

Approval of Minutes

August 16, 2021

September 13, 2021

(Minutes were pulled from the 8/16/21 meeting for edits)

Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 7, 2021

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00pm via a Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:12pm. All members stated they were participating remotely.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn, Catherine Brunell, Henry Haugland (arrived at 6:13pm)

Others Present:

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| 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 |
| Marianne Davis | Director of Human Resources |

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 Non-Union Personnel; Central Office Administration, Planning/Budget Analyst, P/T Clerical, All Tutors, Student/Community Coach, Instrumental Accompanists, Late Bus Coverage, Cafe Monitors, Substitute Coordinator, Permanent Sub Teacher, PSAT Proctors and Floaters, On-Line Learning Coordinator, Wellness Center Supervisor, NHS Student Supervisor, NHS Permanent Sub/Site Liaison, Wall of Achievement Coordinator, Virtual Education Supervisor, Principals, Nurse Leader, Director of Student Services, P/T Nurse, Nurse Asst, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist, Certified Licensed Asst, Executive Asst to the Superintendent, Recording Secretary to the School Committee, Administrative Asst for Human Resources, Retired Administrative Asst as Subs, All Daily Substitutes, All Long Term Substitutes, Permanent Teacher Subs, Math Club Interventionist, Mini University/Professional Development, Curriculum Writing, Instructors for Graduate Credit Courses, Study Group Facilitator/Leader, Instructors for all Workshops, Instructor Prep Time for all Workshops, all ASAP Staff, All Summer School Staff, All Metco Personnel, Instrumental Music Instructors (private & semi-private, group), Data Entry Clerk/Clerical, Tech Workshop Presenters, Project Coordinator Full Year, BOKS Instructors, all ASAP Staff, All Technology Staff, Technology Intern, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining position, and the chair so declares; Chair so declares.
2. To Conduct Strategy With Respect to Collective Bargaining or Litigation, Specifically a Grievance Hearing, if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Bargaining or Litigating Position of the Public Body and the Chair so Declares; Chair so declares.
3. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with Unit S

Ms. Collins 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. Brunell – No
Ms. Sonneborn - Abstain
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of 5-1-1. The School Committee proceeded to a private virtual meeting to conduct this session.

At approximately 8:26pm, the School Committee returned to open session.

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 no remarks via email.

Program Space Committee Recommendations From Focus Group Summaries & NHS Class Sizes and Review of Student Requested Courses and Need for Classrooms in the Future

Dr. Nolin began by reviewing what occurred last March. A discussion surrounding possible budget cuts and use of space in the Town occurred. Fortunately, we didn't have to make the proposed cuts but an opportunity arose to develop an Advisory Committee to the Superintendent to review emerging space needs. Dr. Nolin reviewed the names of the members of the Committee:

- Representatives of families. All members of school councils.
- Dr. Gray – School Business Office
- Megan Cap-Renzi – After School Director
- Mr. Freas – Community Development Director
- Ms McDonough – Natick School Committee
- Mr. Ericsson – Operations Deputy for Town of Natick
- Mr. DeLuca – Finance Committee
- Mr. Downing – Enrollment
- James Carey (Bennett Hemenway School)
- Kathleen Wick (Wilson Middle School)
- Chris Therrien (Brown School)
- Elizabeth McElaney (Kennedy Middle School)
- Eric Hochberg (Lilja School)
- Emily Grant (Johnson School)
- Whitney Fairley (Memorial School)

Dr. Nolin hopes that the analyses and feedback from this advisory group and their school communities will help to inform the School Committee's decision-making about the future of the school system.

Mr. Harrigan shared a presentation about space needs at NHS.

- Based on current enrollment data.
- Every classroom is used every block of every day for past 2 years.
- One or more sections are not running due to lack of space.
- 800 students did not get their 1st choice for electives.
- Goal is to maintain level of service and class size (24).
- Need 45 additional sections = 6 classrooms
- This assumes not running other elective sections which have not been available in past 2 years.
- This year especially we are trying to avoid on-line classes.
- For this year looking to utilize these spaces:
 - o Faculty Dining Room
 - o Octagon

- Technology Offices
- 1 Preschool Classroom
- Dining Hall outside of lunch periods
- Possible options if we don't look at utilizing these spaces
 - On-line
 - Remote/hybrid
 - Sophomore privileges
 - Increase class sizes
 - Cancel electives

Space Committee was asked to listen to all presentations and develop materials to take back to school site councils. No action decision is before the School Committee now. The Town is also developing an Advisory Committee. A memo had been presented to School Committee with a summary of experience. Dr. Nolin stated that the School Committee will digest the memos over the summer and go over the information. Decisions for going forward will be made after that.

Elementary School Improvement Plans and Goal Achievement

Preschool and elementary principals provided a presentation to the School Committee members. Principals present: Ms. Kinkead, Mr. McCann, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Ghilani, Ms. Balboni and Ms. Wasik. The presentation shared their focus, goals, strengths and challenges as well as staff feedback. They completed their presentation with the silver linings that occurred during the pandemic. Chair McDonough stated that on behalf of the Committee, the presentation is very clear. Kudos on accomplishing so much in such a challenging year.

ESSER III Funding Use Proposal/Hires, Covid-19 Grants Updates, Prepay Explanation and Overview of Possible Spend Down

Dr. Nolin and Dr. Gray gave and reviewed an update to the FY21 budget. The update included savings from the general fund budget, end of year additional expenses and the additional use of savings from the general fund. End of year is shaping up so that additional funding available. Funds will be used to begin hiring as identified. We will need approval to pre-pay and EOY so we can post positions and continue to hire. Surplus funds will be used first. Dr. Gray shared a spreadsheet with year-to-date balances, FY21 appropriations, with year-to-date expenditures including salary and expenses, encumbered expenses (funds set aside for expected expenses). Identified savings – utilities, subs account. Dr. Nolin shared 2 documents with the Committee showing all requests that are needed to make recovery complete. Dr. Nolin reviewed all requests that came up out of the pandemic. Mr. Luff reviewed all SPED requests. Process was to prioritize what is needed to keep the organization moving forward: Skills for students, tech needs, how to address lost learning, social/emotional needs, Department of Education updates. We will need approval for pre-pay now in order to begin hiring process. As the Department of Education provides updates, new options become available. Will be sifting through options and costs on an on-going basis.

Mr. Luff, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services reviewed the special education costs, etc. Budget is for increase in staff and benefits in order to cover the increase in students in these programs. Mr. Luff reviewed each student with SPED Coordinators and staff to understand what's needed for supporting these students. Dr. Nolin shared information from the ESSER webinar with explanation of recovery plan requirements. She will bring pieces in a formal plan to the School Committee as the program is put together. A discussion was had as to what level of detail was presented to the committee and if we had met the requirements of the grant in terms of robust stakeholder engagement as it was listed in the grant. Additionally, one member suggested that the ESSERS III spending be tracked separately from the other savings that is being approved for COVID recovery spending because of the tracking stipulations that are stated in the grant and the strong advice that districts have been given when allocating the federal funds. Chair McDonough stated that we will vote at next meeting.

Consent Agenda

Approval of School Committee Minutes of April 12, 2021, April 13, 2021 and Executive Session Minutes April 5, 2021: Mr. Haugland moved approval of the consent agenda. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

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

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

At approximately, 10:24pm Mr. Haugland motioned to adjourn. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Ms. Collins – 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
Proposed School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021/2022
School Committee Minutes of April 12, 2021, April 13, 2021 and Executive Session Minutes of April 5, 2021
Enrollment Report
NHS Class Sizes and Review of Student Requested Courses and Need for Classrooms in the Future
Presentation
Program Space Committee Recommendations From Focus Group Summaries
Elementary School Improvement Plans and Goal Achievement Presentations
Prepay Explanation and Overview of Possible Spend Down

ESSER III Funding Use Proposal/Hires
COVID-19 Grants Updates