting for approval.

Natick Public Schools Water Testing - Jim Kane

Dr. Sanchioni and Jim Kane, Director of Facilities updated the School Committee on the recent status of the water issues at our schools. Recent water testing was initiated by the School Department revealed that water from some faucets/drinking fountains tested above allowable levels for copper and/or lead at specific Natick schools. The School Department put immediate remediations in place by instituting flushing protocols recommended by Universal Environmental Consultants; labeled many faucets as non-drinking water sources; and several water filtration bubblers have been installed. Another set of water tests were conducted with results due back within the next ten days. Continued testing for the remainder of this school year will be conducted and an appropriate testing cycle for the next school year will be put in place. Mr. Kane shared a document displaying the results of the initial testing followed by results achieved after safety protocols were put in place. They were commended for being proactive in the matter and for communicating the situation to the community.

A specifically designed forum to answer questions from community members will be held on Wednesday, May 11th in the Wilson Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.

Health Curriculum Review

Dr. Nolin provided the School Committee with a comprehensive report of the Health Curriculum Audit. Dr. Nolin and Robert Anniballi provided an overview of the audit. Below is the Executive Summary provided:

Executive Summary

The Health Audit Committee was comprised of all health curriculum stakeholder/decision-makers in our district related to health curriculum. As a group dominated by health educators, the group wants to be clear that they will always recommend adding additional years of health to the program of studies and want to advocate for more and more health education. However, as educators of the “whole child,” they realize that students also need balanced exploratory courses in their schedules so they may identify their interests and, possibly, their future careers.

However, the group turned to the standards and measurement of coverage to determine if additional years or terms of health are needed to adequately cover expected information. This report documents the discussions and overviews of the audit, participant feedback, ideas, criticism and proposals and a rank ordered list of ideas for implementation. Please note that the solution ranking is impacted by many factors including cost, feasibility, and commitment to the proposed idea, in addition to its importance to the group. As health educators, implementing more years of health education is clearly of the utmost importance to them. This report seeks to balance the importance with other competing forces and make the best decision for curriculum implementation for the students of Natick and their overall health and wellness.

Dr. Nolin’s Assessment and Recommendation

“In the middle school curriculum, it is clear that there exists overlap and repetition of alcohol and sexuality education topics which are revisited in grade 11 and in a 9th grade drop in unit in fitness classes. Personal coaching in alcohol education, use and prevention is also covered in the 7th and 9th grade SBIRT work via the nurses. Student survey results from the SBIRT experiences to date indicate that students feel the sessions to be weighty, personalized and effective in getting them to think and talk to someone about alcohol and their own moods, risk habits. Research conducted on the trends in health education (Dr. Nolin contacting the companies who create

“research-based” health curricula) indicate that the research points toward leadership education and developing student character/resiliency skills are more favorable for the middle school age level and that teaching the content on drug and alcohol’s effects on the body actually may work counter to our mission of keeping kids from being curious about the substances and trying them. The DARE program formerly run nationally by police officers was ended for this same reason. Our health curriculum at the middle school is still largely about the substances, dangers etc. and their impact on the body and decision-making. Revision to keep in line with research would be best.

The audit also revealed that Wilson School has a year less of health due to staffing numbers at this time and still covers the same standards as the Kennedy school. The Wilson students do not get an additional year of the repeated standards on sexuality and alcohol. While repeating curriculum is not bad for students, it does speak to “give” in the schedule as it exists to realign the middle school schedule into three years of health. Dr. Nolin recommends keeping a puberty day event in grade 5, jointly taught by health, nurse and fitness staff and moving formal health classes to grades 6, 7 and 8 at both schools. She also recommends hiring an additional health teacher/PE teacher for each middle and high school department to reduce class sizes.

Finally, at the middle level, given the pending specials schedule restructuring, and the results of an audit of the effectiveness of our K-8 curricula (revealed through examination of our District Determined Measures Data DDMs in guidance over two years) indicates that the K-4 curriculum is so strong that the 5-8 curriculum needs to be revisited. Many of the topics in the current guidance curriculum in 5-8 overlap with health, the school resource officer (SRO) education modules and media literacy class at Wilson. To unify the curricula and strengthen the social/emotional/health education program in total, it is proposed the the SRO, health teachers and guidance staff become a PLC in rewriting the middle school health curriculum and through scheduled health classes and designated guidance classroom sessions (pushed into flex time and team time with principal oversight) in 16-17 for implementation with the new middle school schedule in 17-18. Both middle school principals, guidance staff and SRO have agreed that this collaboration makes sense and creates a comprehensive team-based approach to health education for our students.

Dr. Nolin agrees that additional instruction in dating violence and relationship education is needed as well as additional days on the opioid crisis and trends. Some of these days can be achieved by reducing assessments or adding the education through community directed studies or community seminar sessions. Finally, Dr. Nolin feels that an exploration of moving the health class to 10th grade makes sense, but the MCAS prep/support period need at that grade level must be explored and addressed in order to determine if the interventions in grades 9 and 10 can be eliminated and health experiences are layered in instead. The exploration of the MCAS block dovetails with work that Principal Harrigan, Dr. Nolin and Mr. Luff will be taking up anyway as part of the district’s coordinated RTI (Response to Intervention) program. This RTI block which will become a future part of the NHS schedule may allow the system to find a way to add additional health modules (Dr. Nolin does not recommend full semester deployment to address the missing topics/needed coverage at this time). Dr. Nolin recommends adding Health staff to NHS and in doing so offering 10th and 11th grade health options so students have two years to take the course. If the RTI block frees up enough space in subsequent years, adding additional mandatory health can be explored, but 1/4 semester courses should be implemented within the RTI block (6 week cycles) in keeping with research on the amount of instruction needed for robust but not overkill intervention. The additional health topics could be covered in these rotations. Scheduling within an RTI block will need to be addressed as next year’s goal at NHS anyway, and these health recommendations will be folded into that work.

Principal Harrigan and Dr. Nolin have also digested the new state substance use and concussion education regulations. In these regulations, direct and specific education on Opioids is required for high school students. In addition, specific education on concussions is also required. In working to meet this requirement, we will address the identified need from the high school health teachers (i.e. that they need more days to cover opioids than is currently allowed in the curriculum).

It should be noted, however, that moving grades of health to different years at NHS does impact course trajectories and offerings—mixing up when students can take certain courses—and these moves cannot be taken lightly as students have planned course trajectories based on previously published course of study pathways. Hiring additional health teachers for NHS would allow for more sections of health to be taught—possibly allow sections of health to be taught in both 10th and 11th grades giving students more choice within the schedule about when to take courses. The NHS guidance staff worries about such moves as they take seriously the need to support students as they struggle to meet MCAS demands and also must keep their eyes on how many mandatory courses we expect from students in a realistic schedule while seeking to meet their emotional needs.”

Dr. Nolin and Mr. Anniballi responded to questions from Committee members. They thanked them for this comprehensive report.

Enrollment Update May 2, 2016

Dr. Sanchioni provided the School Committee with the May 2, 2016 enrollment numbers which have remained steady.

To Award Bid for Regular Bus Transportation

Mr. Hurley provided the School Committee with information pertaining to the recent bid held for regular bus transportation. He reported that in February, 2016, the Natick Public Schools entered into a Collective Purchasing Agreement with Needham and released an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for School Bus Transportation Services. The purpose of joining with Needham was to solicit more interested bidders to obtain favorable pricing by having a larger contract. The new contract will cover the period beginning July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019, with two optional extension years through June 30, 2021. Both districts will execute a separate contract with the successful bidder. He reported that only one bid was received from Michael J. Connolly & Sons, Inc. Connolly’s bid was determined to be both responsive and responsible. Mr. Hurley provided a summary of the bid results and provided daily rate comparables gathered from other communities. He reported that the daily bus rate for FY17 was budgeted to be \$335 per bus and the negotiated final bid is \$353 per diem, which is \$71,280 over our FY17 approved budget. This increase is due to increased expense for the bus company as result of a new sick law. Mr. Hurley did review comparable contracts and found the cost to be competitive.

He stated that a possible solution to the budget gap is to use funds provided within the budget should the Full Day Kindergarten grant be funded from the state, which now appears more likely. Should the grant be funded, the District would receive approximately \$150,000. These funds would pay salaries for the

Kindergarten paraprofessionals, which would create flexibility to absorb the overage caused by the unforeseen increase in the bus contract.

Mr. Hurley recommended that the School Committee vote to award the contract to Michael J. Connolly & Sons, Inc., for the period beginning July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019 with two optional extension years through June 30, 2021. Connolly has been providing bus service to Natick Public Schools for more than 20 years and has been a trusted and reliable vendor over the course of this long relationship. Mr. Laurent moved for approval to award the bid for regular bus transportation to Michael J. Connolly & Sons, Inc. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval to Submit a Resolution for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations

At the School Committee meeting of April 25, Ms. Reed, as the School Committee's representative to the TEC Cooperative, shared a request from the Suburban Coalition asking districts to reach out to Legislators to express the need to support a plan that improves the State's financial commitment to public education, and specifically funds the recommendations from the Foundation Budget Review Commission. The Suburban Coalition currently has the support of over 135 Boards of Selectmen, City Councils, School Committees and Finance Committees for their Chapter 70 Funding Resolution.

The following resolution was presented for the Committee's consideration:

Resolution Calling for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations

Whereas the Massachusetts Foundation Budget Review Commission identified two areas (employee health insurance and special education) where the Massachusetts Foundation Budget significantly understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs;

Whereas this underfunding means the cost of providing a quality education has increasingly been borne by local communities, most often at the expense of other vital municipal operations;

Whereas investing in education today leads to higher incomes, and thus less investment in police, prisons, subsidized health care, low income housing, welfare, etc. in the future;

Whereas state and local economies are most effectively strengthened "by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers."

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Natick School Committee calls on the Massachusetts Legislature and the Governor of Massachusetts to fully fund and adopt the recommendations of the Foundation Budget Review Commission in the immediate future.

Ms. Reed requested that the School Committee approve a resolution at its next meeting. This item will be added to the agenda of May 9, 2016.

Ms. Reed moved to approve the submission of this resolution. Mr. Coburn seconded. It was unanimously approved. Chair Mistrot will sign and send this resolution. She will also reach out to Mr. Jennett, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, to request their support for the resolution.

Approval of Donation

Mr. Hurley requested the School Committee's approval of the following donation:

<u>Source/Donation</u>	<u>Amount/Value</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Natick School Committee	\$120	NHS Library in Honor of Tom Campbell

Mr. Laurent moved to approve this donation with gratitude. Mr. Coburn seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2016-2017

The following schedule of meetings for 2016-2017 school year was presented to the School Committee for their approval:

August	Monday	August	29
September	Monday	September	12
	Monday	September	26
October	Monday	October	17
November	Monday	November	7
	Monday	November	21
December	Monday	December	5
	Monday	December	19
<u>2017</u>			
January	Monday	January	9
	Monday	January	23
February	Monday	February	6
	Monday	February	27
March	Monday	March	6
	Monday	March	20

April	Monday	April	3 – Reorganization Meeting
	Monday	April	24
May	Monday	May	8
	Monday	May	22
June	Monday	June	5
	Monday	June	19

Mr. Laurent moved to approve this meeting schedule. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

At 9:35 p.m., Mr. Laurent moved to adjourn. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Attest: _____

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

Sharon Reilly
 Recording Secretary

An archived, Video On Demand taping of this meeting can be found on the Natick Pegasus website at <http://www.natickpegasus.org/vod.html>. If you have trouble finding or viewing the taping, please contact Natick Pegasus directly.

Documents provided in Novus Agenda

- Draft Social Media Policy
- Draft School Committee Meeting Calendar for 2016-2017
- Draft Resolution for Full Funding of the Foundation Budget Review Commission's Recommendations
- Letter for Donation Approval
- Request to Award Bid for Regular Bus Transportation
- Sleep Documentary - NHS Student Erin Cummins
- Meal Charge Student Account Balance Draft Policy
- Health Curriculum Review Presentation

Correspondence/Information:

Enrollment Update May 2, 2016