

*Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022*

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:36pm.

Members Present: Cathi Collins, Julie McDonough, Catherine Brunell, Dr. Shai Fuxman
Members Remote: Hayley Sonneborn, Donna McKenzie (both stated they were participating remotely)

Others Present:	Dr. Anna Nolin	Superintendent
	Mr. Tim Luff	Assistant Superintendent
	Ms. Sue Balboni	Director of Teaching, Learning & Innovation
	Ms. Rose McDermott	Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary
	Mr. Jefferson Wood	Teacher Representative (remotely)

Public Speak

Chair Collins asked if there was anyone present who wanted to participate in public speak. There were no requests via email or in person.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin announced an external communications survey, and we would welcome your feedback. She reminded everyone that the month of May is the Asian/American and Pacific Islander Heritage month. We are discussing that withing our schools. The School Committee will be holding a virtual coffee hour on Tuesday, May 17th at 6:45pm. They will be talking about our strategic plan goal around equity. Dr. Nolin reminded everyone that the 2021/2022 school calendar has been finalized and June 21st will be the last day (1/2 day) for all except for Lilja School. They will have a full day and their last day will be on June 22nd (1/2 day). She also reminded everyone that the 2022-2023 Calendar has been changed and the first day of school will be on Wednesday, August 31st and Friday, September 2nd will be a full day of school. Ms. Gorseth announced that on Wednesday at 6:30pm there will be the monthly series focusing on Dyslexia and Reading. There will be opportunities to ask questions about the extended school year program.

Introduction of James Caimano, Director of Safety and Security

Dr. Nolin welcomed Chief James Hicks of the Natick Police Department who was present to join Dr. Nolin in welcoming Jim Caimano. Jim addressed the School Committee and expressed his gratitude and honor to join Natick Public Schools. He was with the FBI for 23 years and has a lot of experience with different facets of law enforcement. Dr. Nolin reminded everyone that Mr. Caimano's position is being funded with a Department of Justice COPS grant.

Introduction of Dr. Art Fergusson, Director of Social Emotional Learning and Equity

Dr. Nolin introduced Dr. Ferguson. She believes he can lead us into the next version of our strategic plan surrounding social emotional learning and equity. Dr. Fergusson thanked Dr. Nolin and is excited to be here. He's come to us from Newton, and he felt drawn to Natick because of the leadership and the mission/vision that he has heard about. Natick is on the cutting edge, and it will be very exciting.

Introduction of Bryan Lynch, Assistant Director of Finance

Dr. Nolin introduced Mr. Lynch who was previously a procurement analyst for the Town of Burlington and worked as a project manager with the MSBA. Mr. Lynch is excited to join the finance team and hit the ground running.

Recognition of the Tenacity Challenge Team - 2nd Place in State

Dr. Nolin introduced Rasheedah Clayton, our Metco Director, who recognized the Tenacity Team members that were present at this meeting. They placed second in the state and the theme was on voting safeguards or voter suppression. This team is made up of Black, Hispanic, and Asian students. Ms. Clayton also recognized the teacher/coaches that worked with the team. Each student will receive a \$700 scholarship when they graduate. Chair Collins congratulated the students and teachers involved.

Principal's Advisory Class Presents on School Improvement Plan Updates

Dr. Nolin introduced Brian Harrigan, Principal at Natick High School who introduced Kyle Chase, who served as moderator and facilitator. Kyle and the students gave a presentation, and they took turns reviewing the NHS School improvement plans. They reviewed several projects and concluded with reflections and recommendations. Dr. Nolin thanked them for being there and these moments are the reasons we work in education. She believes they really listened to their community about the strategic plan goals for the district and how they could improve the lives of their classmates. Mr. Harrigan continued by leading the School Committee through his final improvement plans which included relationships, student engagement, and academic excellence. Mr. Harrigan completed the presentation by reviewing key takeaways and recommendations.

At 8:44pm, the School Committee took a 7-minute break and returned at 8:54pm

Action Items

Vote on Status of School Choice Program – A public hearing was held at the last meeting. The decision is whether to open the program. Dr. Nolin reviewed what the process is if School Choice opens. These students stay through graduation. If it's opened, we will have to discuss what the parameters will be. Priorities have been discussed in the past. This is a lottery-based scenario and can't be opened to certain individuals. The School Committee members discussed and debated. Mr. Luff explained that School Choice is always assumed to be open. You choose to close it. Chair Collins motioned to remain a school choice district and not accept applications for the 2022/2023 school year due to enrollment specifically class sizes and budget concerns. Ms. McDonough seconded. Ms. Brunell moved that we remain a school choice district with a direction to open spots at Brown Elementary School, the kindergarten at Brown Elementary. Dr. McKenzie seconded. Dr. Nolin explained their role is to open or close the program, they cannot cherry pick the school into which they would like enrollment to be. Dr. Nolin explained the rest of the parameters surrounding that. Ms. Brunell believes she sees room in the kindergarten classrooms to create one spot or a few spots. Dr. Nolin confirmed the School Committee's prior decision to keep class sizes small to address student's needs. We finally are there now. There are many other factors of equity here also. There is a larger implication over time. Dr. McKenzie withdrew her second. Dr. McKenzie motioned to keep School Choice open depending on the determination of the Superintendent for available spots. Ms. Brunell seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote on the original motion:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Dr. McKenzie – no

Ms. Brunell – no

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 5-2-0.

Recognition of Tim Collins and Review of Athletic Registration Late Fees

Dr. Nolin reminded everyone that Mr. Collins has been named the Athletic Director of the Year. Due to his illness, he could not be with us tonight. Dr. Nolin explained that the Athletic Department is seeking School Committee approval to adopt a late fee policy. This deters late registrations and this allows us to ensure that all of the athletes are academically and medically cleared to participate and to ensure that the athletes have done the required annual trainings etc.. The department continues to struggle to plan and implement upcoming sports seasons with ongoing late and last-minute registrations. Ms. McDonough moved approval of the late fee for the athletic registration. Ms. Gorseth seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote on the original motion:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Dr. McKenzie – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

Grants Update and ELL Student Need Update

Dr. Nolin had provided a memo to the School Committee with an update. The update included positions. The positions we were slated to fund with grants in FY22 have been revised and those that will be slated for grant funding in FY23 as well were listed here. Firm plans have been made to use additional funds in the following positions and supports for our students in FY 23. In order to remain agile but allow us to keep our check and balance on our use of grant funding, Dr. Nolin asked the Committee that they vote to support the revised (reduced) positions we funded last year \$1,835,935.13 and the new proposed outlined positions in the amount not to exceed \$2, 500,000. During this discussion at approximately 10:00pm Dr. McKenzie left the meeting.

Action Items - Continued

Vote to Support the Grant Spending Plan by the Superintendent: Chair Collins motioned to approve the grant and prepay spending plan presented by the Superintendent in an amount not to exceed 2.5 million dollars. Ms. McDonough seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Review and Vote Approval of Updates to Policy LBC – Relations with Nonpublic Schools Policy

Chair Collins explained that the state requires that we have relations with nonpublic schools. Our last policy didn't have much in it. This new policy was adopted from Wellesley Public School's policy. Ms.

Brunell moved to approve the updates to policy LBC. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Ms. Lateo via Zoom expressed her concerns about this level of detail over private schools. Dr. Nolin explained to her that this is for new private schools in their inception. We don't have any jurisdiction to audit those schools. Ms. O'Connor via Zoom expressed her concerns over #7. Mr. Luff explained that DESE would tell them what significant changes is enough to have to come back to us. It's all required by state law for them to go to report to DESE. Chair Collins wanted to take the vote again:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Warrant Review

Ms. Collins has approved two accounts payable warrants. If anyone would like to see more detail, please reach out to Ms. Collins or Dr. Gray.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of School Committee Minutes of April 4, 2022, Executive Session Minutes of March 23, 2022 and April 4, 2022

2. Approval of Donations

Ms. McDonough moved approval. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes

Ms. Sonneborn - yes

It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Subcommittee Liaison Updates

Ms. Brunell met with PCC (Parent's Coordinating Council) today - They are going to reach out to Dr. Nolin and Dr. Gray. This group gives a lot of time to our district.

At approximately 10:35pm, Ms. McDonough moved to adjourn. Dr. Fuxman seconded. Chair Collins asked for a roll call vote:

Chair Collins – yes

Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms. Gorseth – yes

Dr. Fuxman – yes

Ms. Brunell – yes
Ms. Sonneborn - yes
It was approved by a vote of 6-0-0.

Anna Nolin
Superintendent
Executive Secretary to the School Committee

Attest: _____

Rose McDermott
Executive Assistant/Recording Secretary

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

Superintendent's Presentation
Principal's Advisory Class Presentation
Presentation on School Improvement Plan Updates
Memo from Tim Collins, Athletic Director
Grants Update and ELL Student Need Update Spreadsheets and Memo
Policy LBC - Relations With Nonpublic Schools Policy
School Committee Minutes of April 4, 2022, Executive Session Minutes of
March 23, 2022, and April 4, 2022
Donation Report