

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 31, 2020*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020 at 6:00pm via a Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:05pm.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Henry Haugland, Shai Fuxman, Donna McKenzie, Matthew Brand, Cathi Collins, Haley Sonneborn

Others Present:

Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
Dr. Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Kirk Downing	Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative
Mr. John Gadson	Director of Facilities

Chair McDonough moved for approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session for this purpose:

1. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Director of Technology
2. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Ean Units, A, B and S

Mr. Brand seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for this purpose:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Mr. Brand – Yes
Ms. Collins - Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:00pm. The School Committee proceeded to a private virtual meeting to conduct this session.

At 7:04pm, the Committee returned to open session.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin had many announcements this evening. She stated there were a lot of questions about school schedules and she announced that they will be out next week through the portal. She reminded parents to set up their accounts and that we have just hired additional help for PowerSchool Support. If your child is in cohort B, they will begin school on the September 14th for 2 hours. This is for those attending live school (Hybrid). Parents should be receiving information in the upcoming blast from your principals about

K, 5th and 9th grade orientations. Please know that we are very excited. The school site has one stop shopping so the links take you to that website. The upcoming Parent Academy nights are specifically for hybrid learning models and Edgenuity. Please join us for those in person sessions. Today the USDA noted that the school lunch programs would continue to be free until 12/31/20. Which means snacks and lunch will be provided for free to all of our students. A huge relief. Dr. Nolin alerted everyone to a September 8, 2020 joint meeting with the Board of Health and possible Select Board at 5:30pm. We will be discussing thresholds, Mr. White's expectations and how we will communicate with families will be discussed. It is very exciting to return to school. We have tried to do everything we can to mitigate the safety concerns for our students. We will have training around our communications with you. As we head into opening school, the last remaining piece is Covid testing. Dr. Nolin will be coming out to the community to see if families would like testing on a regular basis and would families be willing to pay. We do not have a testing collaboration contract. She is aggressively pursuing one for Natick.

Public Speak

Due to the nature of a virtual meeting, the instructions from the Attorney General were to submit public remarks via email to Chair McDonough. Chair McDonough had not received any emails with remarks.

Overview of the MOU With Units A, B and S, Hybrid and Remote Schedules and Community, SEL and Relationship Time for All Learning Models

Dr. Nolin was happy to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding was ratified and voted in at 80%. The Memorandum was voted in during Executive Session and approved. Dr. Nolin went over and gave highlights. Mr. Jefferson Wood, EAN Co-President thanked her for highlighting the important changes. He also said as a group, they were very happy to have come to an agreement. Although there are still some concerns from staff, he thinks it speaks to professionalism and heroism. Dr. Nolin wanted to make sure to especially note that teachers created time to take care of backlog of evaluations and IEP meetings. Dr. Nolin commended Mr. Downing for heading this up to helping our teachers adapt to these new conditions. Mr. Downing thanked Grace Magley and Tracy Sokolosky.

Introduction of Leadership for the Natick Remote Learning Academy

Dr. Nolin Anna revealed that no matter what you've chosen for your child's learning, you are going to get the best of the best. We heard your feedback and your worries and have done what we think is best. Dr. Nolin has appointed three Administrators to lead the Natick Remote Learning Academy:

- Ms. Jordan Hoffman – K-5
- Mr. Dan Hauserman – 6th, 7th and 8th grade
- Mr. Jason Hoye – 9th – 12th grade

There will be parent meetings occurring on September 8th, 10th and 18th

ASAP Models and Space Update

Megan Cap-Renzi, ASAP Director gave an overview including costs and rising fees. The fee for town employees is \$80 per day. Like any other year, families can apply for financial assistance through the business office. **ACTION ITEM: ASAP Program Approval:** Mr. Brand motioned to approve the ASAP program as described including the increase of fees. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Mr. Brand – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Athletics Reopening Discussion

Dr. Nolin gave a brief update and reviewed the Joint Guidance on Modified Sports Seasons for the School Year 2020-21 from the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As the Commonwealth of Massachusetts begins the process of opening schools, we must also look at the possibility of providing athletic experiences for our students. The School Committee ensued into a very long discussion regarding the start of sports and the safety of it.

Budget Update - Covid Related Expenses

Dr. Nolin has been sending out grant applications non-stop. All of the programs require many people to run effectively. Our resources are very stressed. The building and learning modifications. All of the costs were summarized in a memo provided in Novus. Some costs were for Transportation expenses, Special Education and Teaching and Learning costs. Dr. Nolin went through the document, line by line. The projected deficit as of August 31, 2020 is \$1,475,837.82.

Capital Updates

Mr. Gadson reviewed other costs that may or may not be included in the CARES act funding from Town/FEMA reimbursements. There are additional custodial expenses for the next 10 months and additional maintenance expenses to a total projected deficit for capital maintenance and upgrade/PPE is \$754,445.

Title IX (ACAB) Policy Update

Mr. Downing reviewed the changes to the policy updating our practice to how we investigate sexual harassment. The expectation is that this training must be done prior to the opening of school. **ACTION ITEM: Approval to Update Title IX (ACAB) Policy:** Ms. Collins motioned to approve. Mr. Brand seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Abstained

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Mr. Brand – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by those present 6-1-0.

Enrollment Update

Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent and Ms. McDermott, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent provided an update to enrollment. Ms. McDermott reviewed the summer enrollment breakdown of enrollment numbers. Mr. Downing discussed our target and what the actualization was of those students. He reviewed all of the K-12 enrollments and withdrawals since the October 1, 2019 state reporting.

ACTION ITEMS

Amend and Approve Changes to the 2020/2021 School Year Calendar: Mr. Brand motioned to approve the amended calendar for the 20/21 school year. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll

call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Mr. Brand – Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Consent Agenda

Chair McDonough pulled the July 6, 2020 minutes from the Approval of School Committee Minutes of May 19, 2020, June 1, 2020, June 4, 2020, June 9, 2020, June 15, 2020, June 25, 2020, and July 6, 2020. Mr. Brand motioned to approve the consent agenda without the July 6th minutes. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Mr. Brand – Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Member Concerns

Dr. Fuxman discussed ELPAC (English language parent advisory council) is working to recruit new members. Mr. Wood is confident it's going to be a great year.

At approximately, 9:42pm, Mr. Brand moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Dr. Fuxman - Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Mr. Brand – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Ms. Collins - Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by those present 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Rose McDermott
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Attest: _____

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda and materials used at this meeting can be found [here](#).