

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 7:15 p.m.

Members Present: Matt Brand, Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Hayley Sonneborn, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman

Members Absent: Henry Haugland

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Kirk Downing	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
	Rose McDermott	Recording Secretary
	Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative

Public Speak

Chair McDonough asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. Cathi Collins, 7 Walk Up Court, wanted to make people aware of an issue that affects our community and over 1000 kids that play softball or baseball. The town received notice that was dated last November that access to the Hunnewell fields was going to be cut off. There are articles on the town warrant to address this. She asked that the community be aware and make their voices heard. Dr. McKenzie presented a gift for the school district from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Gobron, of Natick. It was a newly designed peace flag that included different colors of flesh and vertical stripes. Dr. McKenzie carried this peace flag when she walked in the pride parade this past June. Mr. Julian Munich, Precinct 5, Town Meeting member came to inform the community about Article 28 for land use.

Introduction of Robin Welch to the School Committee and the Community

Dr. Nolin Anna introduced Robin Welch. Dr. Nolin have worked together and known each other for over 20 years. Mr. Welch was very excited to accept this interim position. He discussed his experience in teaching and being a Principal for several districts. Mr. Welch feels this is the greatest opportunity for him to come out of retirement. He plans on bringing more spirit, activity and a more child centered focus to the school.

Introduction of Director of Nursing - Nicole Marcinkiewicz

Dr. Nolin introduced Nicole Marcinkiewicz the new Director of Nursing. Ms. Marcinkiewicz thanked for the support and opportunity. She feels very fortunate to have this team of nurses. Mr. Luff also spoke about Ms. Marcinkiewicz. He said she has been superb filling in and stepping in. Previously it was a Nurse Leader, we have done a .6 pre-K-12 Director of Nursing, and a .6 nurse has been hired to fill in at the high school. Ms. Marcinkiewicz was the unanimous choice. The district is really excited.

Consent Agenda

Chair McDonough discussed the future use of a consent agenda and what the process is moving forward. Chair McDonough then read a statement for the use of a consent agenda at every meeting, moving forward. Dr. Fuxman moved to approve the use of a Consent Agenda. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the six members present, 6-0-0.

Natick High School Athletics Presentation

Dr. Nolin introduced Tim Collins, Director of Athletics. Mr. Collins gave a presentation regarding athletics. Mr. Collins was asked for his thoughts on the athletic programs and equities. Mr. Collins discussed the fact that METCO students have a long journey to school and that we've worked hard to give the experience as universal as we can. Mr. Collins addresses specific immediate needs. Dr. Nolin gave a shout out and request that our METCO family and friends program is for this specific reason. A host family can reach out to Dr. Nolin or Ms. Clayton, our METCO Director. Mr. Collins was asked about the costs for teams and athletic club costs. Mr. Collins said we have the lowest fee in our conference of league of schools.

Natick High School Named a National Banner School by Special Olympics

Dr. Nolin spoke about Patty Doherty, a local Natick resident that is the head of the Special Olympics Regional Division. She sent Dr. Nolin congratulations to the Natick High School for meeting and achieving national standards of excellence in the areas of inclusion, advocacy and respect. Natick is one of sixteen schools in Massachusetts chosen for this honor. Included were documents from Tim Shriver. Dr. Nolin thanked and congratulated Mr. Luff for supporting the Special Education staff that run, in conjunction with general education teachers, the Special Olympics. Mr. Luff discussed the program that his staff along with the Special Olympics has put together.

Professional Development and Curriculum Workshop Updates

Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation which detailed that every summer, educators in grades pre-k-12 gather to update our curriculum documents to meet mandates, deepen learning opportunities and fulfill the objectives outlined in the Natick Public Schools strategic plan. Last spring, teachers submitted 67 curriculum proposals to identify power standards, essential questions, enduring understandings, and profile of a Natick graduate competencies within our current units of study. Those proposals were submitted across all buildings and departments. Each proposal was approved by the building principal or department head and ultimately by the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Innovation. Part I of this report is a summary of those proposals and includes a few exemplars of what our teachers worked on to improve our curriculum this summer. In addition to curriculum writing, many of our staff participated in professional development classes, trainings, and workshops to lift current practice and meet targeted goals set out in the strategic plan. Mr. Downing also summarized those professional development activities.

Enrollment Update and Summer Enrollment Update

Mr. Downing reviewed the current enrollment numbers. There were 91 students that were enrolled over the summer.

Update on Transportation - Bus Passes and NHS Parking Passes

Dr. Peter Gray, Assistant Superintendent reviewed the following as of August 20, 2019:

Bus Passes – 3,035 (last year 3,316)

Late fees – 271 families = \$14,100 (last year approximately \$9,000)

Parking Passes at NHS: 264 x \$200 = \$52,800

Expected: \$300 x \$200 = \$60,000 - Budget = \$70,000

KMS Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin reviewed that Brown School and Kennedy Middle School will be opening on time. All of our buildings are ready. New grade at every school. Dr. Nolin asked that everyone please be kind to each other and let the new parents get the routine down. Relative to Brown and Kennedy - we've improved and reduced the drive time. We think your experience is going to be improved now. Asking people not to drop off their kids in other neighborhoods. We granted a piece of conservation land to BOS in an recent meeting. We have decommissioned some electrical poles. First KMS building meeting of this school year is on Wednesday. All change orders are on time. Dr. Nolin informed the School Committee that 2/3 's of the building is laid down and we will soon start to build up. If we were going to encounter major issues, we would know by now anything we are up against. Everyone feels really good about that. Project is completely enclosed and no capacity for staff, students or parents to get into the site. We are looking to a smooth start to the Kennedy Project. Dr. Nolin thanked Joyce McGregor, for the plants she planted in the front of the building. Dr. Nolin also gave a big thank you to Bill Chenard who has played a role to make sure projects got done over the summer.

Update on Facilities Director Position and Town-side Proposal for New Position of Director of Capital Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Nolin revealed that a personnel board meeting had occurred. Two positions had changes in duties and title. This was reviewed with the personnel board. In December of 2018 the School Committee voted not to support this title. This is the first we have heard of this position coming up again. As well as a title change and a different job description. Dr. Nolin discussed the need to have a greater in depth discussion. A potential outcome is that the Director of Facilities position turns into an every day-day position of managing custodians. Dr. Nolin read an email from Ms. Malone, Town Administrator that was sent this evening. Dr. Nolin asked for the personnel meeting to be rescheduled from September 4th. Many of the School Committee cannot make that meeting.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin announced that the Lieutenant Governor has chosen Natick High School as a place to launch her new Respectfully Event, a public awareness campaign, which is about promoting healthy relationships among middle/high school students. There has been a Natick student that has been actively involved in the project's development so our Profile of a graduate citizen activists are out there impressing local government. The launch will be on Thursday September 12th at 10am at NHS with Lieutenant Governor Polito and Representative Linsky. We are happy to be the seat of the launch of that campaign.

At 9:45 p.m., Mr. Brand moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the six members present, 6-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Rose McDermott
Recording Secretary

Attest: _____

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda

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