

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 23, 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, Henry Haugland, Shai Fuxman

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Timothy Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
	Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
	Ms. Kayleigh Hacker	Student Representative
	Ms. Holly Browning	Student Representative
	Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative

Public Speak

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

Gambian Exchange Program

Mr. Brian Harrigan, Principal of Natick High School along with some of the students and NHS staff member Alice Burnell that visited Star Fish International in Gambia exchange shared their visit. Julianna Greene member of senior class discussed how it seemed very similar to life here. She spent a day in a life with a student and did chores with her. That student goes to Starfish against her father's will. Julianna taught a sewing class and taught them how make menstrual pads. Several girls will miss up to a week of school because of their menstrual cycles. The furniture from the old Natick high school was donated to Star Fish International. A student had raised over \$10,000 for a shipping container to send chairs and desks. The Starfish International has 100 students mostly girls (10 boys). This is an incredible partnership. Our Natick High School Students would like to bring students from Star Fish back here to stay with them. Several fundraisers will be occurring in order to raise funds for the students from Gambia to make the trip here. This cultural exchange would benefit both cultures. We have 12 passionate young woman that kicked off the change the world club. Dr. Nolin cannot think of a better way to push forward our Profile of a Graduate work. Dr. Nolin explained to the students that their presence here and in Gambia does more work in one day. Dr. Nolin thanked Mr. Harrigan, Ms. Burnell as well as Ms. Zebedio for chaperoning.

Natick High School Theatre Boosters

Dr. Nolin welcomed several parents involved in the new Boosters club. Mrs. Maureen Kaplan along with other parents discussed the new premier year of the Natick High School Boosters. These parents came together when their kids were freshmen. They are hoping to put out publicity out to the town so that community members can know about the plays. Thanks to John Reilly helping us to get our paperwork done. First fundraiser is T-shirt's and sweatshirts, been approved by district. Ms. Kaplan has sent an announcement to cast, crew and family members to let them know they are there to support them. They will be asking for donations from these families. It is not required to donate or pay any dues to be a

member. They are incorporated and are in the process of applying for a non-profit status. Any donations will be to the Natick High School Theatre Boosters, Inc. The Natick community has been wonderful supporting all of the arts. Ms. McDonough thanked them for the work they are doing.

School Calendar proposed

Dr. Nolin reviewed the changes for the next school year's calendar. The school district is moving to a new student information system next year. Typically, the learning and innovation summit is November but we need to move it to prior to the start of school. This will be the training right before the system goes live. Labor Day next year is later so we are offering a 4-day holiday. It allows for a staggered start and progression for our littlest learners. Dr. Nolin also discussed closing school for the presidential election due to the traffic and without staff to guard locations; it becomes impossible to have a secure building. This would create a difficult situation. Dr. Nolin said we will review again and then we will vote at the next meeting.

Overview of Trainings and Opening Day

Dr. Nolin gave an overview of trainings and staff opening day. She reviewed the convocation at Natick High School. Over 800 staff members had lunch together. We discussed goals of the school system. Students performed and we had a kid president who spoke about core values. Dr. Nolin reinforced that there needs to be a day to nourish the heart and vision of the school system. Surrounded by that teachers are trying to set up classrooms. Staff were trained on emergency and evacuation procedures on the day before school began. Those trainings always happen prior to students entering building. We also make sure all new teachers are trained, training bus drivers, crossing guards - both of those are with police. Dr. Nolin also reviewed all of the other trainings that occur in the two days prior to the start of school. Child abuse and neglect trainings, interest and conflict trainings, as well as allergy and Epi pen trainings. Staff also read through IEP's and 504's. There are also a series of online trainings that staff sign must review and sign off on.

Teen Sleep Study Exploration Ideas

Chair McDonough will be leading the group. Emails went out to parents and staff. She discussed the goal, which is to have the working group formed by Friday, October 4th. This is a work in progress. Questions about time commitment have arisen and the time will be for about 2-4 hours per month. We are seeking to find and figure out what the role of the district should be in finding the opportunity to find more time to sleep. Chair McDonough respectfully request that the charge for this committee come back to the school committee. Jumping to the decision that it is a time start problem is problematic. She reminded everyone that we need to remain open minded. Some questions arising from this discussion is what issue are we trying to address? Is lack of sleep detrimental to our students? Is that a problem here in Natick? Are our student having a problem sleeping? We do not really need to collect more data, just review what we have. There may be other ways by looking at parents and their responsibility. We already have lack of parody. The ones that are not are the ones academically struggling. Dr. Nolin applauded the committee. This community is divided on this issue. Education and process was what was missing the last time. We need to teach the community about the issues. Our student representatives spoke and both felt that students know that they need to go to bed and it is a choice to stay up too late.

Respectfully Resolution

Dr. Nolin presented the campaign created by the Lieutenant Governor. This campaign provides students in Massachusetts with tools including short videos regarding healthy and not healthy relationships. This was launched with Natick high School because of our robust work in this area already. There is a focus on promoting healthy relationships. This resolution communicates how respect should look. The resources encourage people to mentor young adults. Dr. Nolin continued by explaining how these tools helps teens to identify behaviors that lead to unhealthy relationships. Our students have been front in center leading that

work. We have been asked that school committee pass a resolution once the Lieutenant Governor sends us the language to be used. We will be asking for your support.

Metco Program Changes

Dr. Nolin reviewed the program and that it is fully funded this year with many changes. Metco has a new CEO and she is charged with making changes that are very difficult. The enrollment was a very informal and folder driven process. Some benefits to that process were more about geography. The informal process created a feeder system. Dr. Nolin continued explaining that what was happening was there was not a fair and equitable way for students to receive slots. There was sorting of students and ruling out students. Dr. Nolin reinforced that this cannot happen. There must be an equitable way. The process is now digitized and completely random. We have also been encouraged to create our own process. It will be a completely random process. The Metco program has set themselves up for discrimination. We will not be a part of that. Students will come to us without any information about behaviors and learning. We just take them as students from their school. However, Dr. Nolin wanted to remind the Committee that after these students are accepted, they could have greater needs. At some point, there may be a time that we have a student that we will need to support no matter what their needs. As we go through the next couple of rounds, the process is changed. There are 60 students each year and they start in the 5th grade. A goal is to start them at Kindergarten level. We may need two separate buses or many monitors on the bus.

KMS Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin informed the School Committee that we continue to untie some knots on the land parcel. Army corps engineers have evaluated this piece of conservation land. If we cannot do what was proposed by giving the land to The Board of Selectman, we will have to pay a fine. New concerns have emerged on whether doing this will change our ratio around open spaces and buildable spaces. If there's a change in our recommendation Dr. Nolin will come back with more information. We are nearing completion of phase 1. There will be a topping off ceremony. One of the structural beams of the building will have student's signatures on it. That ceremony will be October 29 at 10:00am at the KMS site. It is generally for the students and the School Committee. This is about the students putting their marks on the building. Ms. Sandy Lemon convened the capsule committee for KMS. Is there a time capsule for the old KMS? If anyone knows, please let Dr. Nolin know.

Update on Capital

Dr. Peter Gray reviewed submitted capital requests for the Town Meeting this fall. Dr. Gray reviewed the projects and the approximate costs. Chair McDonough felt it be valuable to have someone come with an update of what was completed. Dr. Nolin will bring forward, in the future, a punch list of what was completed.

Update from Budget Subcommittee

Dr. Gray discussed reformatting our process and reviewed the Meritorious Budget Award process and applying to a pathway to becoming a member and receiving the award. This will be done hopefully by next year. Springfield, Worcester and Weston are following this process. The town lost years of history from the town budget. A member felt this would also allow us to understand where Natick is falling behind because of the staffing (lack of). Another member concurred that the people that assembled this format, did so, trying to solve many of the same problems we have. This will bring about transparency. At our last meeting, we decided to send a letter to Town Meeting Members regarding the appropriation of free cash. Chair McDonough reviewed that the response so far is the Chair of Board of Selectman is collecting additional information from Mr. Townsend. Once Mr. Hickey has this information, they are going to put this on the Board of Selectman agenda. Chair McDonough thanked Dr. Gray and his team for bringing this process forward.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Collins moved to approve the consent agenda specifically the acceptance of the PTO budgets for Brown and Lilja, KSA events classic wrestling duals tournament field trip notification and the approval of the School Committee Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2019 Dr. McKenzie seconded. The motion was amended to say the acceptance of KMS and Brown budgets. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

Member Concerns

Student Representatives revealed that freshmen elections were just held and there will be five new freshmen on student council. Mr. Wood discussed the Education Association of Natick being involved in the Fund Our Future campaign. It is a campaign initiated by the MTA in order to adjust a funding and equity by the states for our schools. The MTA has drafted two bills that would restore funding to appropriate levels. This could be an additional million dollars for Natick if it is accepted. Mr. Wood asked for the School Committee, in a future meeting, passing a resolution in support of the campaign or some other bills under consideration. Chair McDonough asked Dr. Nolin to update on the coordination of the EEE threat. Dr. Nolin said it has been a difficult time. The outbreak has been much publicized this year and our Board of Health has kept us up to date on how to proceed with their expectations. We do not make decisions about what is sprayed and when. The Board of Health does not have all the authority as well. There are State recommendations as well. Natick is not in a critical area. When we have a hard frost, which is 4 hours at 28 degrees is when we can lift the ban. There is no recommendations from the Board of Health and staff not to have recess. Parents can send in long sleeved shirts and pants. Spraying has occurred both areal and on foot. We have been taken care of by those resources. We have been assured that the pesticide within one night's period has been rendered harmless because it does not get absorbed. Vernal pools were not sprayed on foot but the aerials did cover them in spray. The state determined to spray over those due to the risk. Dr. Nolin appreciates all of the questions and concerns. One of the members discussed the flu season and when and where the clinics will be held. Flu clinics will be held on October 16th and November 14th from 10am – Noon and 5pm – 7pm at the Community Senior Center, October 29th from 3:00-6pm at Natick High School and October 3rd for staff

At 8:50 p.m., Ms. Collins moved to adjourn. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

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](#)