

Natick Public Schools
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2022

The School Committee held a School Committee meeting on Monday, December 19, 2022, at 8:00PM. in the School Committee Room, third floor, Town Hall. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at 9:42PM.

Members Present: Cathi Collins, Elise Gorseth, Dr. Shai Fuxman, Catherine Brunell (stepped out during roll call), Ms. Julie McDonough Ms. Hayley Sonneborn
Members Remote: Dr. Donna McKenzie (stated she was participating remotely)

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

Public Speak

Chair Collins stated there were no requests made via email and there was no one in person.

Menstrual Products and Budget

Dr. Nolin introduced Hannah Schwichtenberg who is a junior representing menstruating students at Natick High School. She spoke about why it's important and part of Natick Public School's Strategic Plan. Two years ago, she sent out an anonymous survey to fellow students requesting feedback. She received many complaints about the lack of period products in their bathrooms and after researching period poverty, lack of products affects student attendance and productivity. Tampons and pads can't be purchased with any government assisted aid. Kids shouldn't miss school because they do not have necessary supplies. Hannah's mom drives to Westborough twice per week to pick up pads. Funding would be crucial because she has seen how students are affected by it. She believes strongly that her graduation from Natick High School shouldn't put an end to this project. Sustainability for this project is very important. Dr. Nolin stated that \$30,000 towards this is in the proposed budget. This is the typical range for a year's supplies. This will become a state expectation in the future.

Announcements

Dr. Nolin announced that the school year calendar vote will not occur until mid-late February. She thanked the community for their patience.

Representative Updates/Concerns

Ms. Altchek sent a message via Ms. McDermott. Ms. Altchek informed the Committee that there is a lot of energy and excitement from the younger students and teachers are a little tired. They are doing their best to keep students working hard as their vacation approaches.

Warrant Review

Chair Collins reported signing two accounts payable warrants in the amounts of \$457,971.13 and \$153,713.53. She also signed a payroll warrant of \$2, 919,083.73.

Consent Agenda

1. Donations
 2. Approval of School Committee Minutes of November 7, 2022
- Dr. Fuxman moved to approved the consent agenda. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:
- Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Ms. McDonough – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Gorseth – Yes
Chair Collins – Yes
- The motion was approved 7-0-0.

Action Items

1. Approval of the Administrative Assistants Contract – We successfully negotiated the contract. Cost of living allowances are the same as Units A & B (3%-2%-2%). Added longevity steps 10 in FY24 and 15 in FY25, similar with other unions. There was an addition of personal plus days, full year administrative assistants will work from home on snow days. School year employees will not work on those days. They have aligned some positions to reflect their duties more accurately. There were a couple of side letters regarding their evaluation process. Juneteenth holiday was added to their contract.

Dr. Fuxman motioned to approve the administrative assistants contract. Seconded by Ms. Brunell. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

- Dr. Fuxman – Yes
Dr. McKenzie – Yes
Ms. Sonneborn – Yes
Ms. McDonough – Yes
Ms. Brunell – Yes
Ms. Gorseth – Yes
Chair Collins – Yes

The motion was approved 7-0-0.

2. Approval of Policy Changes to IMB-TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS, JJE-STUDENT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, ADF-WELLNESS POLICY, IHAM-HEALTH EDUCATION – Mr. Tim Luff, Deputy Superintendent reviewed the policies being considered tonight. Dr. Nolin informed the Committee that the health policies only changes were the grade levels were added. Dr. Nolin also informed the Committee that Policy JJE has no impact on the PTO's. We are looking at bringing more equity facing policies. However, this is a student fundraising policy. Ms.

Brunell stated that she thinks policy ADF has a lot of procedures, but she would like to eventually change our policy manual to a policy only book and not with procedures listed.

Dr. Fuxman moved to approved policy changes to IMB-TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS, JJE-STUDENT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, ADF-WELLNESS POLICY, IHAM-HEALTH EDUCATION. Ms. Gorseth seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Ms. McDonough – Yes

Ms. Brunell – Yes

Ms. Gorseth – Yes

Chair Collins – Yes

The motion was approved 7-0-0.

Update on ACCEPT and TECH Collaboratives

Ms. Sonneborn gave a minor update on TEC – Liz McGonagle, Director is retiring. They have hired Emily Parks to replace her. She is the current superintendent of Westwood High School. She will be taking over on July 1st.

Dr. Nolin had provided their current first version of their budget but it's relevant to us. The board did vote what their tuitions increases are going to be and it is significantly less than 14% that we had been quoted for the out of district tuitions.

FY24 Budget Presentation

Dr. Gray provided an update. There have been some minor tweaks since December 5, 2022. The assumptions page is what has changed. We have added 5 instructional technology changes. Ms. Miller will also be adding staff and would like to fund them out of the circuit breaker account. Chair Collins reminded the public of the dates of the budget deep dives into transportation, technology, and compensation. The budget has all the backdrop that we currently have. Dr. Nolin explained that we have individual parts of the budget that will be coming to you in the future. We are trying to coordinate with Jamie Errickson, Town Administrator so that we can invite our Select Board and Finance Committee to have one meeting instead of many meetings and create some synergy. This will allow everyone to be together and allow for everyone to be present during the presentations and questions. Dr. Nolin also reviewed the grant funding that shows all the funds used and the hiring that was afforded by them.

Appoint Member to Serve on Director of Finance Search

It pained Dr. Nolin to announce that Dr. Gray is going to retire in June of 2023. We do have to have some crossover time between the new person and Dr. Gray. This is one of the positions that the School Committee does not choose but they do approve the hire. It's one full day of interviews on March 7, 2023. Ms. Brunell advocated for two School Committee members to be involved in the process. Possibly have one involved in the beginning screening resumes and another person active on the day of the interviews. She thinks it's reasonable for the Committee to have a little more involvement over this position. Dr. Nolin reminded the Committee that recruitment, hiring and screening is administrative work. We don't even have to have a member on the hiring committee, so we are already going beyond the process. It's not typical for a School Committee member to hire a member of our central office. Dr. Fuxman offered to be involved. Ms. Gorseth asked if there was a possibility that there won't be

candidates to move forward or is this a must hire position. Dr. Nolin stated we must hire someone. Chair Collins asked if anyone objected to Dr. Fuxman being appointed. No one objected.

Ms. Brunell left the meeting at approximately 10:23PM.

Chair Collins appointed Dr. Fuxman. Ms. Gorseth seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. McDonough – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Ms. Gorseth – Yes

Chair Collins – Yes

The motion was approved 6-0-0.

At approximately 10:25pm, Dr. Fuxman motioned to adjourn. Ms. Gorseth seconded. Chair Collins called for a roll call vote:

Dr. Fuxman – Yes

Dr. McKenzie – Yes

Ms. McDonough – Yes

Ms. Sonneborn – Yes

Ms. Gorseth – Yes

Chair Collins – Yes

The motion was approved 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

Enrollment Reports

Donation Report

School Committee Minutes of November 7, 2022

FY24 Proposed Budget

ACCEPT Annual Report and Budget

Policies IMB-TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES/CONTROVERSIAL SPEAKERS, JJE-STUDENT FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES, ADF-WELLNESS POLICY, IHAM-HEALTH EDUCATION