

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 5:00pm in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 5:14pm.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman, Catherine Brunell, Henry Haugland

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

Announcements

Chair McDonough announced that the Committee was back in person for the first time. She informed the community that Public Speak will continue as it had been prior. If the person is present, they may speak at the meeting. If the meeting is virtual, they may email their comments ahead of the meeting and then they will be unmuted and called upon so they may speak

Public Speak

Chair McDonough asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. No one came forward.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Minutes of May 24, 2021 and Policy Subcommittee Minutes of May 26, 2021 and June 23, 2021: Ms. Collins moved to approve the consent agenda. Mr Haugland seconded. It was approved by those present, 4-0-1.

Review and Approval of Revised School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021/20221.

Chair McDonough reviewed the schedule and the requested changes that have been made since the schedule was approved. Chair McDonough also reviewed some possible retreat dates. The current structure of our meetings will remain. Ms. Collins moved approval of the revised schedule of the School Committee meetings. Mr. Haugland seconded. It was approved by those present, 5-0-0.

Superintendent Evaluation

Chair McDonough informed the public that the goal this evening is to walk through Dr. Nolin's evaluation and then refer the public to the information provided in the evaluation document. Chair McDonough also walked through the process, what the Committee evaluated Dr. Nolin on and the ratings given. Dr. Nolin was evaluated on seven indicators that were chosen by the School Committee in 2020. Dr. Nolin's performance was found by the Committee to be exemplary in every area evaluated. There was one standard area in which the Committee was evenly divided on exemplary and proficient due to the fact that only 6 members were present for the second night of the evaluation. Comments are reflected on the evaluation document. Chair McDonough reviewed her areas of strength. Several School Committee members commented on her performance and thanked her for a difficult year and all the work she did. Cody Jacobs of 16 Tamarack Road in Natick addressed the School Committee and commented on the evaluation. He found the substance quite informative but would have liked it formatted to list the School

Committee member's names and how they voted. He would like to provide transparency to the community about how these elected officials are evaluating the Superintendent and why. Chair McDonough thanked him for his comments. Dr. Nolin addressed the School Committee and discussed that efforts made over the past decade and investments in our schools, allowed the district to be more successful and more agile than other school districts. She thanked the School Committee and the community to continue to invest again and again in the things that matter and allowed us during a crisis to succeed. Dr. Nolin thanked Mr. Jim White and the Board of Health, the entire staff and in particular the custodial staff. Dr. Nolin appreciated the nod to the notion that she always refers to us as a learning organization. Dr. Nolin is looking at this coming year as a new opportunity and a completely fresh horizon. Chair McDonough announced that the School Committee will take the official vote on August 16, 2021.

4. Approval of Non-Rep Personnel Salary Schedule: Ms. Collins moved approval of the non-representative personnel salary schedule as proposed. Dr. McKenzie 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.

Update on Middle School Achievement Data and School Improvement Plans

Mr. Andy Zitoli and Ms. Teresa Carney gave a presentation. They shared their focus, goals, strengths, challenges, student data as well as their silver linings during the pandemic.

Public and Staff Input and Listening Sessions Update

Dr. Nolin began by sharing that we have scheduled Dyslexia/literacy learning meetings. They are being scheduled to follow up with families and students who reached out with letters or calls about their experiences. Currently, the date is June 28 by school/program roughly every 30-45 minutes for families who reached out. Dr. Nolin will provide a follow up with a document with patterns of experiences and map the feedback. Dr. Nolin shared that there are 12 staff participating in a 10-hour class on phonics and phonemic awareness led by our literacy specialists, Professional Development for teachers for 9/1/21 has sessions on phonics, overview of the new dyslexia guidance and K-4 Phonics and Phonemic Awareness curriculum overview and crosswalk to new guidance. Reading specialist's professional learning communities have developed their 21-22 coaching goal on implementing the new guidance with all grade levels.

Enrollment Update

Mr. Downing, Assistant Superintendent reported that there are no significant changes to our numbers. He did however include the spring NESDEC analysis and projections in the documents.

Member Concerns

Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative discussed the current sense of normalcy and reminding everyone, how far we have come.

Policy Subcommittee Updates

Dr. McKenzie discussed them reviewing how to present a calendar that's more inclusive of diversity. Also reviewing micro-aggression and anti-hate policies. We will be coming back in the fall with changes. Next meeting is on June 24, 2021 @10am.

At approximately, 9:18pm Ms. Collins 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

School Committee Meeting Schedule for 2021/2022

School Committee Minutes of April 26, 2021 and May 10, 2021

Enrollment Report

Middle School Achievement Data and School Improvement Plans Presentation

Donation Letter