

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

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, December 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: Julie McDonough, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman, Hayley Sonneborn
Members Absent: Matt Brand, Henry Haugland, Donna McKenzie

Others Present:	Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Dr. Peter Gray	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 Discuss Strategy With Respect to Collective Bargaining (Administrative Assistants) or Litigation if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Bargaining or Litigating Position of the Public Body and the Chair So Declares;
2. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation specifically, United States District Court, C.D., ET. AL. vs. Natick Public School District, ET. AL. if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;

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

Dr. Fuxman - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was unanimously approved by a vote of the four members present 4-0-0. 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 7:29 p.m., the Committee returned to open session. Mr. Matt Brand, School Committee Member, Mr. Kirk Downing, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Jefferson Wood, Teacher Representative, Ms. Kaleigh Hacker and Ms. Holly Browning, Student Representatives, all joined the meeting at this time.

Public Speak

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

Action Items

Ms. Delisa Joseph, Vice President and Community Reinvestment Officer of Needham Bank presented a donation of \$1500.00 to the METCO Program. Dr. Nolin thanked Ms. Joseph for the continued support from Needham Bank. Ms. Collins moved to accept the donation from Needham Bank for the Metco Program for \$1500.00. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the five members present, 5-0-0.

Mr. Andy Meyer from the Rotary Club spoke about the organization, which has been in town for 90 years. The Rotary Club gives scholarships to seniors. However traditionally, four scholarships were awarded with a worth of \$2500 each. The Rotary Club wishes to make more of an impact and therefore are now giving one scholarship to one student for 10,000.00. Moving forward the scholarship will be named the Dr. Joseph Keefe Scholarship. Dr. Keefe has been a member for over 40 years. Ms. Sonneborn motioned to accept the donation with gratitude. Ms. Collins seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the five members present, 5-0-0.

Overview of Administrative Assistants Memorandum of Understanding and Overview of Facilities Memorandum of Agreement

Ms. Marianne Davis, Director of Human Resources, reviewed the administrative assistant's new contract. Ms. Davis also reviewed the custodial Memorandum, an agreement that was reached without Ms. Davis or Natick Public School's participation. Ms. Davis, in the past, has always sat in during negotiations in order to represent the School Committee. This year an agreement was reached without Ms. Davis' participation and without the School Committee's vote. Ms. Davis has not been involved in the successor agreement contract as well. Ms. Collins reviewed her understanding of how the process should be in regards to a Facilities Memorandum of Agreement. In the past, the School Committee has a role to play in negotiating contracts for facilities. Ms. McDonough agreed and believes that the process was missed. Ms. Collins went on record to say the process was inappropriately managed.

Athletic Budget and Vision Presentation

Dr. Nolin introduced Mr. Collins. Tim Collins, Director of Athletics introduced Kaleigh Hacker and Aidan Knowlton. Mr. Collins gave a presentation. His presentation reviewed the core values of NPS Athletics and goals for the program in the future. Mr. Collins also reviewed how athletics is funded and how the athletics budget and strategic planning work. He explained the difference in the MIAA standards and the NHS standards for minimum academic eligibility. Mr. Collins informed the School Committee of the recent NICHE ranking. We are #1 for best public high schools for athletes in Massachusetts. Overall #2 best public high school in Massachusetts.

There were several complications with the audio system this evening. The School Committee took a 5-minute recess in order to reset the sound system.

SEPAC Presentation

Mr. Tim Luff, Assistant Superintendent introduced the SEPAC team. Dani Newland and Elise Gorseth. gave a presentation. They discussed having a full board of volunteers and having a team in place as well as a liaison at almost every school except for the preschool. Their goals are to raise awareness of Special Education. The SEPAC team discussed maintaining a consistent outreach effort and how they support the new student services staffing model. They also reviewed programming and current concerns - RTI practices and the language used to describe them. Mr. Luff explained what the road from RTI to Special Education evaluations looks like. Dr. Nolin also discussed the current state of classroom complexities.

Special Education Program Review and Update

Mr. Tim Luff, Assistant Superintendent, gave an update. He reviewed the restructure of Student Services Administration. He shared parent survey results from 2018-2019, there were 256 total surveys collected. Thus far, this year, we have collected 77 surveys - 27% return. General comments from parents and staff provided some insight. Mr. Luff is hoping surveys will increase. He explained to the Committee that school reports are provided to parents 48 hours prior to meetings. Mr. Luff compared survey results from last school year to the current school year to date. He reviewed the positive feedback from parents and shared parents comments surrounding challenges - there were only 2. He reviewed comment trends to work on. Mr. Luff reviewed general comments about the model. Staff members in the building have been a positive, helpful experience and feedback has been very positive. Mr. Luff continued by reviewing the Tiered Focused Monitoring plan. This reviews districts every three years and emphasizes elements most tied to student outcomes. We are currently in year 3 of this plan. Natick is considered a tier 1 Level which means no risk. Mr. Luff reviewed indicators for the assessment of students, curriculum and instruction.

Budget Timeline Overview

Dr. Nolin reviewed the process and the dates surrounding the budget. We must submit a number to Ms. Malone, Town Administrator by the 31st. Ms. Collins asked that we be diligent in making sure the Town is following the charter and that the information supplied by our Superintendent needs to be included in the Town administrator's budget the way the Superintendent intended.

KMS Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin updated the community informing them that the building is about to be wrapped. We are in various stages of concrete. We are meeting with all the groups for procurement of furniture, fixtures and equipment - all the things that make it all happen. Dr. Nolin informed all that they have finished the color scheme and signage for the building. We are working with Mr. Townsend and he has been very helpful. Dr. Nolin informed the School Committee that we have had some concerns with being able to access Munis and put purchase orders through there. She went on to explain that we need to be quick with procurement for a May purchase, so we can have an assembly date of November. Chair McDonough asked for a Munis update and Dr. Peter Gray said he received an email from Mr. Townsend. Dr. Gray is hopeful, however, slowly, we are still moving forward.

Review of Recent Open Meeting Law Determinations

Mr. Luff, Assistant Superintendent reviewed the complaints and allegations filed by members of the public. The complaints reviewed included 15 total allegations filed by and he reviewed the Attorney General's determinations on the matters. A complete list may be accessed in Novus Agenda.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Brand moved approval of the consent agenda items. Ms. Collins seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the five members present, 5-0-0. Items on the consent agenda:

1. Report on Warrants Signed
2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of November 18, 2019, November 25, 2019 and Executive Session Minutes of November 18, 2019
3. Donations

Member Concerns/Announcements

Ms. Hacker revealed that they raised \$6200 for the food drive. Mr. Brand congratulated the Kennedy Middle School Band students. He attended the concert this evening and it was impressive. Mr. Brand also gave a shout out to Natick High School's Bright Star show. He said it was really incredible and those students are impressive. Ms. Collins reminded everyone of the upcoming Financial Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday at pm

At approximately, 10:07pm, Ms. Collins moved to adjourn. Mr. Brand seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of the five members present, 5-0-0.

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](#)