



## NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO	
Newton School Committee Members	
WARD	
I	Rajeev Parlikar
II	Christopher Brezski
III	Anping Shen
IV	Tamika Olszewski, Chair
V	Emily Prenner
VI	Paul Levy
VII	Kathy Shields, Vice Chair
VIII	Cove Davis

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING –Public Hearing–School Choice & Regular Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	May 23, 2022
<b>Location:</b>	School Committee meeting via <b>ZOOM</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b> School Committee Public Hearing –School Choice and Regular Meeting
<b>Members Remote:</b>	Fleishman, Parlikar, Brezski, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Levy, Davis (8:15), Mayor
<b>Students Remote:</b>	Nabeshima, Shen, Sawhney, Weissell, <del>Feng</del> , Currid
<b>Staff Remote:</b>	Toby Romer, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Renee McCall, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, Martine Albama, Director of Human Resources, Jill Murray, General Counsel, Steven Rattendi, Director of IT and Library Services
<b>Other Staff/Presenters:</b>	Kathy Lopes, DEI Director, Maura Morse, DEI Assistant Director, Chassity Coston Bigelow Principal, Orla Higgins Averill Angier Principal, Josepha Blocker, NSHS Dean, Amy Mistrot, Director of Business Operations

The School Committee held a Public Hearing followed by a Regular Meeting on May 23, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, the Chair and vice chair being present. No minutes were presented for approval.

The chair explained the districts responsibility to hold a Public Hearing each year regarding its participation in the states Inter District program and opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 pm. Hearing no requests to speak, the Chair closed the Public Hearing at 7:03 pm

Chair Olszewski then opened the regular meeting at 7:04 and asked for Dr. Fleishman to give his Superintendent’s Update.

Dr. Fleishman gave an overview of the Fine and Performing Arts situation at Newton South High School, specifically the changes to the Jazz Combo course. He reported that Principal Stras had met with more than 30 parents, and she and her team were reviewing their decisions and the data. She and her team will have a final decision in the coming days.

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting to Public Comment.

- 1) “JT” Traxler – 36 Metacomet Rd., Mr. Traxler provided documents regarding Newton Youth Athletics which were received and placed on file. He spoke about the monopolization, and inequitable use of Newton’s athletic fields by the Newton Public Schools, leaving little availability to other city-wide athletic programs.
- 2) Nathaniel Scharf: 245 Cypress ST – Comments regarding NSHS Jazz Combo course
- 3) Ari Gordon: 76 Elgin St. - Comments regarding NSHS Jazz Combo course
- 4) Coleman Stanton: 72 Miller Rd. \_ Comments regarding NSHS Jazz Combo course
- 5) Gibran Mobarak & Mena Berkely: 274 Langley Rd. Comments regarding NSHS Jazz Combo course

At the conclusion of Public Comment, the Chair asked Kathy Lopes for an update from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) department. Update. The Update was received and placed on file.

#### DEI Update

Kathy Lopes, Maura Morse, Chassity Coston, Orla Higgins Averill and Josepha Blocker gave a “year in review” report.

The Chair thanked Kathy and her team and asked for questions from the members. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Next on the agenda was the Fiscal and Operational Report from Liam Hurley, Sean Mannion and Amy Mistrot.

#### Fiscal and Operational Update

Liam and his team provided an update to the Committee which was received and placed on file. They reported that this was the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter update which includes:

- Predicting a \$3.6 million surplus which will be needed to meet the FY23 budget responsibilities.

He and his team also reported on the areas of the budget that the team is watching closely as we near the end of the year, as well as COVID Expenditures (+\$6,145,510 of which \$3,245,288 is to be used to cover the employee COVID recognition) and ESSR III money (+\$1,000,00) being held in reserve. Also, information was provided on Financial Waivers, Food Services and Grants.

The Chair thanked Liam and his team and asked for questions from the members. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

**FY23 Meal Pricing Recommendations**

Chair Olszewski welcomed Amy Mistrot who provided the Committee with her recommendations for FY23 Meal Pricing which was received and placed on file.

Amy gave an overview of the “National School Lunch Program” (NSLP) including participation, components of a school lunch, the federal meal reimbursement policy and pricing, including FY23 rates, DESE Direction for pricing, Sodexo and Whitson’s Performance FY17-FY21, Budget assumptions driving Profit/Loss, per meal costs, pricing options, Free and Reduced Eligibility and price recommendation of \$5.25 (elementary), \$5.50 (middle and high) and to achieve “break even.”

The Chair thanked Amy and questions, answers and discussion followed.

Chair Olszewski asked Anping Shen, as a member of the Interim Superintendent Working Group to update the Committee on the search. Mr. Shen provided a brief update on the search which was received and place on file. Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

The Chair called for the Equity Working Group Update

**Equity Working Group (EWG) Follow-Up, Christine Dutt, Kathy Shields**

Chair Olszewski welcomed Christine Dutt back for a follow-up to the recommendations of the Equity Working Group (Kerry Prasad, Maggie Schmidt, Andrea Steenstrup, Kathy Shields). The follow-up Memo was received and placed on file. Christine reiterated their recommendations:

- Disband current EWG
- Gain School Committee support
- Create a new EWG
- Begin process now

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Chair Olszewski asked for a motion to accept the Equity Working Group’s recommendations to disband the current group, create a new EWG, and express support of a Central Fund, the details mto be worked on y the new EWG.

Motion: Shields

2<sup>nd</sup>: Parlikar

Roll Call Vote:

Ward 1 Yes	Ward 3 Abstain	Ward 5 absent	Ward 7 Yes	Mayor Yes
Ward 2 No	Ward 4 Yes	Ward 6 No	Ward 8 No	

4 yes/ 3 no/ absent/1 abstain

Chair declares the motion does not carry.

**School Choice Vote**

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation that the Newton Public School not participate in the state’s inter-district School Choice program due to space limitations.

Motion: Levy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Shen

Ward 1 Y	Ward 3 Y	Ward 5 absent	Ward 7 Y	Mayor Y
Ward 2 Y	Ward 4 Y	Ward 6 Y	Ward 8 Y	

Motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation regarding School Choice passes 8-0-1. (Prenner absent)

Next the Chair asked for a motion to approve the High Quality Summer Learning Grant in the amount of \$100,000.

Motion: Shen  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Levy

The Chair called for a Roll Call Vote to approve the Grant as presented

Ward 1 Y	Ward 5 absent	Mayor Y
Ward 2 Y	Ward 6 Y	
Ward 3 Y	Ward 7 Y	
Ward 4 Y	Ward 8 Y	

Motion to approve the Angier PTO 1-day Liquor License passed 8-0-1. (Prenner absent)

The Chair announced that this concludes the posted business for tonight and the next School Committee meeting will be on June 13, 2022. She thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting @10:28 pm.

Lisa Mazzola Date: September 22, 2022  
School Committee Secretary

Documents and Closed Captioning transcript for this meeting are available 50 (or copy and paste: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfojwwbHeNjI3DPe27JwF75kFYTxUK7O>  
Video recording is available [here](#).