

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:45 p.m. in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:45 p.m.

Members Present: Matt Brand, Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Hayley Sonneborn, Cathi Collins, Henry Haugland

Members Absent: Shai Fuxman arrived at approximately 6:46pm after roll call.

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Kirk Downing	Assistant Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
	Allison Assencoa	Recording Secretary
	Ms. Kayleigh Hacker	Student Representative
	Ms. Holly Browning	Student Representative
	Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative, arrived at 7:51p.m.

Chair McDonough 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 #NSC_2019_12 filed by Mr. Ron Alexander.
2. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation specifically, C.D. vs. Natick Public Schools, First Circuit Court of Appeals, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;
3. To Conduct Strategy Sessions in Preparation for Negotiations with Non-Union Personnel, Brian Harrigan, Principal, Natick High School and to Conduct Contract Negotiations With Non-Union Personnel, Brian Harrigan, Principal at Natick High School
4. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation specifically, C.D. vs. Natick Public Schools, BSEA, if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;

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

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Mr. Brand – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 6-0-0. The School Committee proceeded to the Training Room to conduct this session. Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee will be returning to open session at approximately 7:15p.m.. At 7:20 p.m., the Committee returned to open session.

Public Speak

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

Introduction of Newly Hired Nursing Staff

Dr. Nolin introduced two new nurses being recommended for hire. Maria Chopur for Brown School as a full time nurse and Kelly Keene for Bennett Hemenway School as a part time nurse. Dr. Nolin asked for the School Committee's support in appointing the two nurses.

Brown School Principal, Aidan McCann Entry Plan

Dr. Nolin introduced Aidan McCann, Principal at Brown School since July 1, 2019. Mr. McCann discussed his entry plan in depth by reviewing his introduction and purpose, entry plan goals with timeline and action steps, key findings and action steps, school improvement goals for the 2019-2020 school year as well as teacher and parent interview questions. The School Committee asked several questions to which Mr. McCann answered in detail.

Power School Overview

Dr. Nolin introduced Grace Magley, Director of Digital Learning. Ms. Magley gave a presentation regarding the new student information system called PowerSchool the Natick Public Schools will be transitioning to. The current system in use is no longer being supported by the manufacturer as well as the company, Harris Corp., was not willing to sign the Massachusetts Student Data Privacy Agreement after months of negotiations with attorneys. She reviewed all the systems that this program manages. Ms. Magley discussed the improvements/enhancements the program will provide and the areas where we will make process changes. Ms. Magley answered several questions in detail.

Curriculum Audit Process Overview: 2019 Focus World Language and Literacy

Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning and Innovation introduced Ms. Judy Coleman, our K-8 Literacy Focus Department Head, and is working on our literacy audit. Mr. Downing and Ms. Coleman gave a presentation entitled Curriculum Renewal Audit Cycle. A curriculum audit is a comprehensive review of a program of study intended to identify the current strengths and struggles of the program in order to improve teaching and learning outcomes. Ms. Coleman and Mr. Downing answered questions from the School Committee in detail.

Presentation of 2020-2021 Draft School Calendar

Dr. Nolin presented a draft of the proposed school calendar for the 2020/2021 school year. She discussed the need for NILS (Natick Innovation and Learning Summit) to be held prior to the school year so that the entire staff could be trained in PowerSchool implementation. The School Committee discussed changing the proposed calendar to have schools closed on the day of the Presidential election. It's very difficult due to traffic and security to have schools open that are polling locations. The calendar will be revised to show the change.

Staffing Update

Mr. Tim Luff, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services provided a staffing update form. He discussed the circuit breaker accounts, which are relief funds for students that we do not anticipate. We recently had a move in and registration of two middle school age children with no previous educational experience, life skills and social skills. There is a possible residential placement, which can cost upwards of \$200,000.00 per student. While evaluating these students we have decided for an in-placement with a significant amount of support outside of school. However, given their entire academic instruction needs, socially and life skills, we are hiring a special education teacher to provide this for them during our evaluation.

Review of Open Meeting Law Decisions

Mr. Tim Luff provided an update. Last April Mr. Luff shared that there were 603 Open Meeting Law complaints filed against the district as of April 2019, by the same person. There have been 13 additional Open Meeting Law complaints that have been filed since that time. Twelve of these were by the same person. The Attorney General found one to be an unintentional violation. There are still three open meeting law complaints still pending but Mr. Luff is very confident that our practice is going to show that we haven't violated.

Teen Sleep Study Exploration Ideas

Chair McDonough reviewed through a presentation recommended sleep for adolescents. She also reviewed inadequate sleep effects on teens. The Chair also reviewed the recognition of health impact by national organizations. She reviewed data gathered by the Metrowest Adolescent Health Survey in regard to student time utilization. Chair McDonough proposed establishing a working group to review sleep research and sleep data. Identify work already conducted or in process to promote sufficient sleep for adolescents and to provide educational opportunities for the community on sleep research and data. The working group will be providing a report to the School Committee with recommendations for next steps. Student Representatives left at approximately 9:35p.m..

Capital Funding Requests for Fall Town Meeting

Dr. Nolin shared that she and Dr. Gray have been meeting with Mr. Chenard. The following items were put forth to Mr. Chenard for inclusion in warrant articles for capital and capital improvements. All schools, staggered replacement of projectors. \$18,000.00 needed in replacements for this first year of staggered replacement. Includes hardware and the installation costs. At Wilson Middle School the painting of 12 rooms, A/C units for the spilt units 2 or 3 of them and bathroom partitions. Adding 2nd floor A/C units if allowed (town collaboration decision). We are waiting to hear if we are installing second floor AC, we assert that no matter what, the Bennett Hemenway needs an assessment for A/C and units installed. At Bennett Hemenway the replacement of the DDC system, there is a \$200,000.00 estimate. Mr. Chenard recommended we do the engineering assessment for the fall town meeting. We also need A/C for the cafeteria. At Brown School, white boards replacement for grades 2, 3, 4. Mr. Haugland reminded everyone that the School Committee's job is to take care of almost 5600 students. Their parents have entrusted us to make sure that those students get the best possible education. If anyone is going to compromise the education of our students, it will have to be the Natick voters, not the School Committee. Mr. Haugland wanted to go on record as making sure that everyone in this building that we think we collaborate with, know that we are prepared to have a knock down battle with them at Town Meeting. Dr. Nolin hopes to know by Thursday what it being put forward.

Update from Budget Subcommittee

Dr. Nolin framed the timeline and the budget calendar:

June 20	Superintendent distributes to Program Leaders the FY 21 budget forms.
Summer 2019	Budget Subcommittee of School Committee meets to agree on approach and high priority values, new budget format--Model Budget Program
September 9	Overview of budget timelines, capital, business office processes and updates and development of 2021 budget process at School Committee meeting
September 18	Discussion of items discussed at 9/9 school committee meeting, sharing of budget calendar and rough salary/hiring updates
September	Principals discuss the FY 21 budget with schools leaders, at their School Council Meetings during the month.
Sep 30-Oct 1	Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent begin reviews with Program Leaders regarding their staffing, non-staffing expenses, capital outlay, furnishings, equipment, and technology requests. All requests are documented and reviewed.
October 28	Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance create a first draft of the FY 21 Budget.
November	Present high-level overview of draft budget to School Committee.
November	Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance present the draft FY 21 budget number to the Town Administrator.

November	Return on Investment Mailer/Core Values school document mailed to residents.
Ongoing	Budget Subcommittee meets to conduct comparative analysis and needs assessments of district priorities/develops resources
January	Town Administrator releases initial FY21 Budget Recommendation.
January 13	Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent make the first FY 21 budget presentation to the School Committee.

Dr. Gray reviewed the budget closeout practice and how it impacts the timeline. We are trying to create a budget for the next year when we still don't have the final information regarding the previous year's budget. It's a guess at best. 2019 has not been closed and we haven't received the end of year numbers from the town. Ms. Collins is concerned about our end of year report due to DESE by October 1, 2019 because we don't have the information necessary for that report and we will be in violation. Dr. Nolin is concerned about a system that doesn't allow us to be agile and give the School Committee quarterly reports. Dr. Nolin stated that she would like NPS to have the same structure that is put in place in most of the other school districts in the Commonwealth.

Ms. Sonneborn left the meeting at approximately 10:30p.m..

Consent Agenda

The School Committee removed items #3 and #6 prior to the vote. Ms. Collins moved to approve the consent agenda as amended by removing items 3 and 6. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 6-0-0.

Approval of School Committee Minutes of August 12, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of August 12, 2019

Ms. Collins moved approval of the minutes for 8-12 regular minutes and 8-12 executive session minutes. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 6-0-0.

Approval of PTO Budgets for Lilja Elementary School and Bennett Hemenway School

Chair McDonough reviewed the huge impact on fundraising within the PTO's since they were told to comply with our policy. Dr. Gray reviewed the fundraising policy that affects the PTO. Mr. Haugland moved approval. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 6-0-0.

Member Concerns

Dr. McKenzie spoke about Hidden in Plain Sight, a provocative and thoughtful exhibit which attempts to educate parents and families on being aware of drug use. It opens tomorrow on the second floor of the mall. Our Representative and Senate President will be present. Dr. Nolin informed the School Committee that a traveling exhibit of the same will be located in the lobby of the high school and middle schools during open house for parents as well.

At 10:46 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](#)