

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
August 16, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 5:30pm via a Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 5:38pm. All members stated they were participating remotely.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Cathi Collins, Shai Fuxman, Catherine Brunell, Henry Haugland, Donna McKenzie

Members Missing: Hayley Sonneborn (arrived at the opening of Executive Session)

Others Present:	Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Dr. Peter Gray	Assistant Superintendent
	Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
	Susan Balboni	Interim Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation

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

1. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Superintendent, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Director of Human Resources. Assistant Superintendent of Student Services
2. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations or to conduct collective bargaining sessions with Unit S

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
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0. Chair McDonough stated that the School Committee would be returning to the general session at approximately 6:15pm. The School Committee proceeded to a private virtual meeting to conduct this session.

At approximately 7:20p.m. the School Committee returned to open session.

Public Speak

Due to the nature of a virtual meeting, the instructions from the Attorney General were to submit public remarks via email to Chair McDonough. Chair McDonough received no emails.

Recognition of State Championship Wrestling Team and Coaches

Dr. Nolin welcomed all the student wrestlers and Coach Anniballi to the meeting. These young man gave a stellar performance after a grueling year, spending months training and sticking to the program. Ms. McDermott played a video montage of the team and interviews with several Administrators. Coach Anniballi spoke about the team and that this was a total family win - families gave up vacations and wrestlers gave up their jobs to put the team first. They hung in there and they really deserve it. Dr. Nolin gave kudos to Coach Anniballi and congratulated the team. Chair McDonough them all for being here tonight and congratulated them. The entire School Committee is happy they had this experience especially during a challenging school year.

Announcements

Dr. Fuxman announced a great SPARK program tomorrow night at 7pm – Coping Skills for Back to School Worries. You may still register at sparkkindness.org.

Consent Agenda

Approval of School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes of June 7, 2021, June 14, 2021 and School Committee Retreat Minutes of June 23, 2021, June 30, 2021, July 1, 2021, July 27, 2021 and August 3, 2021.

Ms. Brunell removed the June 7, 2021 School Committee Minutes and Executive Session Minutes from June 14, 2021. Ms. Sonneborn moved to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

Updates on the Opening of the 2021/2022 School Year and Covid Safety Update:

Dr. Nolin revealed that she had sent out the return to school handbook. At the most recent Board of Health meeting, they mandated mask wearing in schools. She shared what we have heard from the Department of Education this week. That was also shared in the handbook. Routine Covid pooled testing (new name by DESE) will continue. These are constant safety checks which will occur all week. Dr. Nolin reviewed the testing services included. On-site support provided by CIC at no cost to the district. This program will start as soon as possible. Families will need to get the consent form completed in the first few days of school. Dr. Nolin's recommendations:

- Execute the consent for all three types of testing (a. symptomatic, one symptom, b. test and stay and c. pooled routine). Sick staff and students should still stay home.
- Recommend the saliva version that includes the lab-based follow up (this eliminates the need for kids to be retested in school)
- We will work with Board of Health to determine if/whether we are moving ahead with pooled testing/Routine COVID pooled testing.
- Stand up vaccine clinics as needed and as vaccines become available for younger students.

Considerations and Building Conditions: We are trying to find adequate spacing for lunches. We are also coming up with outdoor spaces for lunch as well. Dr. Nolin will host a Q&A session with staff and parents. The dates are August 23, 2021 at 6:00pm and Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 5:00pm.

Review/Update of Face Coverings Policy EBCFA

Dr. Nolin updated the policy to reflect the new Board of Health's mandates and vote. Ms. Collins moved approval. Mr. Haugland seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

ESSER III and Surplus Funding Use Update

Dr. Nolin reviewed the ESSER and Surplus Fund Use proposal process. It's been a wonderful summer with our town partners Mr. Errickson, the acting Town Administrator and Mr. Townsend, Director of Finance. We all meet every Thursday to review all grants. There's a lot of moving parts. Dr. Nolin shared the reality of the staffing and additional funding. Dr. Nolin has updated the town about a lessor spend than what we proposed in June. Dr. Nolin discussed conversations with community partners and organizations. Meetings occurred this past spring with *Natick 180, SPARK, Wayside, Family Intercultural Family Support of Metrowest, police partners, local Board of Health, Town partners/departments, Tri-County Superintendents, ACCEPT Collaborative. TEC Collaborative, Dr. Tracy Gladstone and her depression screening team.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Nolin gave an update which included a breakdown of summer registrations by elementary, middle school and high school. There are still 45 students that haven't registered yet. So far, class sizes look fine.

KMS Building Project Update

Dr. Nolin gave an update that over the weekend the entire gym floors were completed. The playground at Brown School is almost complete. The base at athletic field is in and today, technology calibrations were done. Dr. Nolin is grateful for Mr. Spratt, Director of Facilities. Jodie Cohen, Principal, has been hosting tours and sitting down with families and staff. October 23, 2021 will be the date for the official ribbon cutting ceremony and the planetarium dedication to Ed Jameson.

Action Items

Approval of Superintendent Evaluation: Dr. Fuxman moved approval. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn - Yes

Ms. Collins – Yes

Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Unit S – Ms. Collins moved approval. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

Approval of the Salary Scale for the Director of Human Resources -
Dr. Fuxman motioned to approve the adjust HR salary range. Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.
Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

Approval of Superintendent's Contract: This was approved during executive session with a 3% cola. Ms. Brunell moved to accept the Superintendents contract and 3% cola. Ms. Collins seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote.
Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
It was approved by those present, 7-0-0.

Member Concerns

A member asked if they could table the norms meeting. It's very late to start another meeting. Chair McDonough agreed. A cancellation notice was placed on the calendar and messages sent to subscribers. The meeting will be rescheduled for Thursday at 6:30pm. It will be a virtual meeting.

At approximately, 9:03pm Ms. Collins motioned to adjourn. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair McDonough called for a roll call vote:
Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Mr. Haugland – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn - Yes
Ms. Collins – Yes
Chair McDonough – Yes
It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 7-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Rose McDermott
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

Attest: _____

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda and materials used at this meeting:

Superintendent's Presentation

Executive Session Minutes of June 7, 2021, School Committee Minutes of June 14, 2021 and School Committee Retreat Minutes of June 23, 2021, June 30, 2021, July 1, 2021, July 27, 2021 and August 3, 2021.

Enrollment Report

Policy EBCFA

DRAFT