

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, October 7, 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
	Kirk Downing	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.

MCAS District Overview

Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent shared the annual MCAS summary report. He presented Natick's accountability report and explained the design of the report. Mr. Downing presented the MCAS data and described next steps for individual schools and the district as a whole. Mr. Downing answered several questions in detail.

Review of Strategic Plan and Dr. Nolin's Goals

Dr. Nolin reviewed the Strategic Plan with the School Committee as well as where to find detailed information. Dr. Nolin gave a PowerPoint presentation of district updates, her goals evaluation.

Goals: GOAL 1: DEEPENING POG WORK
GOAL 2: SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING
GOAL 3: FISCAL AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
GOAL 4: COMMUNICATION

Dr. Nolin reviewed new action steps under her goals. She discussed norming the election year and civic dispositions. Dr. Nolin answered questions from School Committee Members in complete detail. Ms. Collins moved to approve the plan as provided focusing heavily on the smart objectives as laid out. Mr. Haugland seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present.

Facilities Director Update and Capital Long Range Planning Items

Dr. Nolin reviewed where we currently stand for a Director of Facilities. The initial screening committee reviewed recommended resumes and the rankings have been released for a larger panel interview. Interviews should be next week and Dr. Nolin is hoping this will be swift. She also reviewed Capital long range planning items that are not on any list. These had not been brought up to Dr. Nolin in the past and are now on a list. Dr. Nolin discussed possibly pursuing a position of Alumni and Development Director that could offer the district tracking for success, work partnerships, alumni giving, etc. Mr. Haugland

thinks this would be a significant move and a huge return on our investment. Dr. Nolin discussed the need to prioritize these and more items for the next 5 years.

Enrollment Update

Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent reviewed the current numbers and believes we will stay stable for a while.

Class Size Analysis

Dr. Nolin reviewed the strong theme about classroom complexity vs. actual numbers of students. We will come back at the budget process however; the big personnel need is we have to staff Kennedy Middle School, which will help with Wilson Middle School's class sizes. Dr. Nolin informed everyone that the largest class ever is about to jump from 8th grade to 9th grade. Dr. Nolin also reviewed that the numbers of bodies is one thing but servicing the ones we have comes to a cost for the districts overall capacity. This will be a strong theme that we will have to address during the budgeting season.

KMS Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin gave an update. There has been a contractor change. The former was removed from the job and we have been assured there are no issues and The Brait Brothers, owners, are on site now all the time. Chairman Meyler has reviewed everything and everything looks to be in order. Project is well ahead of schedule and under budget. Dr. Nolin informed everyone that the FFE process is about to begin. The KMS staff will move into focus groups to start to explore their vision for what the rooms' equipment should look like. Every sector of the school is involved. Dr. Nolin informed the Committee that the Finance Committee has approved Article 20 and we are ready to move forward with giving the land over. A time capsule committee has been established and is being led by Sandy Lemon. The Topping off ceremony is on October 28th at 10am.

Update on Purchase Order Process

Chair McDonough discussed the letter sent by the School Committee to the Board of Selectmen back in September. The letter outlined the challenges that we face with this process. Dr. Gray has met with Mr. Townsend and the Town has agreed to increase access to Munis for users at the high school. There is a problem with the underlying process which is Dr. Gray should have the authority under Mass General Law to govern our expenses and to approve them. Our numbers are not accurate without having the correct access. Dr. Nolin reviewed one of our goals, which is to have a book of processes; however, this conversation is vitally important for the budget season. We are constantly asked the same question in regards to spending. We cannot get anything from the comptroller's office under 6 weeks. Having the correct access will allow us to review current financial reporting every quarter. This would solve a ton of issues.

Teen Sleep Study

Chair McDonough reviewed the progress with the School Committee. We have had interest from parents as well as Mr. Harrigan, Mr. Collins, Ms. Clayton, Michele LeBlanc a nurse at Memorial School and a middle school teacher. We will reach out to everyone to find out the best time for the study group to meet.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Collins moved approval of the consent agenda items. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0. Items on the consent agenda:

1. Report on Donations
2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of September 9, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of September 9, 2019.

3. Warrant Review

Action Items

Ms. Collins moved to approve the school calendar where it is a full day off on the 24th of December and with release. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

Town Meeting Budget Planning and Discussion of the Proposed Free Cash Spend Down Plan

Ms. McDonough reviewed Town meeting budget planning and discussed the proposed free cash spend down plan. Dr. Nolin believes we are starting again very much like last year with yet another proposal of free cash spend down that we could not use. We had to raise fees to meet our budget. The current projection from Ms. Malone does not fully detail the budget in which we used funds. The committee discussed last year's spend down leaving not enough cash. The proposed spend down plan moves over 3million dollars into free cash, which you cannot touch for a year. Chair McDonough wants to be clear to Town Meeting that just like last year, the school budget will be facing a deficit and the decisions being made at Town Meeting will have an impact on the funding available. Dr. Nolin reviewed the letter that was received by the Laborer's Union. There is a moral component to this and it is clear that not all the information is given on this pension proposed spending. Dr. Nolin is confident that employees that have served this district for many years took this benefit in lieu of others. These people do not even have a future contract and this feels yucky on a moral, procedural and good faith bargaining. Ms. Collins made a motion that the committee object to the use of free cash on article, 1, 2, 3, 4 ,5 and 42 as of 10/7/19 and as summarized in the chart presented to Fincom on 9/26/19. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0. Ms. Collins reviewed article 29. The effect is the more of these smaller units that exist; the harder it is for traffic and harder for buses. Fincom voted to refer to the sponsor. Ms. Collins wanted to make sure that the School Committee is aware of this article. Consensus is not to take a position on article.

Member Concerns

Mr. Jefferson Wood thanked the School Committee for their previous motion. Mr. Woods attended a meeting and stood in support of 40 members of local 1116 that came out to speak to the proposal and the impact it would have to so many. Their pensions will be dramatically affected. On behalf of the EAN, we are in support on local 1116. They make our jobs possible as well. Mr. Woods thanked our laborers union. Mr. Wood also said that it is nice to see the EAN, the Superintendent and the School Committee aligned in this cause.

Dr. Fuxman will be the new representative to NEF.

Dr. McKenzie reminded everyone that Yon Kippur is a solemn feast and that we wish everyone a solemn celebration.

At 10:44 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](#)