

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
March 6, 2017*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room, 3rd floor, Town Hall. At 6:39 p.m., Chair Mistrot called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Dirk Coburn, Paul Laurent, Julie McDonough, Amy Mistrot, Firkins Reed

Members Absent: Lisa Tabenkin

David Mangan arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Others Present:	Peter Sanchioni	Superintendent of Schools
	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Director of Finance
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary

Mr. Laurent moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations with non-represented personnel in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws. Ms. Reed seconded. By roll call vote, all members present were in favor of entering into Executive Session.

At 7:15 p.m. the School Committee returned to open meeting in the School Committee Room.

Others who joined at this time:

Mark Baranoff	Teacher Representative
Will Cuzzo	Student Representative
Sarah Strand	Student Representative

Public Speak

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

Continued Discussion of FY'18 Budget

Dr. Sanchioni presented the School Committee with the following information which allows for a balanced budget per the current allocation being provided by the Town.

Requested Operating Budget	\$61,750,150
Current Appropriation	\$61,000,150

Impact: Loss of the following 11.5 requested FTE and \$107,055 removed from expense accounts. Dr. Sanchioni believes these positions being cut will have the least negative impact on the system.

School and Position	FY18 Improvement Budget FTE Added	FY18 Improvement Budget Salary	Impact
ENROLLMENT DRIVEN			
High School - World Language Teacher	0.4	\$ 22,332	Last year we had 6 classes at or above 25. That will increase for school year 2017-2018.
Wilson - Unified Arts teacher MS	0.4	\$ 22,332	We will be unable to bring parity to the unified arts offerings at Kennedy and Wilson. Class sizes will increase.
Wilson - Unified Arts Teacher/Drama	1.0	\$ 55,830	We will be unable to bring parity to the unified arts offerings at Kennedy and Wilson. Class sizes will increase.
Kennedy Unified Arts Teacher	0.4	\$ 22,332	We will be unable to bring parity to the unified arts offerings at Kennedy and Wilson. Class sizes will increase.
Middle School Reading Teachers	5.0	\$ 279,150	This will prevent us from implementing an 8 period day. Reading was part of our RTI interventions. Loss of academic time.
Elementary General Education Teacher/Brown	1.0	\$ 55,830	Current 3rd grade has 114 students = class size of 23. Moderate growth will put us above 25.
HS Staff (Art .4, Math .2, English .2,	0.8	\$ 44,664	Larger class sizes in each discipline
CASELOAD NEED			
Kennedy Literacy Specialist	0.5	\$ 27,915	Wilson has a specialist. Loss of small group instruction, assessments and teacher coaching.
Nurse - Memorial and Ben Hem	1.0	\$ 55,830	Both schools have a nurse caseload above recommended standards.
COMPLIANCE			
Elementary Technology Coach	1.0	\$ 55,830	Staff mentor dedicated to improving technology skills through PD for all elementary staff - eliminated
DISTRICT			
Cut to Technology Budget		\$ 50,000	Eliminated redundancy project
Cut to Curriculum Budget		\$ 50,000	Cuts to curriculum and assessment
Cut to Maintenance Budget		\$ 7,955	Brings budget below actual costs from FY 16
Total	11.5	\$ 750,000	

A lengthy discussion took place where each member of the School Committee stated their reasons why they support the original budget request such as:

- District is still playing catch up for several years where no staff was added
- This budget has been vetted several times and these positions and expense items are needed
- We are dealing with the needs of the system - not wants
- Population has grown significantly impacting class sizes, teachers/guidance counselors/nurses loads
- Need to drive education in this town in an upward trend not degrade it
- Natick per pupil expenditures is below state average
- Middle School Parity will be affected as well as an improved Middle School schedule
- Response to Intervention for students will be impacted
- Reading Program will be impacted

Chair Mistrot reported on the Financial Planning Committee meeting held last week. It has taken a long time to get the Town's revenue numbers due to many circumstances which has had an impact on the timing of the budget process. Chair Mistrot shared a document from the Board of Selectmen which outlines the Town's Financial Management Principles which addresses:

- Reserve Funds
- Stabilization Funds
- Capital Planning & Budgeting
- Debt Issuance & Management
- Financial Planning Forecasting
- Cash/Investments Management
- Retirement System Funding
- Other Post Employment Funding
- Summary of Free Cash
- Stabilization Funds History

Chair Mistrot indicated that the Financial Planning Committee is trying to schedule a meeting for next Wednesday, March 15th where further discussion will take place on available revenue. She will try to schedule a brief School Committee meeting prior to the School Committee's meeting with the Finance Committee scheduled for next Thursday evening, March 16th in case there is any modification to the budget picture.

Approve FY'18 Natick Public Schools Budget - Appropriation Request

After much discussion, Mr. Coburn moved to affirm the Natick Public Schools FY'18 Budget Appropriation in the amount of \$61,750,150. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Student Concerns

Sarah Strand announced that Putting for Dough, a Jimmy Fund fundraiser in memory of Connor Heffler, will be held on Saturday, March 11th. She welcomed all to attend.

Will Cuozzo reported on the recent Science Bowl held at UCONN. The team did an extraordinary job – best performance to date.

Approval of increase to ASAP Fees

Mr. Laurent recused himself from this item as he has a family member who works for this program.

Dr. Nolin requested the School Committee's approval to increase the tuition for the Early Risers/ASAP Programs by 15% in order to:

1. Maintain high standards of quality
2. Continue to subsidize tuition for all families eligible for assistance
3. Keep expenses below revenue
4. Rebuild surplus to 3 months of operating expenses.

Tuition rates have remained level since FY'12.

Proposed rates were presented as follows:

PROPOSED 17-18 RATES AND FEES:
After School (per month)

Elementary School

1 day/week \$170
2 days/week \$210
3 days/week \$260
4 days/week \$345
5 days/week \$425

Middle School

1 day/week \$185
2 days/week \$240
3 days/week \$300
4 days/week \$385
5 days/week \$450

~~Sibling discount: 5% ASAP tuition discount for 2nd, 3rd, or 4th child. (cost: 22K for FY17)~~

Early Risers (per morning) \$14

~~5% discount on Early Risers fee for students also enrolled in After School. (cost: 4K for FY17)~~

Early Release Day \$30

Vacation Day \$80

A comparison chart showing rates of other programs in the community was shared with the School Committee.

IMPACT ON FAMILIES:

(per child)	ASAP Schedule	Per Month	Per Year
	1 day/week	\$25	\$250
	2 days/week	\$30	\$300
	3 days/week	\$35	\$350
	4 days/week	\$45	\$450
	5 days/week	\$55	\$550

SUMMARY: While this rate increase is significant, it will be the first in six years and ASAP tuition will still remain more affordable than other area programs. The additional revenue will allow for continued high quality programming and support to NPS students - including financially vulnerable students and their families - for many years to come.

A discussion continued and questions were responded to.

Mr. Coburn moved to approve the increase in tuition for these programs as outlined. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was approved by five members remaining. Mr. Laurent had recused himself.

Approval of Fee for Late Bus Registrations

Mr. Gray reviewed the following graduated fee for late bus registrations for the School Committee's approval:

Bus fees: A bus fee of \$150 applies to students in grades K-6 who request services and live less than 2 miles from their respective school and for all students in Grades 7-12.
(Family maximum of \$300)

A late fee will be assessed to late registrations received after June 1st. This fee will be collected in order to allow for a better planning of proposed bus routes for the upcoming school year and to encourage parents to register their student(s) prior to the deadline. Exceptions to this fee will be made on a case by case basis by the Director of Finance (i.e. new students who enroll in the school district after the June 1st deadline).

Registrations received after June 1 st	- \$30
Registrations received after June 30 th	- \$60
Registrations received after July 31 st	- \$90

Ms. Reed moved to approve these fees. Mr. Laurent seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Discussion and Approval of Revised FY'18 Capital Request

Dr. Sanchioni reviewed the following revised capital requests for FY'18

Brown Elementary School - \$100K

The five-year capital plan published in December 2016 proposed \$250K for the Brown sidewalks, since then it was decided that ADA access from Hartford street to the school was not necessary thus eliminating \$150K from the original proposal of \$250K.

The facilities department recommends retaining \$100K of the original allocation to continue with sidewalk and roadway improvements around the school and reallocate \$150K to two other projects, the replacement of the Johnson exterior doors and the expansion of the high school irrigation system.

Johnson Elementary School - \$50K (FY18 Fall Town Meeting)

The eight exterior doors at the Johnson school are in poor condition and require routine repairs to keep them operating properly. They are very drafty and at times do not secure properly creating a safety issue for students and staff. To eliminate ongoing routine repairs and ensure the building will remain secure at all times I recommend moving forward with this project.

High School Irrigation - \$100K

The original irrigation project proposed in 2016 in the amount of \$55K was to tie into the existing domestic water supply at the high school and provide irrigation to the immediate front of the school only. In light of the severe drought Natick experienced this past summer installing a dedicated well onsite would ensure irrigation could continue even during a water ban.

The facilities department is proposing to reallocate \$100K of the capital budget to install a well at the high school and expand the irrigation project to cover the entire front of the school, the left side of the building

where the preschool playground is located and to the right near the parking, see attached site plan and cost breakdown for details.

Johnson Playground Replacement - \$150K

The Johnson school playground is scheduled to be replaced this summer. This project would replace the existing playground elements, leveling of the ground and new Fiber mulch to meet all current playground standards. The existing Johnson school playground has elements for kids ages 2-12. The design and installation will be coordinated closely with the school principal and recreation department.

Ms. Reed moved to recommend the above outlined capital projects for approval at Town Meeting. Mr. Laurent seconded. They were unanimously approved.

A request was made for Mr. Jim Kane to attend the next meeting with a forecasted timeline for these projects.

Superintendent's Mid-Year Update on Goals

Dr. Sanchioni provided a progress report of where things stand with the 2016-2017 District Goals. Copies of the goal metrics were provided. If anyone has any questions, they may contact him.

Kennedy Middle School Update

Dr. Sanchioni provided the following update on the Kennedy Middle School Project:

- Currently in the Designer Selection Process.
- OPM prepared Request for Services (RFS) – Eight Firms Applied.
- OPM evaluates and reference checks applicants – sends to MSBA
- Three members from the Town sit on the Designer Selection Committee at MSBA:
 - Superintendent
 - Assistant Superintendent
 - John Ciccariello

The Designer Selection Panel convenes at MSBA on March 14th where applicants will be narrowed to three. At this meeting a decision can be made to select an architect. If not, a second meeting will be established to interview a short list of firms.

Enrollment Update - March 2017

Copies of the March 2017 enrollment report were provided. No significant changes since last month.

Request School Committee Member Participation in the Performing Arts Audit

Dr. Nolin indicated that due to the timing of the meetings, it has been difficult to get School Committee representation on the Arts Audit Committee. Therefore, she will obtain School Committee input via interviews conducted by high school students and surveys.

Update on Lilja Modulares

Dr. Sanchioni provided an update of the Lilja Modulares as follows:

Lilja Modular Classrooms	
Original Capital request	\$ 2,600,000.00
Triumph Construction Cost	\$ 1,632,852.00
Cost Breakout	
Modular building	\$ 688,799.00
Sink in each classroom	\$ 6,900.00
Fire sprinkler system	\$ 20,310.15
Site work	\$ 842,616.50
Connecting corridor	\$ 74,226.35
Contingency 5%	\$ 81,642.60
FFE / Technology	\$ 300,000.00
Replace playground	\$ 250,000.00
Site improvements	\$ 80,000.00
Electrical Service - Eversource	\$ 80,000.00
Project Total	\$ 2,424,494.60

Project design is currently underway and permits are being sought. It is expected that the designated area will become a construction site during the first two weeks of May. Project completion is scheduled for August 25, 2017. Project is currently scheduled to be on time and under budget.

Report on Niche Ratings

This item will be brought back to a future meeting.

Report on Warrants Signed

Mr. Gray, in accordance with School Committee Procedures reviewed the following warrants which were signed by the Chair.

Warrant Type	Warrant Number	Date Signed	Amount
Payroll	17	02/16/2017	\$1,964,951.03
Payroll	18	02/27/2017	\$2,054,801.36
Accounts Payable	2017-34S	02/06/2017	\$ 621,744.91

Accounts Payable	2017-36S	02/27/2017	\$ 648,500.56
Accounts Payable	2017-37S	02/27/2017	\$ 547,227.99

If anyone wishes to review the details regarding any of these warrants, please feel to contact Mr. Gray.

Approval of Minutes - February 6, 2017

Ms. Reed moved to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of February 6, 2017. Ms. McDonough seconded. They were unanimously approved.

At 9:30 p.m., Mr. Laurent moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

Attest: _____

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

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided in Novus Agenda

Proposed increases to ASAP Fees
Revised FY'18 Capital Expenditures
Proposed Late Bus Fee
School Committee Minutes - February 6, 2017
Report of Warrants Signed
Superintendent's Mid-Year Update on Goals
Kennedy Middle School Building Project Update Document
Update on Lilja Modulares Document

Correspondence

Enrollment Update - March 2017

Handouts

Town of Natick's Financial Management Principals