

*Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 21, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 6:30pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:35pm.

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

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn – arrived during Executive Session

Others Present:

Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Sue Balboni	Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative (remotely)

Chair McDonough moved for approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session for this purpose:

1. To Conduct Contract Negotiations with Nonunion Personnel; (Superintendent)

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 – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

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

Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:00pm. The School Committee proceeded to a private room to conduct this session.

At approximately 7:53pm, the School Committee returned to open session.

### **Announcements**

Dr. Nolin provided an update regarding the Natick High School Principal search. After initial screenings with a diverse screening committee, we have decided to stop the search given the candidate pool available to us. We will resume the search in the fall. Mr. Steve Miller, Director of Fine and Performing Arts was introduced and recognized him and his students. These visual art students were recognized for their creative works at the 2022 Regional Scholastic Art Awards. Between the four of them they won three Honorable Mentions, two silver keys, and two gold keys. The students and their works are:

Jenna Brown - Silver Key (Sculpture - Canto VII)

Ashley Kang - Honorable Mention ( Digital Art - The Cherry Pit in My Heart)

Zoe Napurano - Honorable Mention (Film and Animation - Lost Dog), Gold Key (Film and Animation - Lipstick), and Honorable Mention - (Art Portfolio)

Bille Tedesco - Silver Key (Digital Art - Gross) and Gold Key (Mixed Media - Gross)  
Additionally, a thank you and congratulations to Ms. Linda Anderson who taught and guided these students through the process of submitting work. Students can now compost in the Natick High School cafeteria, thanks to the hard work of the NHS Earth Club! Check out this video they created for more info. The club is partnering with Black Earth Compost, the same company that collects the green bins in Natick. If you want to help support the students and start composting at home, you can sign up here. You'll get \$5 off and earn \$5 to help pay for composting at NHS. EcoNatick.org is planning two days for Earth day. The event will be spread all around the town with many exhibits. The Natick Education Foundation is looking for board members and volunteers. Spark Kindness has a program tomorrow night at 7pm - Disordered Eating in Teens - What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know. The Natick Drama Workshop is having a show on April 2nd & 3<sup>rd</sup> – the Lady Pirates of Captain Bree. The ticket booth is open.

### **Public Speak**

Chair McDonough asked if there was anyone present who wanted to participate in public speak. There were no requests.

### **Introduction of Troy Holding, New Principal for Memorial Elementary School**

Dr. Nolin introduced and welcomed Mr. Holding, virtually. He is a Revere native and has been working and living on the west coast for the last few decades. He inspired our students, staff and parent communities during his forums. We are thrilled to have him on our team. Mr. Holding addressed the community. He's overjoyed and humbled to serve as the leader at Memorial Elementary. He thanked Dr. Nolin for all of her support in his transition. Chair McDonough welcomed him on behalf of the School Committee.

### **Update on Racial Equity Municipal Action Plan**

Dr. Donna McKenzie and Lorraine McNally (Council on Aging) are very active participants on the REMAP committee. They gave a presentation with historical context. They reviewed the existing racial equity initiatives in Natick and reviewed their racial equity vision statement. They reviewed and discussed their goals, challenges and barriers. Ms. McNally reviewed the REMAP committee's next steps.

### **Member Concerns**

Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative gave feedback on the proposed calendar for next year. The EAN ran a survey and received a 50% response. The members do not like the current proposed model of teacher's returning on August 26, 2022. They hadn't offered suggestions prior to today. They would prefer returning on Monday vs. Friday and to have a 3-day Labor Day weekend instead of a 4-day Labor Day weekend. The calendar will be brought for a vote in April.

### **Policy Subcommittee Update**

Dr. McKenzie provided an update. They have been grappling with the issue of our calendar reflecting more belonging and inclusion regarding religious holidays and celebrations. They have been meeting with several representatives from major religions from the Natick community. We would like to hear from the community. We will be having a virtual listening session on April 5, 2022 at 7pm. If you can't attend, and you have a strong preference about holidays, please send us your feedback.

### **FY23 Budget Review**

Dr. Nolin put forward two personnel packages for the School Committee's review. She prioritized the second package as being the one that she believes would solve more problems that we are trying to address through our RTI process. Dr. Gray provided the update to the ACCEPT Collaborative costs. They have increased in tuitions and transportation for a total amount of \$273,914.00. This has no impact to the

general fund budget. Ms. Collins motioned to approve a Natick Public Schools FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$80,492,330.00 and request an NPS FY23 Budget appropriation from the 2022 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$79,000,000.00 even for the operations of the Natick Public Schools. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Chair McDonough asked for questions from the Committee. Dr. Nolin reviewed funding including grants. This amount gives us what we must have. There will be another discussion in April regarding grant funded positions. Dr. Gray reviewed the fuel escalation charges and the mechanism in place to address these charges moving forward. He believes we are adequately covered. Dr. Nolin reviewed grant funding again. Ms. Collins provided a replacement to the main motion and motioned to approve a Natick Public Schools FY23 Operating Budget in the amount of \$80,492,330.00 including Draft two as presented on March 21<sup>st</sup> and request an NPS FY23 Budget appropriation from the 2022 Spring Annual Town Meeting in the amount of \$79,000,000.00 even for the operations of the Natick Public Schools. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Clarification was asked about the meritorious budget process. Dr. Gray informed the Committee that we are putting together the final version to send to ASBO for their first review. There are currently only four districts in the Commonwealth that have applied for this. It's rigorous. Dr. Nolin discussed not anticipating the continued lack of access to our own chart of accounts to run reports that ASBO has asked us to run. We are better than we were, but we don't want to let up the desire to be able to run reports like other districts. There is a theoretical agreement. There's a fall planned upgrade to MUNIS. Chair McDonough asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 7-0-0.

#### **Warrant Review**

Chair McDonough discussed the process of reviewing and signing warrants. If anyone would like to see the warrants which contain payroll and expenses, Dr. Gray would be happy to pass along.

#### **Discussion of the Member Concerns, School Committee, Standing Agenda Item**

Chair McDonough reviewed these past agenda items. She can't figure out when this began or how it came to be. Dorothy Presser of MASC said this is not a typical agenda item in other districts. Chair McDonough would like to remove it because anything brought up can't be debated or discussed. If it's a concern for a member then it should be on the agenda and discussed. Mr. Luff clarified and explained that you are allowed to speak to the public on your own opinions as long as you're not directing your opinions and debate to your fellow School Committee members. Also, there needs to be a clear identifying item on what you are going to speak about. Mr. Wood feels that it behooves the School Committee to come up with a more interactive dialogue. Chair McDonough feels this is an unproductive part of our meeting. We will remove this section for the rest of the year and see how it goes. However, we will keep the Teacher and Student Concerns on there.

#### **Consent Agenda**

1. Donations
2. Approval of Out of State Travel - Speech and Debate Team NHS
3. Approval of Out of State Travel - NHS Baseball Team - April 2022
4. Approval of School Committee Retreat Minutes of January 31, 2022 and March 1, 2022, Executive Session Minutes of January 31, 2022 and February 28, 2022, School Committee Minutes of February 28, 2022. Ms. Brunell removed the School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2022. Ms. Brunell would like her recommended revisions to the minutes. Ms. Collins moved approval of the remaining Consent Agenda items. Dr. Fuxman seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

#### **Approval of School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2022**

Ms. McDermott has an issue with making one member's recommended edits to minutes without the entire School Committee reviewing them. Chair McDonough posed the question, the minutes are posted and

there are times when members have changes to the minutes. We can do it during the meeting or to pull those minutes out, the members make the proposed revisions and then the members get to see the revised version. Ms. McDermott recommends scaling back with less details. Mr. Luff reviewed the law about reviewing minutes and approving minutes. We haven't had these issues with the previous Committee members. Mr. Luff explained that minutes are a summary only. If it's a battle of small words, then that discussion could be had. Chair McDonough recommends Ms. McDermott scale back to a brief summary and votes.

At approximately 10:15pm Chair McDonough moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin  
Superintendent  
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

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

Rose McDermott  
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

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

Superintendent's Presentation

REMAP Committee Presentation

FY23 Budget Presentation

Grant Updates

School Committee Retreat Minutes of January 31, 2022 and March 1, 2022, Executive Session Minutes of January 31, 2022 and February 28, 2022, School Committee Minutes of February 28, 2022. Ms. Brunell removed the School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2022.

Out of State Travel Documents