

Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 7, 2016

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 7, 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: Paul Laurent, Dave Mangan, Julie McDonough, Amy Mistrot,
Firkins Reed, Lisa Tabenkin

Members Absent: Dirk Coburn

Others Present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Director of Finance
	Ratnakar Amarvardi	Teacher Representative
	Will Cuzzo	Student Representative
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary

Public Speak

Chair Mistrot asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. There was no one present who was not already at the meeting to present during the meeting.

Overview of The Education Cooperative (TEC) - Liz McGonagle, Executive Director

Ms. Liz McGonagle, Executive Director of The Education Cooperative, came before the School Committee to provide an overview of the TEC organization and highlighted the many programs which they offer. TEC was founded in 1968 and became an independent collaborative in 1980. Member towns include:

Canton	Hopkinton	Sherborn
Dedham	Medfield	Walpole
Dover	Millis	Wayland
Dover-Sherborn	Natick	Westwood
Framingham	Needham	
Holliston	Norwood	

“The Education Cooperative in partnership with its member Districts is a proactive, innovative, agile organization that anticipates and meets the collective needs of its learning centered members more effectively and efficiently than its members can do individually”

Member District Benefits Include:

Discounted Tuition Rates for Special Education Programs

Cooperative Purchasing
Professional Networking and Job Alike Groups
Innovative Programs and Services
Collaborative Grant Opportunities
Custom Professional Development and Consultation

Staff Benefits:

Low cost, high quality Professional Development
Licensure Programs
Teacher and Administrator Leadership
Networking and Job Alike Groups

Student Benefits:

High quality Special Education Programs and Services
College & Career Services - Internship Program
Online courses ->**TECCA** Commonwealth Virtual School

Ms. McGonagle responded to questions from the Committee. Committee members thanked Ms. McGonagle for the overview and for the fabulous programs offered by TEC for the students and staff.

Presentation on PISA Test - Rose Bertucci

Ms. Rose Bertucci provided an overview on how Natick High School students fared on the international OECD Test which is based on the PISA Test for Schools, an international student assessment tool used for benchmarking and school improvement. It provides analysis of the skills and creative application of knowledge of 15-year-old students in reading, math and science comparable to main PISA scales. It also provides information on how factors within and outside of school are linked to student performance. Questionnaires are part of the assessment which collects information on socio-economic background, attitudes and interests in reading, science and math, and the school learning environment.

Eighty students are randomly selected from the sophomore class. Seventy-seven of the eighty selected NHS students voluntarily participated in this test. Ms. Bertucci reported that Natick scored very well in all three content areas and was asked to present their Math results at the 3rd Annual Global Learning Network's national convention this past October in National Harbor, Maryland. Ms. Bertucci and Science Department Chair, Linda Weber, shared Natick's results with schools across the US and from different countries at this conference. The results are used to assess curriculum scope and sequences and to align high school work to career skills.

Presentation on SAT/ACT/AP - Karen Dalton Thomas

Ms. Karen Dalton Thomas, Natick High School Guidance Director, provided a comprehensive report on the SAT/ACT/AP 2016 scores. She provided information on the support services offered for college test preparation available to Natick students. While more students at Natick High School are taking both the SAT and ACT tests, Ms. Dalton-Thomas indicated that submission of these test results is becoming optional for many colleges, and in some cases they are not required at all as part of the application process.

Part of the information shared during the presentation was a list of colleges and universities the students in the class of 2016 are attending.

Ms. Dalton-Thomas emphasized that *“in addition to assisting students with college admissions testing, the Natick High School Guidance Department remains focused on enhancing the personal, social and academic experiences of the students that we are privileged to serve each day. Our goal is to enable students and their parents/guardians to navigate high school successfully. To that end, we remain committed to the positive welfare and academic progress of all students and anticipate that a graduate from Natick High has optimized their academic achievement and acquired a wealth of experiences that inspire future success.”*

Members of the School Committee thanked Ms. Dalton-Thomas and her department for the multiple supports they provide to the students.

FY'18 Budget Forecast

Dr. Sanchioni provided the School Committee with the first draft of the FY'18 budget: \$61,750,150, a 6.9% increase over FY'17. This budget includes 32.7 projected new positions with rationale for each position based upon enrollment, caseload, and compliance needs as well as several positions that are described as 21st-Century Growth. There was also a separate recap for major expense increase drivers.

The proposed but yet-to-be-approved budget will be presented to the Financial Planning Committee at the next meeting planned for 11/9.

Policy Revisions - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students & Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs

Mr. Luff provided two revised draft policies on for the Committee's review and approval: Drug and Alcohol Use by Students and Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs. The policies were required to be submitted to DESE by 10/28/16, which occurred by the deadline. However, School Committee approval is required after the deadline was met. Given the late hour of the topic in this meeting and future topics, these policies will be discussed and approved at the 11/21 meeting.

Staffing Update

Dr. Sanchioni provided the School Committee with the quarterly staffing update. The following positions have been added since the beginning of the school year

- 1 Grade 2 Teacher at Memorial School
- 2.7 positions for Applied Behavioral Analysis Technician and Board Certified Behavioral Analyst
- 2 KEIP Tutors for Brown School
- .5 Tutor at Ben-Hem
- High School Student Community Coach
- Business office receptionist

Mr. Luff stated that the cost for the 2.7 ABA & BCBA positions are covered by a cost shift of 2.9 paraprofessionals into the Medicaid budget.

Dr. Sanchioni stated that funding for the other positions are covered within the personnel line item due to lower than expected salaries for some of the new hires, unexpected retirements and forecasted lane changes that were not met.

Review Draft School Calendar for 2017-2018

Dr. Sanchioni provided the School Committee with a draft school calendar for 2017-2018. This calendar is very similar to that of the current school year. Dr. Sanchioni did share that there is some discussion about what day Veteran's Day will be observed by the state. For now, Veteran's Day is reflected on Friday, 11/10. If needed, he will return to have the calendar approved for a revision if needed.

Approval of 2017-2018 School Calendar

Mr. Laurent moved to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved. Ms. McDonough requested that the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education's list of Holiday Observances be attached to the calendar when it is published.

Update Procedure for Signing Warrants

Chair Mistrot discussed a new law which allows school committees to designate one of their members to sign bills, drafts, orders and payrolls of the school district. If a committee chooses not to designate one of its members, the process for paying bills is as set forth in MGL c. 41, section 56. That section states that the school committee must "approve" all bills and payrolls. The school committee must act as a body to vote approval, which must happen during a duly-posted open meeting. Chair Mistrot pointed out that the second option of approving payment as a body could become problematic, particularly over the summer when the Committee does not meet as regularly.

The law further requires that at the next scheduled meeting, a "record of such actions" must be presented to the rest of the committee and the public. If a committee votes to designate one of its members, it does not need to take a formal vote on any bills.

Ms. Mistrot suggested that if the committee is interested in the designee role, it would make sense to designate the chair as the chair is at Town Hall more regularly for a variety of meetings.

Mr. Laurent moved to approve that the Chair of the School Committee be the designated approver of the bill/payroll warrants. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Donation

Mr. Gray requested that the School Committee accept the following donation:

<u>Source/Donation</u>	<u>Amount/Value</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
Needham Bank	\$5000	Friends of Natick METCO

Mr. Mangan moved to approve the above donation. Ms. Reed seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Enrollment Update November 2016

The November enrollment numbers were provided under School Committee Correspondence. There will be more detailed discussion at the 11/21 meeting when the middle schools and high school enrollment numbers will be presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Laurent moved to approve the Minutes of August 29, September 12, September 26, 2016 and October 17, 2016 and the Executive Session Minutes of September 11, September 26 and October 17, 2016. Mr. Mangan seconded. They were unanimously approved.

PARCC/MCAS Presentation

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Presentation on PARCC/MCAS will take place at the meeting of November 21, 2016.

At 10:10 p.m., Ms. Tabenkin moved to adjourn the meeting. 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

Memorandum to Approve a Donation
Draft 2017-2018 School Calendar
School Committee Meeting Minutes for August 29, September 12, September 26, 2016 and October 17, 2016
Executive Session Minutes - September 11, September 26 and October 17, 2016
The Education Collaborative (TEC) PowerPoint Presentation
Presentation on SAT/ACT/AP
Presentation on PISA Test
Presentation on PARCC/MCAS
Staffing Update
FY'18 Budget Forecast Document
Draft Policy Revision - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
Draft Policy Revision - Teaching About Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs
Enrollment Update November 2016