

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 24, 2014*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, March 24, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Third Floor, Town Hall. Chairman Coburn called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Campbell, Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, David Margil, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed

Members Absent: Anne Blanchard

Others Present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	William Hurley	Director of Fiscal & Management Services
	Susan Haverstick	Teacher Representative
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary
	Brooke Alston	Student Representative

Recognition of NHS NatickRoboTeam

The School Committee recognized the NHS RoboNatick Team who recently participated in the Mass First Tech Challenge Championship competition. Team 3737 took 1st place, Team 5436 took second place and Team 6032 (1st co-ed team) received the PTC Design Award. Students provided a demo of the robots in action. School Committee members praised the students for their accomplishments and presented the students with a certificate of recognition to celebrate their successes.

Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS RoboNatick Students to Pennsylvania

Mr. Douglas Scott requested the School Committee's approval for NHS RoboNatick Team 3737 to travel to York, PA to attend the Eastern Super Regional competition being held April 2 – 5, 2014. Mr. Margil moved to approve this trip. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

To establish Natick High School InvenTeam Advisory Board

Mr. Douglas Scott, along with students Katelyn Sweeney and Olivia VanAmsterdam, representing the NHS Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam, requested the School Committees approval to create a Natick High School InvenTeam Advisory Board. The summary of the request follows:

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The members of the Natick High School Lemelson-- MIT InvenTeam who developed the Ice Search

and Recovery ROV System (the "Inventors") would like to assign their US patent applications for their inventions to the Natick Public School District. Currently the filed provisional patent application is not assigned and thus is owned by each of the listed individual inventors. A US non --

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provisional patent application is in preparation. The process of assigning both of these US patent applications to the Natick Public School District is underway.

The Inventors are requesting that a Natick High School InvenTeam “Advisory Board” be established in the approval and assignment process. The Natick High School InvenTeam Advisory Board would oversee and advise the Natick Public School Committee in the future regarding the disbursement of any possible income related to the development, sale or licensing of the Ice Search and Recovery ROV System patent applications or patents issuing from the applications .

The Inventors seek no financial gain or recognition. They seek only to be part of the process that supports STEM education for students in the district. Thus the goal of the Natick High School

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Advisory Board is to establish a rolling account for pre -mentioned funds that could support STEM initiatives at all grade levels within the Natick Public School District.

Jonathan Wainer and John Van Amsterdam, patent attorneys who are assisting us in the patent application process, will be available for any questions that you may have that are beyond our expertise.

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Leigh Estabrooks of the Lemelson-- MIT Program will also be available to support the Inventors’

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efforts. The Lemelson-- MIT Program and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology relinquished all claims to the Inventor’s intellectual property in their grant agreement with the 2013 Natick High School InvenTeam.

Thank you:

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Natick High School Lemelson-- MIT InvenTeam

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the establishment of a Natick High School InvenTeam Advisory Board, provisionally, pending final review of the detailed documents. Mr. Margil seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS BPA Students to Indianapolis

Mr. Douglas Scott requested the School Committee's approval for Natick High School Business Professionals of America students to travel to Indianapolis, IN on April 29-May 4, 2014 to attend the BPA National Leadership Conference for leadership and competitive events. Mr. Campbell moved to approve this trip with enthusiasm and gratitude for all that Mr. Scott has done for the students at NHS. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS Students to Staten Island

Mr. William Sanford, NHS Teacher, requested the School Committee's approval for NHS students in the Staten Island Relief Work Group to travel to Staten Island, New York on June 22-28, 2014 where they will be working with the St. Bernard Project to assist with the recovery from Hurricane Sandy. Students Tosh Campbell and Connor Ward described the work they will be doing – helping with the construction of 1-2 houses in the area affected by the storm. Mr. Laurent moved to approve this trip. Mr. Margil seconded. It was approved by an affirmative vote of five members. Mr. Campbell abstained as his son is part of this group going on the trip.

Public Speak

Chairman Coburn asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. No one came forward.

Naming of Wilson Middle School Drive

Chairman Coburn provided the School Committee with the following resolution:

Whereas Ruth Evans was principal of Wilson Middle School from 2000 to 2007, and

Whereas Ms. Evans showed exemplary dedication to student learning, and

Whereas Ms. Evans promoted a range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities that strengthened the sense of community and mission at Wilson Middle School, and

Whereas Ms. Evans set and promoted a high standard of professionalism in public education in her own conduct, in managing and developing staff, and in hiring, and

Whereas Ms. Evans took on a district-wide leadership role in developing and implementing what became and still is the instructional and scheduling model for Natick middle schools, and

Whereas Ms. Evans was intensively involved in all phases of the project for a new Wilson Middle School that by design supports optimally the instructional and scheduling model, and

Whereas any one or two of the premises noted above would have been reason to consider Ms. Evans' tenure in the principal's role as a successful one, and

Whereas the outstanding achievements and contributions of Ms. Evans were noted only concisely upon her retirement from the Natick Public Schools, and

Whereas the Natick School Committee would make known to all the value of Ms. Evans' achievements and contributions and the committee's appreciation for them,

Therefore be it resolved that the Natick School Committee hereby resolves to give the access road from Rutledge Road into the Wilson Middle School property and around Wilson Middle School the name Ruth Evans Way, following a period of public comment beginning on this date of March 24, 2014 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on April 27, 2014.

The Committee will review such public comment, if any, at the meeting of April 28, 2014. Upon a Committee vote at that time, the new name of the access road shall be effective as of May 1, 2014, signage will be arranged, and an appropriate unveiling shall be planned.

Mr. Margil seconded.

Chairman Coburn stated that this requests adheres to the Naming Policy which was recently adopted.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Approval of Statement of Interest - Kennedy Middle School

Mr. Hurley reported that another window of opportunity has opened for submitting a statement of interest to the MSBA for a Kennedy Middle School project. He provided the School Committee with a copy of a resolution that would be submitted indicating the intentions for a feasibility study for the renovation or replacement of Kennedy Middle School. This also requires the approval of the Board of Selectmen. It reads as follows:

FORM OF VOTE TO SUBMIT A STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Resolved: Having convened in an open meeting on March 24, 2014, the School Committee of the Town of Natick, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form that will be submitted to the MSBA by no later than April 11, 2014 for consideration in FY2014 for the Kennedy Middle School located at 165 Mill Street, Natick, MA. which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future; priority # 2, elimination of existing severe overcrowding; priority # 4, prevention of severe overcrowding expected to result from increased enrollment; priority # 5, replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility and priority # 7, replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and local requirements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the

Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Natick to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mr. Margil moved approval to submit this Statement of Interest. Ms. Mistrot seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Endorsement of Spring Warrant Articles - Bus Subsidy-Article 26, Homeless Student Transportation-Article 18, 1:1 Technology Stabilization-Article 31

Dr. Sanchioni requested the School Committee's endorsement of the following articles which are on the Spring Town Warrant:

- Bus Subsidy-Article 26
- Homeless Student Transportation-Article 18
- 1:1 Technology Stabilization-Article 31

These articles were presented and discussed at previous meetings. Mr. Campbell moved favorable action to endorse these articles. Mr. Laurent seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of Network Access Policy

Dr. Sanchioni requested the School Committee's approval of the Network Access Policy which was presented to the School Committee on March 10th. Dr. Sanchioni reviewed the changes which for the most part include language that states that all district employees and students will have access to the World Wide Web through the District's network. Internet activity in all schools is filtered by the district's content filter based on policies established by the district. In addition, students in the 1 to 1 program are also filtered in the same way when they are outside of school. Any attempt to bypass or disable this filter is a violation of the Acceptable Use (Section 8.0). Other changes state that E-mail accounts are provided to all employees and students and in grades 8 -12. All employees are required to use their school issued email accounts for all communications with students or when conducting any school business. This will ensure compliance with email archiving regulations, which are required by law. E-Mail accounts issued to students are also archived to ensure student safety. Mr. Margil moved to approve this policy. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

To Approve a Change to the 2013-2014 School Calendar

Dr. Sanchioni requested the School Committee's approval to make a change to the 2013-2014 school calendar. Given that school was cancelled on February 5th due to a snow storm, a day of professional development was lost. Dr. Sanchioni requested that June 9, 2014 be changed to an early release day in order to regain that lost professional development time. Making this day a ½ day does not extend the length of the school year at all; June 9th was a school day and will continue to be one. Dr. Nolin reviewed the process used to select this day which is the least disruptive day to use. She also reviewed the communication plan for staff and parents. Ms. Reed moved approval to change June 9, 2014 to an early release day. Ms. Mistrot seconded. It was unanimously approved.

2014-2015 Projected Enrollments – Update

Dr. Sanchioni reviewed the updated 2014-2015 enrollments. As of this date, areas of concern are Kindergarten at Brown and Lilja. There is a FEIP teacher in the FY'15 budget to address the large class sizes of Ben-Hem Grade 1 for next year. Dr. Sanchioni will continue to monitor these numbers as they change daily.

FY'15 Budget Update

Dr. Sanchioni reviewed the latest version of the FY'15 budget which was approved by the School Committee and the Finance Committee on Thursday, March 20th in the amount of \$51,494,817. He outlined the goals of the budget as follows:

- Meet all mandated, fixed, and contractual costs
- Maintain all current professional staff positions
- Add additional staffing positions needed to provide mandated Special Education services across the District.
- Add additional staffing positions to address high academic class sizes where possible
- Appropriate calculated increases in both energy and transportation
- Meet all mandated costs associated with Special Education
- Educate the 5,300 students with high-quality instruction to support the highest levels of achievement possible.

He also reviewed the prioritized staffing positions (7.4 FTE's) which are included in this budget as follows:

- Wilson Special Education Teacher
- 2.0 Kennedy Special Education Teachers
- Grade 4 Teacher - Lilja
- .3 Art Teacher
- .3 Music Teacher
- .2 Physical Education Teacher
- FEIP Tutor Ben-Hem
- 1.6 Teachers NHS

The administration and the School Committee recognize that this budget request represents the best efforts of all involved parties to support the needs of the Natick Public Schools given the resources available to the town and that essential needs will go unfunded in the coming school year.

Chairman Coburn requested that Mr. Margil read the resolution that the School Committee adopted at its meeting of March 20, 2014. It reads as follows:

Moved: That the Natick School Committee endorse the FY 2015 budget request of \$51,494,817 with the following understandings:

First, that the Natick School Committee and administration acknowledge with sincere gratitude the partnership and collaboration of the General Government boards and administration-- particularly the Town Administrator, the Director of Finance, and the members of the Education Subcommittee of the Finance Committee, and the Financial Planning Committee. We appreciate their willingness to share resources, and in some cases sacrifice their priorities in order to help the Natick Public Schools try to achieve its priorities. In short, we recognize that this budget request represents the best efforts of all involved parties to support the needs of the

Natick Public Schools given the resources available to the town.

Second, that the Natick School Committee understands that despite the best efforts of all parties, absolutely essential needs will go unfunded in the coming school year. Those needs are driven by:

- *The continued dramatic increases in enrollment, with corresponding increases in class size and mandated special education services*
- *Mandated changes to the curriculum and testing*
- *Increased social, emotional, academic guidance, and health needs of students*

Third, that the Natick School Committee firmly believes that education provided in the Natick Public Schools is both highly competitive, and delivered in a financially responsible way, as demonstrated by the fact that per pupil spending in Natick is below the state average.

Finally, that it is the responsibility of the Natick School Committee to alert the boards of the town, town meeting, and most importantly the citizens of the town, that the costs to provide level services--let alone improved services--in the Natick Public Schools have outstripped the resources available to the town to provide those services.

So while we endorse this budget request in recognition of current fiscal realities and out of respect for our partners in government, we cannot embrace it as adequate to the needs of the school system. We believe it is time to engage a discussion across all key boards and with the public regarding priorities and values, and what it will take to provide funding for those priorities and values in the next fiscal year and beyond.

Members expressed their concerns of increasing enrollment and the need to secure more funds in the upcoming years in order to maintain the quality of the school system.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Coburn reminded members of the community that town elections are being held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 and Town Meeting begins Tuesday, April 8.

Chairman Coburn announced that there will be forums scheduled this spring to discuss and receive public input on the option of flipping high school and elementary school start times. More information on this will be forthcoming.

Ms. Reed announced that Natick Together for Youth is holding two upcoming events that she wanted the public to be aware of:

- Natick Together for Youth annual community breakfast on April 1 from 7:45 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Natick Community-Senior Center
- Opiate prevention training event being held on April 2 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Natick Community-Senior Center

Mr. Margil stated that the School Committee will be reorganizing at the next meeting and wished to thank Chairman Coburn and Vice Chair Mistrot for all their work over the past year.

At 9:05 p.m. Ms. Reed moved to adjourn. Ms. Mistrot seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Attest: _____

Peter Sanchioni, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Secretary to the School Committee

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided (electronically via Novus Agenda):

Out of State Travel Request - NHS Students to Staten Island

Out of State Travel Request - NHS BPA Students to Indianapolis

Out of State Travel Request - NHS RoboNatick Students to Pennsylvania

Request to establish Natick InvenTeam Board of Directors

FY'15 Budget Updated presentation

Statement of Interest - Kennedy Middle School

Spring Warrant Articles - Bus Subsidy-Article 26, Homeless Student Transportation-Article 18,
1:1 Technology Stabilization-Article 31

Network Access Policy

Memorandum regarding a Change to the 2013-2014 School Calendar