

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
November 25, 2019*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, November 25, 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, Cathi Collins, Henry Haugland, Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn

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

Public Speak

Chair McDonough asked if anyone wished to come forward for Public Speak. Matt Brunell, Catherine Brunell, Jill Flynn, Chris Jewels, Julie Benitas, all parents of students whom attend Johnson School voiced their frustration over the Johnson School playground being closed to the public while ASAP staff and students are using the playground between the hours of afterschool until 6pm. The parents would like the School Committee to override Dr. Nolin's decision to keep the playground closed while ASAP staff and students are on-site.

National Republican Committee - Donation of Pocket Constitutions

Ms. Patti Sciarra from Natick Republic Town Committee donated 550 pocket constitutions to all students that take civics and government classes. Ms. Collins moved to accept the donation from NRTC of the pocket constitutions for use in high school. Mr. Haugland seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the seven members present, 7-0-0.

Recognition of Students Receiving MASS Superintendents Award

The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents has instituted a Certificate of Academic Excellence to honor high school students who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence through the junior year of their high school experience. The local superintendent has the privilege of choosing the individual(s) based on the number in the graduating class. Dr. Nolin recognized and introduced the recipients for this year's awards. Those students were Owen Goldner and Michael Gerovitch. Dr. Nolin presented Owen and Michael with their awards.

Recognition of Students Receiving National School Development Council Awards

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The NSDC award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort, and who have also served as positive role models for the student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment. These awards are typically presented to seniors

in the fall so that the honorees will be able to include the award in their applications for colleges, universities, post-secondary vocational-technical schools and other post-secondary institutions. Dr. Nolin recognized and introduced the recipients for this year's awards. Those students were Shayna Deltano and Emma Koskovich. Dr. Nolin presented Shayna and Emma with their awards.

Consent Agenda

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

1. Retirement of Technology Devices
2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of October 28, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of October 28, 2019
3. Approval of Starfish Gambia Trip to Gambia, West Africa
4. Approval of Food Purchase Policy DJB

Recycling and Green Practices Update From Food Services

Dr. Nolin gave a brief overview of how this recycling process has been working since the Spring and what the current problems we are facing. The Recycling coordinator is trying to get the landscape so she can make recommendations. School Committee members asked several questions to which Dr. Nolin answered in detail.

Review NESDEC and TBA Architect Reports

Dr. Nolin gave a review of the reports. She discussed the difficulty of hiring a firm. This was no easy task because most firms want to do it as a way to get to a building project, which we are not doing. Dr. Gray gave information in regards to going out to bid for this space study. Part 2, which is a space analysis, will be next. Things have not substantially changed. The current report will be revised. Dr. Nolin wants our discussions out there for Budget meetings. This report does not take in consideration any of the births from new builds. The main message is even with this conservative analysis, we are stable but we are not getting any smaller.. We will cross check it with the NESDEC report and TBA at which point we will then be looking at space study too. Dr. Gray said the firm was willing to do a space study. This was the only individual that would do this. Apparently, there is a niche out there but there is no one that will take over this endeavor. Dr. Nolin conveyed to the Committee that we are in the percolating phase of this information. Mr. Haugland advised the Committee that in his opinion, NESDEC never gets Natick accurately because he's been looking at these reports for 20 years. School Committee members asked several questions, to which Dr. Nolin answered in detail.

Capital Long Range Planning and Review of Capital Items

Dr. Nolin gave a review of her long-range conceptual capital/facility planning considerations. These are draft ideas for the purposes of discussion and prioritizing. Ms. Collins asked for working groups so there could be concerted effort and focus. This we can't do here during our meetings. Dr. Nolin discussed that the space study will look at every building and look at expansion needs, boilers, roof, when upgraded and when will they need to be replaced. This gives us a snapshot so we can make decisions on where we should direct our funds. There will be a Parent engagement town hall on January 29, 2019. Dr. Nolin has been asking for parent volunteers. Dr. Nolin believes we could learn a lot that evening. We can get a deal of information from parents that evening.

Update on Munis and Purchase Order Process

Dr. Gray discussed the process and the politics. He is meeting with Mr. Townsend tomorrow and noted that the Comptroller is away for 3 weeks on vacation. He wanted changes made for access to Munis but Mr. Townsend said no one can give authorization except for the Comptroller. Dr. Gray feels that our hands

are tied at this moment. The School Committee members discussed their frustrations over the School District not being able to have access to their budget and current figures. If anything were to happen to the Comptroller, we would be paralyzed.

Update on KMS Building Project

Dr. Nolin gave a brief update and informed the community that there will be a tour of the new building at the current stage of construction. On December 13th at 3:15pm – through invitation only – Natick Town dignitaries and School Committee members will be given a tour through the Construction site. On December 14th at 9am there will be a tour for the community at large. On December 17th – School Administration will be given a tour through the Construction site. In May, there will be an opportunity for the community to go into the old KMS and take one last tour.

Update on State's Student Opportunity Act

Dr. Nolin gave an overview of the act and discussed the fact that both houses are supporting this act. It updates procedures for school funding and accountability expectations. This could or could not be potential aid for Natick Public Schools. The Governor is signing tomorrow.

Announcements

Ms. Collins informed the other Members that an agreement has been reached with the Administrative Assistant's union and it will be discussed at the next meeting. Dr. McKenzie expressed her new appreciation for parents and their fundraising efforts.

At approximately, 9:25pm, Ms. Collins. Mr. Haugland 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](#)