

*Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30pm via a Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:36pm. 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
	Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative
	Kyra Hacker	Student Representative
	Holly Browning	Student Representative
	Brielle Sherriff	Student Representative

**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 did not receive any public speak comments.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Warrant Review  
2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of March 22, 2021, March 29, 2021 and Executive Session Minutes of March 29, 2021. Ms. Collins motioned to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:  
Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes  
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes  
Ms. Collins – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – Yes  
Chair McDonough - Yes  
The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

**Action Items**

Vote on Status of School Choice Program. There had been a discussion at the last meeting. Chair McDonough reviewed the options. Ms. Collins motioned to remain a school choice district and not accept applications for the 2021/2022 school year due to enrollment and budget concerns. Mr. Haugland seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:  
Dr. Fuxman – Yes  
Mr. Haugland – Yes  
Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes  
Ms. Collins – Yes  
Ms. Brunell – Yes  
Chair McDonough - Yes  
The motion passed by a vote of 7-0-0.

### **Announcements**

Chair McDonough announced a public information session on the future of the Charles River Dam. The session is Monday, May 17, 2021 at 6:30. There will be community input sessions following. Chair McDonough referred everyone to [natickma.gov/crdam](http://natickma.gov/crdam).

### **Student Representative Concerns**

Ms. Holly Browning gave an update on School Council and what they've been working on. She also introduced Brielle Sherriff who will be the new student representative for the 2021/2022 school year. Holly Browning will be graduating. Ms. Kyra Hacker informed the School Committee that at their most recent meeting they are looking at elections for next year and are hoping to put together a spirit week. Ms. Hacker reminded the members of what their involvement in these meetings. They come to share the student's perspectives. These students in turn bring information from the School Committee meetings back to school and share the information with students in each grade.

Chair McDonough set the stage for tonight's meeting. There are three main presentations which are meant to provide the School Committee with an overview of three top areas the district has been working on. These are related to our strategic plan. She would like this to be held to one hour per presentation. Dr. Nolin gave a framework surround the items on the agenda and discussed the synergy that is starting to emerge from the different parts of the strategic plan. One of her major roles is to make sure she is seeing the efficiencies and making the organization work.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update**

Dr. Nolin began by sharing and reviewing the goals relative to DEI. While diversity and equity work directly related to race has been in our strategic plan for two years, and inclusion relative to disability, gender identity, gender and language status has been long-standing, the district has refreshed and amplified its commitment to making changes in our district operations, hiring, policies, and review of curriculum materials. Dr. Nolin introduced Noral Elbasha gave an update to the work being done by the Equity Committee. She discussed the barriers to education which are language, access and affordability. There are also social and systematic barriers. She also discussed creating anti-racism student groups. She discussed hiring more staff of color and why we aren't seeing more applicants. School Committee members had many questions that Ms. Elbasha answered in great detail. Dr. Nolin presented the work that the district has done. She reviewed the equity audit and the curriculum work that's been done, professional development, training and hiring as well as student engagement surrounding the audit. Dr. Nolin shared a graph of the comparison of Natick Public Schools against 100 other districts that also went through this audit. Dr. Nolin reported great progress to be poised to attract a more diverse work force. An anti-bias hiring guide has been created. She reviewed leadership and culture. Dr. Nolin also reported that all administrators completed 6 hours in a 12-part series on anti-racist leadership, a companion program to the staff anti-racism training. She went on to review District actions for staff and students as well as some growth areas. Dr. Nolin completed her report with some next steps which include policy revisions, collecting feedback and develop an awareness course with supports for parents and community members.

## **Panorama and SEL/Hey NHS Grade 7/9 Update - Goal 2 Update**

Dr. Nolin began her report by reviewing Goal 2, which is developing a systematic, developmentally appropriate social-emotional learning (SEL) and healthy living framework for student learning and parent engagement and partnership. She reviewed the Panorama survey results. Dr. Nolin reviewed the breakdown of surveys by school and individual student data. She reviewed the response to intervention process for students. Dr. Nolin reported that we have been in the process of vetting both the DESSA and the Q-interactive SSIS as screening assessment tools. Mr. Luff, Assistant Superintendent reviewed the three screening/assessment tools and the competency areas they focus on. He gave some SSIS examples, their scoring summary and opportunities. The DESSA mini which is an 8-question survey that may be given to all students. He reviewed that group profile report. He reported that the SEL team is currently reviewing draft competencies by grade level that was created last spring and making determinations regarding any necessary modifications based on COVID recovery. Mr. Downing, Assistant Superintendent reviewed ROSP's and social, emotional learning. Dr. Nolin went on to give the Hey NHS update by providing grades 7 and 9 screening reports. Grades 11 and 12 are ongoing at this time. Dr. Nolin reviewed parent Panorama data. Mr. Luff reviewed the SEL professional development, special education and Sped which they are currently working to establish a baseline of SEL skills and to provide interventions accordingly. Dr. Nolin wrapped up the report by submitting next steps for the district.

## **Summer School Revamp of Program**

Dr. Nolin began by announcing all staff involved in this process. Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent began by reviewing the summer learning program:

Summer Scholars Program 1-9

Summer Enrichment Program K-12

High School Credit Recovery 9-12

English Learner Summer Program K-12

Special Education Summer Program PreK-Adult

Title I Summer School 1-9

Mr. Downing reviewed the recover learning plan, the benchmark for middle school performance and the recovery learning activities for Spring 2021. Tina Kelly, teacher and summer staff member, reviewed the Natick Summer Scholars program that is no cost to families. This will provide small group instruction in ELA and math. Ms. Christina Maryland, Director of Communications reviewed the summer enrichment program. These are in-person classes only and are instructed by Natick Staff as well as external hires. Ms. Rasheedah Clayton, METCO Director reviewed some highlights of the scholars and enrichment programs. Students are able to participate in both. She discussed reaching out to alumni students to come back to the program to tutor students. The goal is that they will find joy in this and come back to teach in Natick. She reviewed renewed partnerships. Mr. Kevin Casey, teacher, went over Natick High's school credit recovery. These classes are for our high school students as well as neighboring district students. These classes are in-person. Edgenuity will be used to complete coursework. He reported that physical education is a new credit recovery course this year. This is a fee-based program. Mr. Downing reported on the English learner program. Students would be referred to this program by their teachers. These classes are in-person or online and will be taught by Natick teachers. Ms. Brenna Turner reviewed the Title 1 summer program and is in-person or online. These will be small group instruction. This program is targeting at-risk students according to the Renaissance data for middle school students and both, Renaissance and Aimsweb assessments for elementary. Mr. Paul Tagliapietra reviewed the summer extended year program. This is primarily focused on special education. All classes would be in-person and are taught by Natick teachers. These extended school services are individualized to help each child maintain their skills to prevent substantial regression over the summer.

### **Compensatory Services and Recovery Learning**

Ms. Erin Miller, Director of Student Services, reviewed how Natick was going to address our compensatory services. Natick identified 149 students as “high needs”. All of those students were offered compensatory services. She reviewed the services offered during the February and April vacation weeks. Ms. Miller reviewed the highlights and next steps which includes services being offered over the summer. She completed her report with some parent feedback.

Chair McDonough announced that two of the agenda items – enrollment report and School Committee communications to the next meeting

### **Subcommittee/Liaison Updates**

Dr. Shai Fuxman reminded everyone of the bilingual SPARK Kindness event occurring tomorrow evening.

### **Member Concerns**

Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative commented on the presentations done this evening because they spoke well to the quality and vibrancy of the Natick educator.

At approximately 10:45pm, Ms. Collins motioned to adjourn. Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of 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:

Superintendent’s Presentation

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Update Presentation

Panorama and SEL/Hey NHS Grade 7/9 Update - Goal 2 Update Presentation

Summer School Revamp of Program Presentation

Compensatory Services Presentation and Recovery Learning Presentation

School Committee Minutes of March 22, 2021, March 29, 2021

Executive Session Minutes of March 29, 2021

Report on Warrants