

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
June 4, 2018*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Third Floor, Town Hall. Chair Tabenkin called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:33 p.m.

Members Present: Matt Brand, Paul Laurent, David Mangan, Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Hayley Sonneborn, Lisa Tabenkin

Others Present: Anna Nolin Interim Superintendent
Peter Gray Director of Finance
Sharon Reilly Recording Secretary

Mr. Ron Alexander, Wellesley resident, stated that he will be recording the meeting.

At 6:35 p.m., Chair Tabenkin moved approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session:

1. To conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (all non-union personnel) in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws.
2. To discuss complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (open meeting law complaints filed by Mr. Ron Alexander (Reference complaint #'s 69 through 104) in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) of the Massachusetts General Law.

Mr. Mangan seconded. Chair Tabenkin called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for these purposes:

Mr. Brand-Yes
Mr. Laurent-Yes
Mr. Mangan-Yes
Julie McDonough-Yes
Ms. Sonneborn-Yes
Dr. McKenzie-Yes
Chair Tabenkin-Yes

The motion passed unanimously by those present 7-0-0.

Chair Tabenkin stated that the Committee will return to open session as close to 7:15 p.m. as possible. The School Committee proceeded to the Training Room, 3rd Floor, Town Hall to hold this session.

At 7:25 p.m., the School Committee returned to open session in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall.

Others who joined at this time:

Jefferson Wood
Kayleigh Hacker
Hannah Savoia

Teacher Representative
Student Representative
Student Representative

Public Speak

Chair Tabenkin began with Public Speak. She stated that public speak is a period not exceeding 15 minutes during which time any individual may voice an opinion or concern on any school-related issue that is not on the agenda and during public speak there will not be an opportunity for debate of issues raised. Three minutes per person will be allotted. She asked if anyone was here for Public Speak.

Mr. Ron Alexander, resident of Wellesley, MA came forward. He wanted to give the people of Natick an update on the Open Meeting Law (OML) process involving his 107 OML complaints and mediation. Chair Tabenkin interjected and told Mr. Alexander he could speak to this matter later on when the Committee addresses this topic which is on the agenda under "Update on Public Records Request & Open Meeting Law Complaints". Mr. Alexander disagreed and indicated he could discuss this when he wished as the Committee's Public Speak policy is illegal and in violation of 1st amendment violations. Chair Tabenkin stated that Mr. Alexander was out of order and is disrupting the meeting. Mr. Alexander did not comply so at 7:37 p.m., Chair Tabenkin suspended the meeting.

At 7:55 p.m., Chair Tabenkin reconvened the meeting. She indicated that Public Speak will be suspended to the end of the meeting in order to proceed with business.

Acceptance of Natick Education Foundation Grant in support of the Natick Innovation Fellow

Ms. Rosemary Driscoll and Ms. Karen Leese, representing the Natick Education Foundation, came forward to present a check in the amount of \$50,000 to the Natick Public Schools which will be used to fund the NPS's Natick Innovation Fellow (to support the position of Mr. Jed Stefanowicz as the Digital Integration Coach). Funding this position will allow this work to become more seeded and grow. NEF is able to make this donation due to the generous corporate sponsors, Middlesex Savings Bank and Cognex Corporation, as well as from donations from many individual contributors. Mr. Mangan moved to approve acceptance of this generous donation. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0. Members expressed their gratitude for this generous donation.

Technology Devices to be Retired - Dennis Roche

Mr. Dennis Roche, Director of Technology, provided the School Committee with a listing of technology devices that are no longer in working condition (634 items). Mr. Roche stated that any useable parts from these devices have been stripped down and what's left will be turned over to a responsible recycler. The Committee will vote on the disposition of these devices at their next meeting.

To Authorize the Superintendent to Execute Solar Agreements

Ms. Jillian Wilson-Martin, Town of Natick Sustainability Coordinator, came forward and stated that the School Committee, at its last meeting, was presented with and reviewed the information regarding 1) the construction of solar canopies at the Memorial Football Field and Natick High School parking lots and 2) plans for solar arrays at the existing and future Kennedy Middle School. She requested the Natick School Committee authorize Dr. Anna Nolin, the Interim Superintendent, to execute the solar contracts for these projects on behalf of Natick Public Schools. Mr. Laurent moved to authorize Dr. Anna Nolin, the Interim

Superintendent, to execute the solar contracts. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Update on Middle School Family Survey & Update on Middle School Schedule

Mr. Andy Zitoli, Kennedy Middle School Principal, and Ms. Teresa Carney, Wilson Middle School Principal, came forward to present the results of the Family Perception Survey given to Middle School families.

Building principals, staff leaders, and School Councils reviewed Panorama templates to prioritize questions (number of questions, prioritize the data to be collected) focusing on:

- School Safety
- School Fit
- School Climate
- School Communication

They reviewed the participation rate, gender of student, years in district, grade level

Questions asked to parents pertained to how they feel about their children's:

- school safety
- school climate
- school fit
- school communications

Areas of improvement, reflections and next steps were reviewed.

An update on the timeline for Middle School Schedule Revisions was provided and discussed as follows:

Draft Timeline

- February 2021 New KMS Opens
- 8 classrooms in old modulars, 4 classes in the new modulars
- Spring/Summer 2021 Move Modulars to WMS
- Summer 2021 Equip WMS modulars w/ project-based lab components
- Fall 2021 Move Modulars to Memorial
- Fall 2021 Full Grand Opening of the New KMS Facility
- Fall 2021, KMS and WMS implement parallel specials schedule

Developments

- Exploration of Westwood Schedule and Extended Day/New contract
- Could not make the Westwood schedule work without disbanding PLCs

Behind the Scenes work now:

- Re-evaluation of the music course offerings 5-8 with consultation from Mr. Chisolm
- Re-engagement of middle school staff given new health, music, computer science, and engineering curriculum developments
- Intent to open the 2020-2021 school year with the correct, parallel schedules in place
- Will need to add theater staff, technology staff, art staff, to make parallel schedule at both schools to teach theater, technology/vap classes, and may need to add a .5 music for vap classes depending on music program developments.

Questions were asked and responded to.

Enrollment Projections 2018-2019

Dr. Nolin provided the School Committee with an updated Enrollment Projection Report. In the report provided at the last meeting, she had not included the additional Grade 1 classroom for Lilja School which was included in the budget for next year, which make the Grade 1 class sizes more reasonable. An area of concern will be the Brown kindergarten numbers if more students are added (currently 21, 21, 22, 22, 22). Dr. Nolin will continue to monitor these numbers.

Kennedy Middle School Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin reported that the building committee has not met for a while, however, a lot of behind the scenes work is going on. Advice has been received regarding roadways, electrical poles, and other technical work. There will be a building committee meeting this Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Dr. Nolin has been meeting with various PTO's, PCC, and other groups to keep the community up to date on the project.

Approval of School Committee Meeting Calendar 2018-2019

The School Committee was provided with the following meeting schedule for 2018-2019 for their approval.

2018

June	Wednesday	June	20	Superintendent Search Process with MASC & MASS – 6:00 p.m.
	Monday	June	25	Exec Session & Open Meeting Law Training MASC– 6:00 p.m.
July	Monday	July	9	Superintendent Evaluation – 6:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	July	11	Superintendent Evaluation – 6:30 p.m.
	Tuesday	July	17	FY19 District Goals – 6:30 p.m.
	Wednesday	July	18	FY19 District Goals – 6:30 p.m.
	Thursday	July	19	FY19 District Goals – 6:30 p.m.
August	Monday	August	27	
September	Monday	September	17	
October	Monday	October	1	
	Monday	October	15	
November	Monday	November	5	
	Monday	November	19	
December	Monday	December	3	
	Monday	December	17	

2019

January	Monday	January	7	
	Monday	January	28	

Please note that this schedule is subject to change. Meeting information can be found at <http://natickschools.novusagenda.com/agendapublic>

To award contract for Food Service Management

Enrollment Update - June 1, 2018

Approval of Non-Represented Personnel Salary Schedule

Chair Tabenkin requested that the School Committee declassify the following Executive Session Minutes:

June 6, 2016	September 26, 2016
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March 6, 2017
March 20, 2017

April 24, 2017
May 22, 2017

Mr. Laurent moved approval to declassify the above Executive Session minutes. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Laurent moved to approve the School Committee meeting minutes of May 21, 2018. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. They were unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Mr. Laurent moved to approve the School Committee Executive Session minute of May 21, 2018. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. They are approved by an affirmative vote of 6-0-1. Mr. Mangan abstained.

Update on Public Records Request & Open Meeting Law Complaints

Dr. Nolin provided an update on the Public Records Requests & Open Meeting Law (OML) Complaints. She reported that we have requested mediation with Mr. Ron Alexander to resolve his open meeting complaints which as of today is 107 OML complaints. Dr. Nolin spoke to the mediator this past Thursday where she learned that Mr. Alexander has agreed to participate in mediation. Dr. Nolin stated that we are waiting to hear back from the mediator on the terms of the potential mediation. The Attorney General's (AG) office has directed us to not respond to the ongoing barrage of open meeting law complaints until mediation is scheduled, so they are currently on hold. The complaints have been registered with the AG's office as part of this potential mediation. We continue to receive complaints from Mr. Alexander that we haven't addressed his former complaints so they are becoming cyclical. We are hopeful we can reach resolution soon. Dr. Nolin stated that there is no significant change in the Public Records requests since the last meeting. Ms. McDonough asked for clarification that these are in fact OML "complaints" and there has been no ruling yet that these are in fact violations. Dr. Nolin and Chair Tabenkin confirmed.

Mr. Ron Alexander, Wellesley resident, came forward. Regarding Public Records Requests, he referenced an article published in the Wellesley Townsman, the Natick Tab and the Metrowest News where Ms. Nolin stated that Mr. Alexander has filed 71 Public Record Requests with the Town of Natick since February. He corrected that information stating that he has submitted a total of 30 (5 to Natick Police, 3 to Natick Public Schools, 13 to Natick School Committee and 6 with the Natick Town Clerk). Mr. Alexander reported that in the last week, he has received six determinations from the Supervisor of Records indicating that the town has not met its burden to withhold the public records he has requested and is ordering the school department to respond to him and give him the responsive records. He stated that the School Department should not be wasting the Supervisor of Records time and should just do their job and provide the records. Mr. Alexander stated that he spoke to the mediator on Friday who was discouraged with the attitude of the Natick School Committee. All Mr. Alexander is asking is that the School Committee admit that they made some mistakes and stop making those mistakes. Mr. Alexander said that from what he can tell, the mediator's conclusion is the Natick School Committee is going to refuse to do that and he is wondering if there is any possibility of resolution given the position and attitude on the part of the Natick School Committee. He stated that the School Committee has requested mediation, has already spent \$2500 of the town's money and are not showing any good faith in the process. Dr. Nolin stated that we have not received any notices from the AG's office of any of this, we have paid nothing for this mediation at this point and the mediator's job by definition is to not make a judgement about said scenarios.

Report on warrants signed

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

Warrant Type	Warrant Number	Date Signed	Amount
Accounts Payable	2018-47S	05/21/2018	\$ 487,976.22
Accounts Payable	2018-48S	05/21/2018	\$ 539,074.64
Accounts Payable	2018-48SB	05/21/2018	\$ 232,077.80
Payroll	23	05/21/2018	\$ 2,159,012.03

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

Members Concerns

Mr. Laurent provided a shout out to all involved with the NHS awards ceremony and graduation ceremony held last week. They displayed fantastic examples of the products that the Natick school system puts out. It is fantastic that local businesses and families have provided support to the tune of \$220,000 and more for our students to go on to further their education. He congratulated the NHS 2018 graduates. Dr. McKenzie concurred. She also attended the graduation and thoroughly enjoyed all of the speeches. Thanks to all involved in making these events great.

Mr. Jefferson Wood also gave some shout outs for some very successful events and for those involved in making them happen:

- the fun and safe prom
- the wrap up of spring sports
- the district's recognition event honoring retirees and staff members who achieved professional teacher status.

He stated that our district continues to make an effort to acknowledge the people who work here and who put in the extra effort. It's a pleasure to continue and serve.

Public Speak

Chair Tabenkin stated that at this time she will reopen public speak again.

Mr. Alexander, Wellesley resident came forward and clarified that the six determinations he has received requesting public records are from the Supervisor of Records not the Attorney General's office which were also sent to Timothy Luff ordering the school department to respond to him and give him the responsive records. Mr. Alexander stated that at the last meeting Dr. McKenzie made a statement that Natick residents should be allowed to speak first at Public Speak, however, he pointed out that no Natick residents have been here to speak at Public Speak with the exception of a Natick staff member at the last meeting. He stated that the School Committee is breaking the law, are all responsible and will all be held liable.

At 9:25 p.m., Dr. McKenzie moved to adjourn. Mr. Laurent seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Interim Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Attest: _____

Sharon Reilly
Recording Secretary

Documents provided in Novus Agenda

Non-Represented Personnel Salary Schedule
Memorandum RE: To Authorize the Superintendent to Execute Solar Agreements
Draft School Committee Meeting Calendar 2018-2019
Memorandum to award contract for Food Service Management
Declassification of Executive Session Minutes Memorandum
Draft School Committee Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2018
Warrant Report
Listing of Technology Devices to be Retired
Middle School Family Survey & Update on Middle School Schedule Presentation
Enrollment Projections 2018-2019
Enrollment Update - June 1, 2018

Agenda and materials used at this meeting can be found here: [Agenda & Materials](#)