

Natick Public Schools  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT MEETING MINUTES  
December 12, 2022

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 6:00pm in the School Committee Room, Third Floor, Town Hall. Chair Collins called the meeting to order and took roll call at approximately 6:15pm.

Members Present: Cathi Collins, Dr. Donna McKenzie, Dr. Shai Fuxman, Elise Gorseth (participated remotely), Ms. Brunell, Julie McDonough, Hayley Sonneborn

Others Present: Dr. Anna Nolin Superintendent  
Mr. Tim Luff Deputy Superintendent

#### Public Speak

There was no one in person requesting to speak.

#### School Committee Goals for the 2022-2023 School Year

Ms. Collins apologized for losing her temper and yelling at a previous meeting. Dr. Fuxman facilitated a discussion on School Committee goals. Dr. Fuxman used a “blob tree” as a way if people checking in with others to see where they were. Norms for this discussion were: Don't yuck other people's yums, Step up/ step back speak up and step back do everyone can speak. Assume positive intentions. Try not to interrupt. Respectful tone of voice. We looked at the questions on the agenda and broke into triads to talk about the three questions. Reporting back after the triad discussions. Communication respect for the diversity within the community when there is disagreement. Equity and respect—enabling equitable participation, finding the sweet spot between governance and support, grounded in support that provides equitable relationships, acting as a leader in local politics, Natick School Committee is celebrated, and people respect the work. We are a group people trust and respect. What will we do differently? What are the practical impacts if this?

Second group shared:

Lead as an equity, community leader, friendly contested elections, we Memorial. Building communications. Celebrated for embracing structures of literacy, following norms, cultivating trust with administration, relieve Dr. Nolin if the responsibility of the committee. We would be meeting Dr. Nolin at the table not having her pull up the chairs. Doing things and not just talking about them/

Third Group Shared:

School Committee and district unlock secrets to SEL. Increase level of communication. School Committee and administration have a strong partnership securing the budget. Policy manual completely updated. Develop an equity plan. Improve and create more efficient processes leading up to decisions.

Voted on three clusters we wanted the most  
Student achievement 2  
Policy 0  
Budget 0  
Skill building 2  
External equity 3  
Communication external 2  
Communication. Internal 2  
Subcommittee process/equity procedures, work load 0  
Improved meetings 7  
Committee and administrative relationship building 3  
Meeting process improvement 1

Identify goals in strength based ways.

Goal One: Improved meetings. Concise, efficient, productive, action oriented meetings.  
Norms that are guided by adequate, transparent, accessible agenda and materials.  
Address norm violations kindly. Agreement in the agenda and what the meeting is about so we all honor it. Personal responsibility for meeting etiquette. Pre-meeting to address issues around the agenda.

Goal Two: External equity—a more intentional equity approach in thinking about budget and policy

Goal Three: Relationship Building

Two or three people take a goal and come up with strategies.

Goal One: Ms. Gorseth, Ms. McDonough, and Ms. Sonneborn

Goal Two: Ms. Collins and Dr. Fuxman

Goal Three: Dr. McKenzie and Ms. Brunelle

Assignment: fill out page three of Dr. Fuxman's agenda sheet

January retreat dates: January 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm

February Retreat Dare: February 13, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Members shared what they are excited about

At approximately, 8:51pm, Dr. McKenzie motioned to adjourn. Ms. Sonneborn seconded. It was unanimously approved 7-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Dr. Donna McKenzie

Clerk, Natick School Committee

Documents Provided in Novus Agenda and materials used at this meeting: None