

*Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 18, 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, Cathi Collins, Henry Haugland, Shai Fuxman

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn arrived during Executive Session

Others Present:	Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Mr. Kirk Downing	Assistant Superintendent
	Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Chair McDonough moved for approval for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session for this purpose:

1. To comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law, specifically Chapter 30A, Section 21(g)(1) The public body, or its chair or designee, shall, at reasonable intervals, review the minutes of executive sessions to determine if the provisions of this subsection warrant continued non-disclosure.
2. To Discuss the Deployment of Security Personnel or Devices, or Strategies With Respect Thereto;

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

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Dr. Fuxman - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Mr. Brand – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

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

At 7:18 p.m., the Committee returned to open session.

Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative and Ms. Kaleigh Hacker, Student Representative joined the meeting at this time.

**Public Speak**

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

**Consent Agenda**

Chair McDonough pulled out all of the items on the consent agenda.

### **Action Items**

Ms. Collins moved to approve the donation items listed on the Donation Report. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

### **Metrowest Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data and Overview**

Dr. Nolin, Bob Anniballi, Director of Health Wellness and Physical Education, Catherine Sugarman and Nina Levine from Natick 180 as well as Nicole Marcinkiewicz, Director of Nursing gave a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation touched almost every sector of our strategic plan and many aspects of student living. Tracking and addressing this data is vital to the overall progress of students. Dr. Nolin informed the School Committee that the EDC publishes guides that give a summary of information in this test administration. The research is valid and reliable. Participation by students is voluntary. Students perceive it as important and they feel that measures have been taken to preserve their anonymity and privacy. Dr. Nolin reviewed every piece of data collected. Ms. Sugarman also discussed vaping interventions. Ms. Marcinkiewicz discussed interventions for substance use prevention and education. 84 movement - a Massachusetts wide youth leadership campaign that trains young people around the Commonwealth about marketing strategies that have been used on kids. There is a training on December 3, 2019 on tobacco. Specific communities have been targeted by cigarette manufacturers. Dr. Nolin reviewed interventions addressing bullying & cyber bullying. She went on to say that our equity audit and influence 100 is timely. There are more mental health needs than in previous years. There was a huge jump in social/emotional needs for 8th grade. Dr. Nolin informed the committee that minute one we were on this data and moved with it. Our social/emotional learning framework is getting pushed even more. Families need this more now than ever. She explained that it's hard to know what's good and what's bad parenting. We need to look into why the kids are online 3 or more hours per day. We have to help families to understand this. Mr. Anniballi reviewed our game changers program. 45 students have been trained and gone into sophomore classes and done work with them. 85% of students feel that now they're more aware. The department has proposed a new class for the next school year. Dr. Nolin reviewed dating violence and it is stable. School attachment data was presented. We are now surveying students on trusted adult information. School Committee members asked many questions and Dr. Nolin answered them in complete detail. Dr. McKenzie would like to come back and discuss policies that could benefit females. Mr. Brand would like to find out how much online time is not including being online for homework. Dr. Nolin would like to look at Needham's microaggression policy.

The School Committee took a short recess.

### **Class Size Analysis**

Dr. Nolin reviewed Kennedy and Wilson Middle Schools and Natick High's class sizes. We have had this data for quite some time. Dr. Nolin said there are no particular pressure points at Wilson at this time except for Kennedy needing to open in order to complete the redistricting plan for year two. Grade 5 at Kennedy is looking very large and this was expected. The grade levels at Kennedy are not staffed completely. That will happen once the new Kennedy opens.

### **Medicaid**

Mr. Tim Luff, Assistant Superintendent reviewed new Medicaid information. Mr. Luff informed the School Committee that we are now able to get reimbursed for items we hadn't received before. There's no reimbursement for academic. Only medical services. This reimbursement provides approximately \$400,000.00 per year to Natick Public Schools. We have not started billing insurance for nursing services. We don't know how that looks yet. But we can look at other items to try to get reimbursements for. Mr. Luff also informed the School Committee that we typically give \$100,000.00 to our town partners but we

may want to reconsider that. School Committee members asked questions and Mr. Luff answered them in full detail.

### **Natick Parent Academy**

Dr. Nolin reviewed this exciting new website that will be the support arm for parents. There will be podcasts, videos of all meetings and trainings, ways to navigate the website and how to logon to the new PowerSchool tools. We are seeing this as a stand-alone backup service to our in-person work. On January 29, 2020 at 7 p.m. at Natick High School we will host PATH (parent academy town hall). This is an intended evening to put forward many of our strategic plan initiatives with the idea of connecting with our parent community and engaging with them more fully. We intend on having a series of focus groups regarding engagement. This will allow us to hear from parents directly. This website will allow parents that were unable to attend an event to always have resources at their fingertips.

### **Enrollment Report**

Mr. Kirk Downing, reviewed the current enrollment numbers. We have increased enrollment by 8 students. We should be seeing a rise in the Natick Preschool program due to children aging into the system.

### **Appoint Bill Chenard as a Member of the Kennedy Middle School Building Committee**

Dr. Nolin would like to keep Mr. Chenard on the committee. Ms. Collins moved to appoint Bill Chenard as a member of the Kennedy Middle School Building Project. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

### **KMS Building Project Update**

Dr. Nolin discussed the concrete drying and that depending on fluctuations of the weather, they could be active in the building later than 7 p.m.. We know in advance if there are any issues and that allows us to notify abutters. Dr. Nolin announced that on May 23, 2020, any member of the community may tour Kennedy Middle School for the last time. We understand the importance of doing that. There will be visit days for dignitaries in December to tour the new Kennedy Middle School.

### **Additional Action Items**

#### **Student Activity Account Closure**

Dr. Nolin reviewed closing one activity account and redistributing funds to another. We are asking for approval. Dr. Nolin discussed the district conducting a student activities accounts audit. Ms. Collins moved to close the Swiss exchange account student activities. Dr. McKenzie seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

#### **Approval of School Handbooks**

Dr. Nolin pointed out the major changes for the Middle Schools that deal with their dress code. She also pointed out the changes to Natick High School's major changes which include students opting out of live dissections, change of VHS courses to online TEC courses and updated policies. Mr. Haugland moved to approve the handbooks. Ms. Collins seconded. Ms. Sonneborn abstained. It was approved by a vote of 6-1-0.

### **Update on Purchase Order Process**

Dr. Nolin revealed that the Munis report from the outside vendor has been received and it upholds the recommendations from Dr. Gray. That report will be available and she believes Mr. Townsend is moving things in the right direction.

### **Update on Sleep Working Group**

Chair McDonough reviewed the very successful first meeting and they are breaking the work down into subgroups. There was a big interest and big group. The next meeting will be in December.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Collins discussed the Influence 100 meeting that occurred last week and has great hopes.

Ms. Hacker provided a student update on the high school food drive. Mr. Harrigan is doing "no shave November". If they reach their goal, Mr. Harrigan will be dyeing his beard.

Dr. McKenzie expresses her gratitude to the district for several members of The School Committee to participate at MASC - we learned a lot. Dr. Nolin presented at the conference. Ms. Magley also presented and Ms. Collins was grateful for this opportunity to attend. She also informed everyone that so many other districts are very interested in all we are doing in Natick. This is also transgender awareness week - shout out to all of our transgender students, that we stand with them. Our SelectBoard is naming the dog park and it's being named Eddie's park.

At approximately, 10:07pm, Mr. Haugland moved to adjourn. Ms. Collins 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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Rose McDermott  
Recording Secretary

**Documents Provided in Novus Agenda** Agenda and materials used at this meeting can be found here:  
[Agenda & Materials](#)