

NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Meeting
May 9, 2024
1:00 PM
School Committee Room - 3rd flr, Town Hall - In Person Only

Posted Date: Monday, May 6, 2024 @ 5:00 PM

Policy Subcommittee - Open Meeting at 1:00 PM

Posted In Accordance with Provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC SPEAK

Public Speak is scheduled for a period of fifteen minutes. Each speaker will be permitted a maximum of three minutes during which time they can speak about topics within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. All remarks will be addressed through the School Committee Chair. Public Speak is not a time for debate or response to comments by the School Committee.

Subcommittee Meeting Item

1. IJ: Instructional Materials
2. KEC: Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
3. BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings
4. General Discussion of Future Artificial Intelligence Policy
5. Other Discussion - Future Policy Topics
6. Policy Subcommittee Document
Policy Subcommittee Meeting Document - [LINK](#)

Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by the chair. Times are approximate.

ITEM TITLE:

IJ: Instructional Materials

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE:

KEC: Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional
Materials

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE:

BEDH: Public Participation at School Committee Meetings

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE: General Discussion of Future Artificial Intelligence Policy
DATE:
ITEM TYPE:
ITEM SUMMARY:
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE: Other Discussion - Future Policy Topics
DATE:
ITEM TYPE:
ITEM SUMMARY:
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE: Policy Subcommittee Document
DATE:
ITEM TYPE:
ITEM SUMMARY: Policy Subcommittee Meeting Document - LINK
BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Type
Policy subcommittee document	5.9.24_Policy_Subcommittee_Document_for_May_9.pdf	Cover Memo

Policy Subcommittee Meeting: Thursday May 9, 2024

(Red is original changes from previous meeting/Green is Attorney Modification)

1. IJ: INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (Attorney has reviewed and Approved Changes)

The School Committee believes that materials appropriate to the needs of the school program must be available to each student and teacher. These will be furnished by the School Committee subject to budgetary constraints.

The task of selecting instructional materials for programs will be delegated to the professional staff of the school system. Because instructional programs and materials are of great importance, only those that meet the following criteria will be approved by the Committee:

1. They must present balanced views of international, national, and local issues and problems of the past, present and future.
2. They must provide materials that stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic and ethical values.
3. They must help students develop abilities in critical reading and thinking.
4. They must help develop and foster an appreciation of cultural diversity and development in the United States and throughout the world.
5. They must provide for all students an effective basic education that does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical disabilities, gender identity, or sexual preference.
6. They must allow sufficient flexibility for meeting the special needs of individual students and groups of students.
7. They must follow the standards established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
8. If any such material undergoes evaluation by the instructional review committee, any such material may be considered in the context of the instructional unit, rather than any single exemplar text.

Add new Legal References from MASC

2. KEC: PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE CURRICULUM OR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Bring back to Policy Subcommittee with IJ

2(a, b, & c): Change "he/she" to "they"

3. BEDH: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Bring back to Policy Subcommittee

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires members of the Natick school community to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of the Natick Public Schools. In addition, the committee would like the opportunity to hear the wishes and ideas of members of the Natick school community on matters within the scope of their authority. ~~The School Committee's statutory authority covers the review and approval of~~ ~~The Authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of~~ ~~These matters include the~~ budget for the Natick Public Schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the Natick Public Schools.

In order that all who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted consistent with state and federal free speech laws:

PUBLIC SPEAK

~~MOVED FROM #9:~~Disclaimer: Public Speak is not a time for debate or response to comments by the Committee. Comments made at Public Speak do not reflect the views or the positions of the School Committee. Because of constitutional free speech principles, the School Committee does not have the authority to prevent all speech that may be upsetting and/or offensive at Public Speak.

1. At the start of each ~~regularly scheduled~~ School Committee meeting, individuals ~~or group representatives~~ who have signed up to speak will be invited to address the Committee during its 15-minute public comment period, which shall be known as Public Speak. Public Speak shall occur prior to discussion of Agenda items, unless the Chair determines that there is a good reason for rearranging the order at a public meeting that is unrelated to deterring participation in Public Speak.
2. ~~(Used to be 3)~~ Speakers must begin their remarks by stating their name, town or city of residence, and affiliation. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting.
3. ~~(Used to be 2)~~ All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner.
4. Public Speak shall concern items that are not on the School Committee's agenda, but which are within the scope of the School Committee's authority. Therefore, any comments ~~involving staff members or students~~ must concern the educational goals, policies, or budget of the Natick Public Schools, or the performance of the Superintendent.
5. (NEW from MHTL) Assuming (5) or fewer speakers sign up to engage in Public Speak each speaker will be allowed three (3) minutes each to present their material. If six (6)

or more speakers sign up, then each speaker will be allowed two (2) minutes each. No more than six (6) speakers will be accommodated at any individual meeting.

~~6. Large groups addressing the same topic are encouraged to consolidate their remarks and/or select a spokesperson to comment at Public Speak.~~

~~7.~~6. Speakers may not assign their time to another speaker, and in general, extensions of time will not be permitted. However, speakers who require reasonable accommodation on the basis of a speech-related disability or who require language interpretation services may be allotted a total of five (5) minutes to present their material. Speakers must notify the School Committee ~~by telephone or email~~ **by telephone or email** at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting if they wish to request an extension of time for one of these reasons.

~~8.~~7. The Chair of the meeting ~~may~~ **will** not interrupt speakers who have been recognized to speak, except that the Chair reserves the right to terminate speech which is not Constitutionally protected because it constitutes a true threat of violence or incites imminent lawless conduct by others. Verbal comments will also be curtailed once they exceed the time limits outline in paragraphs 5 and ~~7~~ **6** of this policy and/or to the extent they exceed the scope of the School Committee's authority.

9. **Moved to the Top of the Policy**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE BUSINESS PORTION OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

In general, public comment may be taken on agenda items. The Chair reserves the right to disallow comment, limit time, or silence a speaker if determined necessary for the orderly proceeding of the business portion of the agenda.

Attorney Recommends either not to have public participation during the business portion of the meeting, or establishing similar protocols as Public Speak. If Speak is allowed on a specific items, recommendation is to develop a certain amount of time for participation if held, recommended to be shorter than the Public Speak timeframe.

4. Discussion of Fuure Policy–Artificial Intelligence