

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
March 11, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair Tabenkin called the meeting to order and took roll call at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Matt Brand, Julie McDonough, Hayley Sonneborn, Donna McKenzie, Lisa Tabenkin

Members absent: Paul Laurent
Dave Mangan arrived at 7:16 p.m.

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Kirk Downing	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Director of Finance
	Rose McDermott	Recording Secretary

Chair Tabenkin moved for approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session:

1. To discuss complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (open meeting law complaint #604 filed by Mr. Ron Alexander) in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Ms. McDonough seconded. Chair Tabenkin called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for this purpose:

Mr. Brand-Yes

Dr. McKenzie - Yes

Ms. McDonough – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Chair Tabenkin – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of the five members present, 5-0-0.

Chair Tabenkin stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:35 p.m.

At 7:35 p.m., the Committee returned to open session.

Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative and Hannah Savoia, Student Representative, joined the meeting. Ms. Savoia left the meeting at 9:22p.m.

Public Speak

Chair Tabenkin asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. Ms. Corey Spaulding came forward to read a statement and requested to be on a future Agenda to discuss her daughter.


Dr. Nolin introduced Mr. Steve Meyler, Chair of the KMS Building Project. Mr. Meyler informed the School Committee that the Kennedy Middle School Building Committee has voted unanimously to refer the recommendation to the School Committee to award the General Contractor Brait Builders Corporation for the Kennedy Middle School Construction Project for \$79,110,300.00, which is about 8 million dollars under forecasted budget. On behalf of the Building Committee, he respectfully requests the School Committee's approval. The School Committee asked questions regarding savings on costs. Mr. Meyler answered their questions. Ms. McDonough moved approval to award the General Contract for the Kennedy Middle School Project to Brait Builders. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Chair Tabenkin asked if any members of the Public had any questions. Ms. Corey Spaulding came forward and had questions for Mr. Meyler. Chair Tabenkin reminded her of the policy that she could address the Chair and the Chair would answer her questions. Ms. Spaulding said she had many questions. Chair Tabenkin referred Ms. Spaulding to the website with all the documentation on the project. Chair Tabenkin stated that should Ms. Spaulding still have questions, once she has reviewed all of the information, Ms. Spaulding could email Chair Tabenkin and she will respond to her questions.

Dr. Nolin reminded everyone of the journey they have been on and reviewed FY20's budget process as well as the timeline. Dr. Nolin and Dr. Gray then explained their 5.7% budget in detail that they are requesting the School Committee to approve.

<p>Natick Public Schools • 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760 • Visit us online: www.natickps.org</p> <p>NATICK</p> <p>FY20 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p>		<p>Natick Public Schools • 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760 • Visit us online: www.natickps.org</p> <p>NATICK</p> <p>FY20 PERSONNEL SUMMARY</p>		<p>Natick Public Schools • 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760 • Visit us online: www.natickps.org</p> <p>NATICK</p> <p>FY20 PERSONNEL REQUEST</p>	
<p>FY19 Appropriation: \$64,952,436</p>		<p>FY20 Increase: \$3,687,907</p>		<p>Total FY20 Request: \$68,640,343</p>	
<p>Percent Increase: 5.7%</p>		<p>Percent Increase: 5.7%</p>		<p>Percent Increase: 5.7%</p>	


[illegible]

FY20 PROPOSED BUDGET RECOMMENDATION		
FY20 Budget Request		\$68,640,343
Use of revolving accounts		(\$650,000)
Use of new revenues (bus fees/NPS parking fees)		(\$180,000)
FY20 Budget Proposal		\$67,810,343
Town Administrator's Original Proposed Budget =		\$67,125,771
Proposed Additional Funding =		<u>\$ 684,572</u>
Town Administrator's New Budget =		\$67,810,343




HOW DOES THE FY20 BUDGET AFFECT THE OPENING OF THE NEW KENNEDY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN FY21-FY22?

With the opening of the new Kennedy Middle School beginning with the addition of 2 new modular units September 2019 and opening of the school in February 2021, projected additional personnel and operational costs will need to be added:



Assistant Principal
2 Custodians
4 Teachers

	Projected = \$742,759		
	FY20	FY21	FY22
Phase-In	\$287,759	\$200,000	\$275,000
No Phase-In		\$467,759	\$275,000



Utilities
Maintenance
Supplies

	Projected = \$400,000		
	FY20	FY21	FY22
		\$100,000	\$300,000

The School Committee

Approval of Fee Increases (Parking, Busing)

The School Committee discussed the approval of these fees. Dr. Nolin explained that while she doesn't want to raise fees, these options can't be closed off given what we know may be another challenging budget year. Dr. Nolin revealed that the bus fees have not been raised in 14 years. The bus fee will go from \$150.00 per student/\$300 family maximum to \$200 per student/\$600 family maximum. The parking fee at NHS will be \$200 per student. This will not only manage the lack of parking for the building but also will help bridge our budget gap by covering one-time expenditures. Dr. Nolin explained that the Town of Natick owns the parking lots on West Street and are entitled to the parking fees. Chair Tabenkin has discussed with the Town Administrator that the revenue from the fees be returned to the School District to be used for our budget gap this year only. The Board of Selectman will have to decide whether that would be an option in future years. Mr. Mangan shares the concerns of several School Committee members. He does not want to charge a parking fee of \$200, but there is no choice unless we want to look at service level reductions. Mr. Mangan is prepared to support the budget with the fee increases as presented. Dr. Nolin explained the bid that is out for an enrollment and space study will allow us to understand our own drivers and potential reality in FY21. This will allow her to recommend a very prudent and backed budget for next year. Ms. McDonough motioned to raise the bus fee from \$150 to \$200 with a \$400 family cap. This would need to be contingent upon a change in the use of funds such that the Natick Public Schools would be allowed to use the entire funding that is allocated in the warrant article before town meeting. So I am imagining that the funding would then be utilized in a way that we would use our operations budget, then we would use the town meeting warrant article and then we would use the bus fees. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by those present 6-0-0. Chair Tabenkin asked if there was a member of the public wishing to comment. Mr. Henry Hoaglund approached the podium and recommended that the School Committee not do anything that encouraged bus utilization because of having to add another bus.

Mr. Mangan moved to increase the parking fee at Natick High School to be \$200 per year in FY20, contingent upon NPS receiving the revenue in full. Mr. Brand seconded. Dr. McKenzie amended the motion to approve a parking fee of \$225 for Fiscal Year 2020 contingent upon receiving the fees in full. Mr. Mangan seconded for discussion. Mr. Mangan stated that the possible revenue coming back would be around \$78,750.00 although it is not the reason that this amendment is being contemplated and the reasons have been stated by the fellow member. Dr. McKenzie thinks it is important to make a strong statement for sustainability. It's a privilege to drive a car to school and leave it parked there all day. Chair Tabenkin asked Mr. Mangan to repeat the motion. Mr. Mangan repeated the motion. It was not approved by those present 1-5-0. Mr. Mangan then repeated the original motion. It was approved by a vote of 5-1-0. The motion was passed. The School Committee proceeded to ask questions, made comments and discussed their concerns. Chair Tabenkin encouraged the public attend meetings and get a better understanding of the whole budget cycle. Dr. McKenzie motioned that they vote the 5.7% budget. Mr. Brand seconded. Dr. Nolin reminded the School Committee that their motion needed a contingency of affirmation by the Board of Selectman of this 50/50 split for this added revenue that gets us a 5.7% budget. Dr. McKenzie motioned that we approve a 5.7% in our district budget contingent upon the 50/50 split with the town for the interest revenue on the Fire Station and the Middle School. Mr. Brand seconded. Dr. Anna Nolin again reviewed all the contingencies that need to be included in order for the budget to be a reality. Chair Tabenkin informed the School Committee that she has an email exchange from the Board of Selectman that states the Town Administrator has agreed to write up a M.O.U. for the parking fee for one year. Ms. Collins approached the podium and recommended removing all of the contingencies except the contingency regarding parking fees. Mr. Hoaglund stepped up and discussed his optimism regarding future budget years. Mr. Mangan introduced a competing main motion that would supercede the previous one if voted in favor of. Mr. Mangan moved to approve a Fiscal Year 20 request of \$68,640,343.00 which is a 5.7% increase over the FY19 appropriation. Mr. Brand seconded. It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. The motion was passed unanimously by those present. At this time, 9:51p.m., Ms. Tabenkin excused herself from the meeting.

Review of Additional Technology Items to Retire

Mr. Dennis Roche reviewed a list of 428 additional technology items needing retirement because they've reached their end of life.

Approval of School Committee Minutes of February 25, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of February 25, 2019

Mr. Mangan entertained a motion for the approval of School Committee Minutes of February 25, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of February 25, 2019 pending the clerical error change. Mr. Brand

seconded. It was unanimously approved by those present 5-0-0. Ms. McDonough had noticed a minor clerical error in the Executive Session Minutes where there was no vote next to her name for entering into Executive Session. The vote of yes will be entered.

Warrant Report

Mr. Gray, in accordance with School Committee Procedures, reviewed the following warrants that were reviewed and signed by the School Committee Chairperson during the month of February

<u>Warrant Type</u>	<u>Warrant Number</u>	<u>Date Signed</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Accounts Payable	2019-35S	02/25/2019	\$ 277,322.85
Accounts Payable	2019-36S	02/25/2019	\$ 306,277.79
Payroll	18	02/25/2019	\$ 2,666,943.50

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

Enrollment Report March 2019

Dr. Nolin reviewed the current enrollment report. Dr. Nolin reported that we are out for an RFP for a space and enrollment study. The class size analysis is what drove the requests for the Kennedy Middle School positions. The modular classrooms that were added at Brown and Lilja have students that are now rising to the middle schools. We are basing the need for additional staff based on these actual numbers. Ms. McDonough noticed that especially in math, class sizes at NHS are starting to look large.

Teacher Representative

Mr. Wood commented that he is pleased that the School Committee was able to arrive on a number for the budget. Mr. Wood referred to a comment Chair Tabenkin made earlier about not looking to add things to the budget. Mr. Wood would like the School Committee to think about when will we ever be able to add something additional to the budget?

At 10:02 p.m., Ms. McDonough motioned to adjourn. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by those present 5-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Attest: _____

Rose McDermott
Recording Secretary

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda

School Committee Minutes of February 25, 2019
Approval of Fee Increases (Parking, Busing)
FY20 Budget Vote
Report on Warrants
Enrollment Report March 2019
Middle and High School Class Size Reports
Review of Additional Technology Items to Retire

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