

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30pm in the School Committee Room and via Virtual Meeting. Chair McDonough called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:40pm.

Members Present: Julie McDonough, Donna McKenzie, Henry Haugland, Hayley Sonneborn
Catherine Brunell, Cathi Collins (via Zoom and stated that she was participating remotely), Shai Fuxman (arrived at 6:50pm),

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

Announcements

Dr. Nolin announced that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Kennedy Middle School on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 11:00a.m. There will be tours prior to and after the ceremony. There will be a dedication of the planetarium to Ed Jameson, the retired, longtime planetarium director for the planetarium. Dr. Nolin shared exciting news that our high school's own Julia Rossi, the co-chair of Natick's Above the Influence has been selected to serve as a representative on the 84 Movement's state-wide leadership team. She will serve as a voice for Natick youth.

Public Speak

Chair McDonough received a request via email from Katherine Doran. Due to a medical condition, Ms. Doran requested that Dr. McKenzie read her letter aloud. Ms. Doran's letter was regarding all School Committee members having access to communicate with the Superintendent vs. the Chair ensuring that member's requests for information gets to the Superintendent and that they receive a proper response. Giving members all access to the Superintendent, in Ms. Doran's opinion, would be disrespectful of Dr. Nolin's responsibilities and time.

Recognition of Jake Blatnica - Special Olympics Athlete of the Year

Dr. Nolin welcomed the Jake and the Blatnica family. Mr. Timothy Luff, Assistant Superintendent introduced everyone to Jake Blatnica. He described him as a friendly, hard-working, sports-loving, good teammate. A bright young man who is loved by his peers and teachers. Mr. Luff referenced the USA Today article regarding Jake. We are so proud of Jake and he is what makes Natick great. Jake is a role model and inspiration to all students. Jake presented the award for everyone to see. Chair McDonough, on behalf of the School Committee, congratulated Jake and is very proud that he was able to do this in the Natick Public Schools.

Chair McDonough reviewed the new hybrid model for meetings. We are live in-person as well as on Zoom.

Introduction of New District Leadership Staff

Dr. Nolin introduced new staff members that have joined our administrative team this year:

Dan Hausermann: a long time English Language Arts teacher at the middle school has been promoted to Vice Principal at Kennedy Middle School.

Mr. Robin Welch: A previous interim Principal at Lilja is now the interim Principal at Memorial School

Ms. Suzanne Kenny: Comes to us from Westborough. Ms. Kenny will be replacing Marianne Davis as the Director of Human Resources. Ms. Kenny was a former Vice Principal at Wilson Middle School.

COVID Updates (Testing, Athletics, Negotiations)/Opening of School

Dr. Nolin provided an update. We began our state sponsored testing program today. Dr. Nolin refreshed everyone on the parameters of that program. The test and stay program also began today. This program allows us to give students a test each day after they have been exposed. If the test is negative, they get to stay in school. This morning the Department of Education decided what sort of reporting structure they wanted for reporting our cases. We will share it with you each week. The Department of Education's guidelines is that their recommendation is pool testing for only unvaccinated students and staff. The Board of Health is in support of that. It will begin on 9/27/21. Dr. Nolin thanked parents that have completed the consent and testing forms. Only 150 families have declined pool testing. Dr Nolin gave an update surrounding the Policy enacted at last meeting. Today, we executed a Memorandum of Understanding with our teacher's union. The policy you will talk about tonight extends the expectation to vendors, food service, bus drivers, consulting practitioners, etc. Coming shortly, the policy subcommittee will take up a possible vaccine policy and it would be for athletics and extracurricular activities. The students that choose not to test will have to test with a private practice. Any time there's a vaccination policy - there's always a medical and religious exemption. Several members of the community addressed the School Committee with their concerns. The prevalence rate is quite low. Dr. Nolin revealed a recent staff survey. There are approximately 15 staff who are not vaccinated. She doesn't believe that it's people that have refused to be vaccinated. Dr. Nolin updated student lunches. We are prioritizing lunches and we need additional volunteers. We received 6 volunteers for the entire elementary schools. We would appreciate the help. Lunch volunteers are needed for 22 minutes - we will take as many volunteers as we can get! We are down 17 staff members. There are shortages in so many positions. Volunteering is about supervision. There is space inside where students can eat safely.

ACTION ITEM

1. Appoint Superintendent as the Natick School Committee's Representative to the ACCEPT Board of Directors for the FY22 Fiscal Year: Mr. Haugland 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 unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

2. Approval of the Creation of ACCEPT's Capital Reserve: Ms. Brunell moved approval of the ACCEPT Capital Reserve. Dr. McKenzie 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 7-0-0.

3. Staff and Vendors/Consultants Vaccine Policy Discussion and Approval: Dr. McKenzie discussed the positive meetings and discussions surrounding the policy. Mr. Wood doesn't foresee any problems. Dr. Fuxman motioned Motion to approve the GBEF - STAFF COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY. 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 unanimously approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Handbooks
2. Approval of the Appointment of Dr. Paige Meisheid as the District Physician
3. Decommission of Furniture
4. Approval of PTO/PTA/501(c)(3) Budgets
5. Approval of School Committee Minutes of June 7, 2021 and July 27, 2021, Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2021:

Ms. Sonneborn moved approval of the consent agenda. 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 – Abstain
Chair McDonough – Yes

It was approved by a vote of those present 6-0-1.

Enrollment Update

Dr. Nolin highlighted the increase of enrollments in PreK and kindergarten. She also reviewed the stable enrollment for the other grade levels.

Dyslexia Update and Special Education Updates

Mr. Timothy Luff, Assistant Superintendent gave an update by reviewing the listening sessions and feedback. He went on to review patterns, a summary of issues, solutions for pre-K-4, issues at middle school and high school. He discussed the huge caseloads of teachers. He informed the Committee that all learning center teachers at both middle schools are being trained on Orion Gillingham. Mr. Luff went on to review other solutions, steps to achieve them and the action plan. He reviewed important points in conclusion. He discussed the SPED parent satisfaction surveys from 2020-2021 and the results. There was

a 90-94% success rate rating from parents. There were 177 positive comments and 8 negative comments. Shares are usually negative, so he felt it important for staff to hear the positive ones.

Member Concerns

Student representative, Brielle Sherriff, reported that there have been no meetings yet. At this time, there wasn't anything to report. Chair McDonough encouraged them to participate on any agenda item as well.

Teacher representative Jefferson Wood, wanted to remind all that tonight is a school night with full in-person learning happening in our schools and it's wonderful! It is as normal as we can make it. Staff is excited to be back at work and doing what we love. Somber feeling meeting tonight, but there's a thrill in the air.

School Committee Clerk, Dr. Donna McKenzie reminded everyone that there is a Policy Subcommittee meeting tomorrow and reviewed the agenda. The meeting begins at 1:30pm in the training room.

Review of the School Committee Calendar and Topics for the Year

In an effort to lay out the year ahead and make our meetings more efficient, this document was created. The idea is to give everyone a sense of what issues are coming, and it gives School Committee members ample time to ask questions and make recommendations. A discussion regarding upcoming meetings regarding in-person, hybrid or virtual. We will move forward with all of them being scheduled as hybrid and we will adjust accordingly.

At approximately, 9:00pm Dr. Fuxman motioned to adjourn. 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 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

School Committee Calendar and Topics for the Year

School Handbooks

District Physician's Contract

Decommission of Furniture Report

PTO/PTA/501(c)(3) Budgets

School Committee Minutes of June 7, 2021 and July 27, 2021, Executive Session Minutes of June 14, 2021
Donations Report
ACCEPT Capital Reserve Documents
Staff and Vendors/Consultants Vaccine Policy
Enrollment Report