

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 18, 2021*

The School Committee held a meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2021 at 6:30pm in the School Committee Room and via Virtual Meeting. Vice Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:31pm. Vice Chair Collins notified all that a member of the public was going to be recording this meeting.

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

Members Missing: Julie McDonough arrived at 6:42pm during Executive Session, Hayley Sonneborn arrived immediately after the Executive Session and stated that she was participating remotely.

Others Present:	Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
	Susan Balboni	Interim Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
	Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative
	Kyra Hacker	Student Representative – participating remotely
	Brielle Sherriff	Student Representative – participating remotely

Vice Chair Collins 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 Union, 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 Conduct Strategy With Respect to Litigation, Specifically an Arbitration, Administrative Assistants, if an Open Meeting May Have a Detrimental Effect on the Litigating Position of the Public Body and the Chair so Declares;

Dr. McKenzie seconded. Vice Chair Collins 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
Vice Chair Collins – Yes

It was approved by a vote of 5-0-0. Vice Chair Collins stated that the School Committee would be returning to the general session at approximately 7:00pm. The School Committee proceeded to the Training Room to conduct this session.

At approximately 7:01pm, the School Committee returned to open session.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin reminded the community of the upcoming Kennedy Middle School tours. The tours will be on Saturday, October 23, 2021. There will be a dedication of the Planetarium to Ed Jameson. Mr. Jameson

was a former teacher and Director of the Planetarium. Dr. Fuxman announced the next SPARK program which will be this upcoming Wednesday.

Public Speak

Chair McDonough did not receive any virtual requests and she asked if anyone in person wished to come forward for Public Speak. No one came forward.

Recognition of Marianne Davis Retirement

The School Committee read a resolution created for Ms. Davis. She received a standing ovation. Ms. Davis thanked the School Committee for this recognition and the privilege she had working for Natick Public Schools for 28 years.

Member Concerns

Student Representatives: Ms. Kyra Hacker informed the Committee that the freshmen members have been selected. They have begun planning the food drive which will run from November 1, 2021 through November 24, 2021. Their current goal is 4,500 items. They are also beginning their discussion surrounding the pep rally.

Discussion and Approval of the FY23 School Improvement Plans

Dr. Nolin welcomed the Administrative team and reviewed the strategic plan process. School Improvement Plans are done at this time because teachers set their professional goals. The plans are reviewed by the School Committee, School Councils and then are approved by the Superintendent. The plans are to reflect the vision of Natick Public Schools. Each goal brings forward our promise. Dr. Nolin thanked the School Committee members that helped with that language. The vision for our school system is the profile of a graduate. Our teams cultivate the vision for a profile of an educator. We all seek to support that vision. Each of the schools have submitted their plans and the School Committee had submitted questions. They've answered the questions and are here to answer any other questions. The Principals – Karen Ghilani, Jordan Hoffman, MaryBeth Kinkead, Stefanie Wasik, Aidan McCann, and Robin Welch were all present and introduced themselves. The team reviewed and discussed on how they derived at this plan. Communication for this team is meeting regularly and discussing the trends. Ms. Balboni, Interim Director of Teaching, Learning and Innovation spoke to the tight collaboration within this group and shared what brought some strong emotions to the entire team. Ms. Balboni read Ms. Brunell's blog and she found it incredibly hurtful. She discussed the team's feelings surrounding her blog. The Administrative team felt the statements made by Ms. Brunell made them feel like they were discounted, discredited and disregarded. Chair McDonough felt this was exactly what they were looking for. The Administrative team for the middle schools reviewed their plans. Principals Teresa Carney and Jodie Cohen found this to be exciting work together. They found this to be the most vertical alignment that the two middle schools have had. The common language has made a big difference. It's wonderful to have the students back. The students were so excited to be back in school. They realize how important school is. High school Principal Brian Harrigan introduced Fatiuya, the Director from Starfish International School for Girls in Gambia, West Africa. She is here for the academic year working in the library and office as well as coaching soccer. Having her join us this year, has allowed students to see themselves reflected in the staff members that teach them. Mr. Harrigan went on to answer questions from Committee members regarding his plan and he believes that it reflects the alignment across the district.

Middle Schools Class Size Report

The reports were presented ahead of the meeting and there were no questions presented prior to this evening's meeting. Ms. Carney and Ms. Cohen returned to answer questions this evening from the Committee.

High School Class Size Report and High School Space Needs for 2022-23 and Beyond

Mr. Brian Harrigan, Principal introduced Camille Napier Bernstein, a Natick High School teacher who assisted Mr. Harrigan. They reviewed class sizes, classes with one or more sections that were not running due to space and what was needed to maintain the current class sizes. Forty-Three additional sections were requested last spring. They reviewed the implications moving forward as well as the positives. The technology department has been moved out of the high school so that the space could be used for classrooms. The discussion regarding moving the Preschool also was reviewed as far as the classrooms that would become available for high school students.

Capital and Space Planning for Johnson and Memorial

Mr. Bill Spratt, Director of Facilities reviewed the stewardship plan. It essentially looks at life cycle costing. Mr. Spratt clarified some assumptions. There was some confusion regarding two of the reports. He explained what stewardship is, what ADA and coming up to code compliance means. He answered some follow-up questions.

FY21 End of Year Update

The School Committee had requested an update and Dr. Peter Gray, Assistant Superintendent of Finance provided that update. He reviewed that the Town's Comptroller indicated today that she hopes to have the year closed on Friday. Once that's done, we will go into analysis. The information Dr. Gray provided, is what we have on the books at this point in time.

Appoint Attendance Officers

Dr. Nolin reviewed that this is a formality. She requested they support this. Ms. Collins moved to appoint the Principals at each school as the attendance officers for the FY22 school year. Dr. McKenzie seconded Motion was approved by the members present 6-0-0.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of PTO/PTA/501(c)(3) budgets - Ms. Collins moved approval of the Wilson PTO budget. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Motion was approved by the members present 6-0-0.

Ms. Brunell pulled the School Committee minutes because she wanted to request a change to the minutes. It required the approval of Mr. Haugland.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with the Administrative Assistants Union – Dr. McKenzie moved approval. Ms. Collins seconded. Motion was approved by the members present 6-0-0.

At approximately 10:56pm Ms. Collins motioned to adjourn. Dr. Fuxman seconded. It was unanimously approved by a vote of those present 6-0-0.

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

FY23 School Improvement Plans

Middle School and High School Class Size Reports

High School Space Needs Presentation
FY21 Year End Update
Attendance Officers Memo

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