

*Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 5:30pm via a Virtual Meeting. Dr. Nolin called the meeting to order and took roll call at 5:36pm. All members stated they were participating remotely.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Henry Haugland, Donna McKenzie, Catherine Brunell, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn

Others Present: Dr. Anna Nolin Superintendent  
Mr. Tim Luff Assistant Superintendent  
Kirk Downing Assistant Superintendent  
Dr. Peter Gray Assistant Superintendent  
Ms. Rose McDermott Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

**Reorganization of the School Committee**

Dr. Nolin began the meeting and asked for nominations for office of the Chair of the School Committee. Ms. Collins motioned for Ms. McDonough to be considered a candidate for the Chair position for a third year. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Dr. Nolin called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – No  
Ms. Collins – Yes  
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes  
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of those present 6-1-0.

Dr. Nolin asked for a nomination for the Office of the Chair of the School Committee. Dr. McKenzie was pleased and honored and proud to nominate Ms. McDonough for Chair of the School Committee for all of the reasons that Mr. Haugland so wisely identified in his previous comments. I think our Committee would be well served by her leadership in the continuity that her leadership offers during this pandemic time. Ms. Collins seconded. Dr. Nolin called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – No  
Ms. Collins – Yes  
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes  
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of those present 6-1-0.

Chair McDonough proceeded to take nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Mr. Haugland nominated Ms. Cathi Collins. Ms. McDonough seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote. A member of

the School Committee discussed the nomination, and that the nominee is up for re-election next year and believes this could leave the Committee in a vulnerable position. This member would like to see created a succession plan no matter who is on the Committee so that we are certain that in the coming years there's somebody who's ready to step into the chair position. Other members shared their support of the candidate.

Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – Yes  
Ms. Collins – Yes  
Ms. Sonneborn - No  
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of those present 6-1-0.

Chair McDonough called for nominations for Clerk. Ms. Collins nominated Dr. McKenzie. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

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

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

Chair McDonough called for a nomination of the Recording Secretary. Chair McDonough nominated Rose McDermott. Mr. Haugland seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

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

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

Chair McDonough asked to reaffirm our current legal counsel. Ms. Collins moved to affirm. Mr. Haugland seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

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

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

### **Announcements**

Dr. Nolin informed the public that the Board of Health voted unanimously last evening to require pool testing for all students participating in athletics and any after school activities that are meeting live and in-person. A robocall will be going out at 7pm this evening to inform families as well as all of the sign up materials. As of Friday, after the break, no student will be able to participate in any sport or afterschool activity if they have not been registered for the pool testing program. This has been cleared with legal counsel.

### **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 received an email from Mr. Ron Alexander. Mr. Alexander's email was reviewing Open Meeting Law complaints and violations against the School Committee.

Chair McDonough informed the Committee that she will have to leave the meeting at approximately 6:20PM. A School Committee member urged that other members review what a budget subcommittee could do for our committee and do their own research. Also, asked that we are able to put this to a vote as soon as possible. We know about a possible override and other complex financial decisions that our committee will need to be making and we need to be prepared as a Committee.

### **Review Vacancies and Update School Committee Subcommittee/Liaison Assignments**

Chair McDonough reviewed the current assignments and the process. There were deep discussions about several assignments and changing the members assigned. Mr. Luff informed all that the Superintendent and Chair of the School Committee are considered permanent members of some Subcommittees. At approximately 6:15pm, Chair McDonough turned the meeting over to Ms. Collins, Vice Chair and excused herself from the meeting. Ms. Collins motioned that we appoint Ms. Collins, Dr. McKenzie and Chair McDonough to the EAN negotiation team, and we can revisit it at a future meeting. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Ms. Brunell motioned to postpone this vote until the next business meeting. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. A discussion ensued to clarify the motions. Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call for motion to postpone by Ms. Brunell.

Dr. Fuxman – No

Mr. Haugland – No

Dr. McKenzie – No

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – No

The motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0.

Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call for the main motion. Ms. Brunell amended the main motion to appoint Ms. Sonneborn to the EAN negotiation team. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. A question was raised about the number of members and if we could have 4 members instead of 3. However, Mr. Luff informed all that 4 members would create the presence of a quorum. Ms. Brunell motioned that Ms Sonneborn, Ms. Collins and Ms. McDonough be appointed to the EAN team. Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call. Dr. McKenzie asked to continue being a member of the EAN negotiation team and her contributions made. Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call on the amendment:

Dr. Fuxman – No

Mr. Haugland – No

Dr. McKenzie – No

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – No

The motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0.

Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call on the original motion:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – No

Ms. Sonneborn - No

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed by a vote of 4-2-0.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the Administrative Assistants negotiating team composed of Mr. Haugland and Ms. Collins. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote to keep the same:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0-0.

At approximately 6:25pm, Ms. McDermott left the meeting and Dr. McKenzie, Clerk, took over the draft minutes.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the Paraprofessionals negotiating team. Mr. Haugland motioned to continue the paras with himself and Vice Chair Collins. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote: Ms. Sonneborn motioned to replace Mr. Haugland with Ms. Brunell. No second. Vice Chair Collins asked for a roll call to appoint Henry and herself to the negotiating team.

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - No

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed by a vote of 5-1-0.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the Title One negotiating team. Mr. Haugland moved to appoint Dr. McKenzie and Ms. Brunell to the negotiating team. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0-0.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the Food Service negotiating team which currently only consisted of her. Mr. Haugland moved Ms. Collins and Ms. Brunell to the negotiating team. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – Yes  
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes  
Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 6-0-0.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the Policy Subcommittee and there's currently only Dr. McKenzie on the subcommittee. Vice Chair Collins expressed interest in serving. Dr. McKenzie nominated Ms. Brunell. Ms. Brunell declined the nomination. Dr. McKenzie nominated Dr. Fuxman. Dr. Fuxman declined the nomination and asked Ms. Brunell to reconsider. Vice Chair Collins got the sense from the Committee that they would like to continue with only two members. Dr. McKenzie and Vice Chair Collins will serve. No vote was required.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the KMS Building Committee, the Audit Committee, the Community Senior Center Liaisons – all remained the same.

Facility Oversight Committee – Vice Chair Collins and Chair McDonough are currently on the committee. No vote required, remaining the same.

Financial Planning Committee – Ms. Brunell asked to serve on this committee. Current members are Chair McDonough and Vice Chair Collins with Mr. Haugland as the alternate. Ms. Sonneborn motioned Ms. Brunell to be on this committee. Vice Chair Collins motioned for Mr. Haugland and Vice Chair Collins to be the members and Chair McDonough as the alternate. Mr. Haugland seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote. Ms. Brunell rescinded her desire to serve. Vice Chair Collins again called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – No  
Ms. Sonneborn - No  
Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed by a vote of 4-2-0.

Vice Chair Collins reviewed the following subcommittee assignments

NEF – remain the same

PCC, - remain the same

SEPAC - Ms. Brunell asked to postpone the SEPAC vote. Vice Chair and Ms. Brunell agreed that we would go forward as we are and if we can add a second person, we can bring it up again.

Spark Kindness - Dr. Fuxman will step in for Dr. McKenzie

TEC Board – Dr. McKenzie nominated Henry Haugland and he is willing to step in.

Town Safety Committee – unsure of need at this time – no one on board - we will revisit. Dr. Gray discussed the purview of this committee. Dr. McKenzie motioned to not fill this position at this time. Vice Chair Collins seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Statewide Advocacy Efforts and Updates – Mr. Haugland will continue to serve.

ELPAC – Currently Dr. Fuxman and he will continue to serve

Natick REMAP – Dr. McKenzie will continue to serve.

Equity Task Force – Nora Elbasha, NHS student is the liaison. We will revisit this in September.

METCO Parent Advisory Board – Dr. Fuxman asked to be in the role and Ms. Brunell also asked to be in the role. Vice Chair Collins motioned for Dr. Fuxman to be the liaison. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote. Ms. Brunell asked to be on this committee. Ms. Sonneborn seconded.

Ms. Sonneborn asked for equity in the roles. Ms. Brunell asked to share the role with Dr. Fuxman and he agreed. Ms. Brunell motioned to postpone until the next meeting. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Vice Chair called for roll call of postponement:

Dr. Fuxman – No

Mr. Haugland – No

Dr. McKenzie – No

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – No

The motion failed by a vote of 2-4-0.

Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call for Ms. Brunell’s appointment. Dr. McKenzie asked for a postponement. Vice Chair Collins seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

The motion passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Natick 180 Committee - Ms. Sonneborn would like to continue. No change

Teen Sleep – Ms. McDonough, Dr. McKenzie and Dr. Fuxman are currently the liaisons, and they will continue.

Superintendent Advisory Groups – A member requested clarification surrounding these groups. Dr. Nolin explained that the Space Committee will be dissolved in the spring and the Finance Committee has been in place for one year. She will be happy to look at it again once this budget season is over.

Dr. Nolin expressed her deep gratification for the School Committee and the hard work that they do. Dr. Nolin pointed out her day-to-day existence of a “team of rival’s approach”. Dr. Nolin appreciates all the diversity, opinions and passion. She knows we can all do a collaborative job and push for the best for everyone.

At approximately 7:20pm, Ms. Brunell motioned to adjourn. Vice Chair Collins seconded. Vice Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 6-0-0.

Anna Nolin  
Superintendent  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Dr. Donna McKenzie  
Clerk

Rose McDermott  
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

**Documents Provided in Novus Agenda** and materials used at this meeting:

Draft revised policy BDA/BDB/ BDC/BDD

School Committee Subcommittee Assignments