

Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES  
February 26, 2018

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Third Floor, Town Hall. Chair Tabenkin called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Members Present: David Mangan, Julie McDonough, Firkins Reed, Lisa Tabenkin

Members Absent: Paul Laurent, Hayley Sonneborn, Donna McKenzie

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Director of Finance
	Sharon Reilly	Recording Secretary
	Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative
	Will Cuozzo	Student Representative

**Public Speak**

Chair Tabenkin reminded the audience that public speak is a period not to exceed 15 minutes during which time any individual may voice an opinion or concern on any school-related issue that is not on the agenda. During public speak there will not be an opportunity for debate of issues raised. She stated the following:

*No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting.*

*Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.*

*All remarks will be addressed through her as Chairperson of the meeting.*

*Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.*

Ms. Florina Uyar came forward to request that as the School Committee deliberates its budget, the issue raised by her and neighbors (Ingleside Road /Fox Hill Drive/Peterson Rd) to change their current bus stop for NHS students be taken into consideration as they have concerns about safety and bus deficiencies. The transportation budget request was presented to be down by \$40K. She suggested keeping the budget flat and adding in services to address these safety issues. She indicated that it has been difficult getting times to meet on this matter due to conflicting schedules and suggested communicating via email. Dr. Nolin stated that she

needs to get together with safety committee partners to see what is viable. Ms. Uyar wanted to make sure the budgeting window of opportunity was not missed.

Ms. Ann Eggleston came forward and thanked the administration for the recent safety memo that was sent out to the community. She feels comfortable with the current safety protocol in our schools and appreciates that the rights of students are respected. She doesn't want to see our schools turn into prisons. The problem is guns and she is against militarization in schools.

### **Out of State Travel Request - NHS Science Team to CT**

Mr. Bill Sanford, NHS Science Teacher, came before the School Committee to request out of state travel for NHS students to travel to the University of Connecticut to compete in the Science Bowl Competition on Saturday, March 3, 2018. Mr. Sanford explained the format of the competition which involves questions in all STEM areas against teams from other top high schools in MA, RI and CT. Ms. Reed moved to approve this trip. Mr. Mangan seconded. It was unanimously approved.

### **Report on Partnership with MetroWest Symphony Orchestra - Anna Nolin**

Dr. Anna Nolin discussed a partnership that has been formed with the Metrowest Symphony Orchestra and Natick Public Schools which will provide an opportunity for our students to participate in an orchestra program which is not part of the curriculum. A couple of years ago, a NHS student came before the School Committee to talk about why she believes string instruments should be added into the school program. Dr. Nolin pointed out that as a result of the recent Arts Audit, orchestra programs were to be explored, however, not at the expense of existing band programs. Dr. Nolin introduced Lori Coyne, Natick parent and President of Metrowest Symphony Orchestra, who spoke about their program and how they have been able to partner with Natick Public School students to fill this gap. NHS will be used for their home base and practice area and in exchange they will work with and mentor students interested in an orchestra program. A very successful performance, "*Made in America*" was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> which many NHS students participated in. Ms. Coyne is very excited to be partnering with Natick students and has found them to be very talented and very helpful. She did request that the word be spread that they are in need of more string players. Dr. Nolin and Committee members thanked Ms. Coyne for this partnership opportunity.

### **Update on Safety**

Mr. Tim Luff stated that his heart goes out to those involved in the school shooting in Parkland Florida. He assured the community that a foundation of support for all students and staff exists in NPS. A district wide safety team meets monthly to review best practices and reviews safety protocols. Each school has a crisis team and there are three resource officers in the district. Safety drills are practiced regularly. Mr. Luff offered to provide more details in an Executive Session if that is the Committee's wish. It was pointed out that Natick has been proactive in the area of safety, not reactive. Essential staff have been added to keep student/staff ratios down and mental health support programs have been implemented.

### **Kennedy Middle School Building Project Update**

Dr. Nolin reported that ongoing discussions are taking place with the Kennedy abutters and community at large. Several building committee meetings have been held to consider certain features. The building committee this evening voted to remove the lights from the turf field. Lights for the basketball court are still under review. The Special Town Meeting is being held Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at Wilson Middle School to seek town meetings approval to appropriate funds for the construction of a new Kennedy Middle

School. The Kennedy Building Committee meets again on Wednesday, February 28 in the School Committee room. A community forum will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> where a discussion on safety will be held. On March 27<sup>th</sup> a ballot question will be presented to the voters seeking their approval of a proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion to build a new Kennedy Middle School.

### **Proposed Fee Increases for Natick PreSchool**

Mr. Luff reviewed the following proposed fee increases for Natick PreSchool for FY19 which have been revised from that which was presented to the School Committee on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### FY19

##### 26.5 Hour/week program

- Increase from \$6.41 per hour to \$7.83 per hour
- \$8300 Annual Cost (current \$6800)
- Annual Increase of 22%
- \$76,500 increase in tuition revenue

##### 10 Hour/week program

- Increase from \$9.25 per hour to \$10 per hour
- \$4000 annually (current \$3700)
- Annual increase of 8%
- \$3900 increase in tuition revenue

##### 7 Hour/week Program

- Continue @ \$10 per hour
- \$3000 annually
- No change

A request was made to consider fee increases earlier in the school year to allow parents more time to consider their options. A question was raised as to whether sibling discounts would be considered. Mr. Luff will look into this.

Mr. Mangan moved to approve the FY19 PreSchool fee increases as outlined above. Ms. Reed seconded. They were unanimously approved.

Mr. Luff also reviewed proposed fee increases for FY20 and beyond for long range planning purposes. School committee approves fee increases on an annual basis.

#### FY20

- All programs set at \$10 per hour rate
- Financial Assistance Available for Families

##### 26.5 Hour/week program

- \$10,600 annually
- Annual increase of 27%
- \$117,300 increase in tuition revenue

##### 10 Hour Program

- No change
- \$4000 annually

##### 7 Hour/week program

- No change
- \$3000 annually

FY21, FY22, FY23--2% increases in each year

### **Approval of Proposed Fee Increases/New Fees**

Mr. Gray requested the School Committee's approval to increase fees/new fees as presented to the School Committee at its meeting of February 5, 2018 as follows:

#### **Specialized Tuition Programs: (NORTHSTAR, ACCESS, COMPASS, et.al.)**

On occasion, we have allowed students to tuition into our specialized programs to meet student needs when their sending district is unable to do so. These programs offer an alternative to placing students in higher cost Out of District Collaboratives or Private Placements for these sending districts. Our program cost request is specific to the average number of students in each program, the number of staff- teachers, related service providers, paraprofessionals, and behavior technicians required to run each program.

**Proposed Annual Tuition: \$36,000**

#### **Summer Programs**

##### **2018 Integrated Extended School Year**

##### **Integrated Summer Program: \$152 per week**

This program provides for a full 4-day per week summer program for general and special education students. It was developed last year to provide a least restrictive alternative to our special education students in mandated summer programming. For those special education students who don't qualify for extended programming through their IEP, it provides for continued learning opportunities throughout the summer.

##### **Extended Recreation Program Day: \$70 per week**

This program is offered as an extension our special education students who receive required summer services at the beginning of their day. This program runs 4 (½) days per week.

##### **Splash Integrated Summer Program \$70 per week**

This program provides summer programming for preschool students for 4 (½) days per week. This provides an integrated option for our preschool special education summer programs.

Summer program fees are directly correlated with staff costs, student/teacher ratio, educational supplies, and building maintenance to run these programs.

Mr. Mangan moved to approve the fee increases/new fees to the Specialized Tuition Programs: (NORTHSTAR, ACCESS, COMPASS, et.al.), the Integrated Summer Program, the Extended Recreation Program Day and the Splash Integrated Summer Program as outlined above. Mr. Mangan moved to approve these fees. Ms. McDonough seconded. They were unanimously approved.

### **Special Education Overview**

Mr. Luff provided a comprehensive review of Natick Public Schools Special Education Program. He provided the following:

- Special Education is a service that ensures the provision of a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to our students with Disabilities ages 3-21.
- Allows the students to benefit from general education for the purpose of preparing them for continued education, employment, and independent living.
- Think “Level the Playing Field”
- IEP Team Make this decision together--with Consensus
  - Parent, School Admin, Teacher, Special Ed Teacher
- Assumes documented classroom modifications/Response to Intervention prior to referral.
  - A parent request for a referral bypasses this standard but still requires RTI during the evaluation process.
- Requires student to have a documented disability in eligibility in one or more of the categories.
- Once a student is identified, the student must also meet additional criteria.
- If eligible, an IEP (Individualized Educational Program) is written with placement in the Least Restrictive Environment – general education classroom is the first consideration.
- Dispute Resolution Process is in place if consensus can’t be reached

Also reviewed were:

- Information on Federal & State Laws
- Eligibility Process
- Disability Categories
- Additional Criteria for Eligibility
- IEP Provisions
- Special Education Placement
- Current and historical numbers of students with disabilities
- Disabilities & Environment Percentage
- Programs & Services
- Special Education Offerings
- Natick Parent Satisfaction Survey – Current Year

Mr. Luff responded to questions from Committee members.

### **Subcommittee/Liaison Updates**

Ms. Reed reported that she has found that serving on the TEC Board of Directors has been a great experience and highly recommends that another School Committee member fills the open slot once her term is finished.

### **Warrant Review**

In accordance with School Committee Procedures, Mr. Gray reviewed the following warrants signed by the Chairperson:

<b><u>Warrant Type</u></b>	<b><u>Warrant Number</u></b>	<b><u>Date Signed</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Accounts Payable	2018-32S	02/05/2018	\$326,983.91
Accounts Payable	2018-33S	02/05/2018	\$312,737.59
Payroll	16	02/05/2018	\$2,105,751.01

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

### **Approval of Minutes - January 22, 2018 & February 5, 2018**

Ms. Reed moved to approve the minutes of January 22, 2018 and February 5, 2018. Mr. Mangan seconded. They were unanimously approved.

At 9:55 p.m., Mr. Mangan moved to adjourn. Ms. Reed seconded. It was unanimously approved.

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

Sharon Reilly  
Recording Secretary

#### **Documents provided in Novus Agenda**

Out of State Travel Request - NHS Science Team to CT  
Proposed Fee Increases for Natick PreSchool  
Special Education Overview Presentation  
Minutes - January 22, 2018 & February 5, 2018  
Proposed Fee Increases/New Fees  
Warrant Report