



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 –Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: June 6, 2022

Location: School Committee meeting via **ZOOM**

Time: **7:00 pm** School Committee Public Hearing –School Choice and Regular Meeting

Members Remote: Fleishman, Parlikar, Brezski, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Levy, Davis (8:15), Mayor

Students Remote: Nabeshima, Shen, Sawhney, Weissell, Feng, Currid (all absent)

Staff Remote: 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 (absent), Martine Albama, Director of Human Resources (absent), Jill Murray, General Counsel, Steven Rattendi, Director of IT and Library Services

Other Staff/Presenters: Dana Bennett K-8 Physical Education, Health and Wellness Coordinator; Art Fergusson, Co-ordinator Psychology; Beth Swederskas, NNHS Counseling Department Chair; Dan Rubin, NSHS Counseling Department Chair; Henry Turner, NNHS Principal; Tamii Stras, NSHS Principal; Jen Letourneau, NNHS Math Department Chair; Marc Banks, NSHS Dean; Nick Capodilupo, NNHS Special Education Department Co-Chair; Greg Drake, NNSH History Department Chair; Nicky Franchi, NNHS Special Education teacher; Amy Winston, NNHS Vice-Principal; Todd Young, NNHS Fine and Performing Arts Chair; Jason Williams, NSHS Vice-Principal; Gerry Gagnon, NSHS Science Department Chair; Suzanne Murphy Ferguson, NSHS World Language Department Chair

The School Committee held a Regular Meeting on June 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, the Chair and vice chair being present. Minutes from March 28, 30 and 31, 2022 were presented for approval.

Chair Olszewski opened the regular meeting at 7:00 and asked for Dr. Fleishman to give his Superintendent's Update.

Dr. Fleishman reported that Central High School had a very nice graduation ceremony on Friday. He also reported that even though the weather looks iffy for Wednesday and Thursday, Newton North and Newton South's graduation will take place rain or shine.

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting to Public Comment.

- 1) Joelle Pederson – NPS - Curriculum Coordinator changes
- 2) Sue Cohen – NPS – SEL and Middle School cuts
- 3) Ben Romanow – NSHS Jazz course
- 4) Greg Hurray former NPS – disappointed with the unfunded budget
- 5) Shara Ertel – High School Start Time issues
- 6) Jo-Louise Allen – NSHS cuts

At the conclusion of Public Comment, the Chair explained that there is a correction to the announced vote on the Equity Working Groups recommendation – the motion passed 4 (yes), 3 (no), 1 (absent), 1 (abstain). There were no questions so she asked for the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Report.

Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report

The Wellness Committee - Renee McCall and Toby Romer, along with Dana Bennett, Art Fergusson, Dan Rubin and Beth Swederskas presented their report which was received and placed on file. They reported to the Committee as summary of the YRBS results which was administered in February. The report collected trend data regarding:

- Stress
- Depression, Self-Harm and Suicide
- Adult Connectedness
- Substance Abuse
- Bullying
- Motor Vehicle Safety
- General Safety

- Discrimination
- Sexual Violence
- Sexual Behavior
- Body Weight
- Physical Activity
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The Chair thanked the team and asked for questions from the members. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

The Chair asked Toby Romer for his update on the High School Schedule and Start Time. The Chair also announced that due to the lateness of the hour, the SEAPC and Equity Updates have been postponed and will be presented at another meeting.

High School Schedule and Start Time Update

Assistant Superintendent Romer gave an overview of the daily schedule and the start time changes. He, along with representatives from the two high schools, outlined the Benefits & Challenges of the schedule and start time, Initial Data from the YRBS, Student Experience Survey results, Faculty Survey results, Family Survey results, Athletic Concerns and Next Steps.

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

Chair Olszewski asked for a motion to approve the International Field Trip to Nigeria

Motion: Levy

2nd: Davis

Roll Call Vote:

Ward 1 Yes	Ward 3 Absent	Ward 5 absent	Ward 7 Yes	Mayor absent
Ward 2 Yes	Ward 4 Yes	Ward 6 Yes	Ward 8 Yes	

6 yes/ 0 no/ 3 absent. The Chair declares the motion passes.

Next the Chair asked for a motion to approve the March 28, 2022, March 30, 2022 and March 31, 2022 minutes

Motion: Shields

2nd: Levy

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

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

Motion to approve the March 28, 2022, March 30, 2022 and March 31, 2022 minutes passed 6-0-3. (Shen, Prenner and Mayor absent)

Paul Levy made a motion to add an agenda item in the near future. The Chair asked him to clarify his motion.

Mr. Levy stated that according to policy BAA Evaluation of School Committee Operating Procedures, the Committee is required to periodically set goals for itself and measure its performance.

Motion: Levy

2nd: Brezski

Discussion followed regarding "training," "open meeting," the Chair's intent to hold additional trainings, support of team building, and clarification of the policy.

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The Chair stated there was a motion on the floor from Paul and a second by Chris to add an agenda item to a future meeting regarding School Committee Evaluation and Training and asked for a Roll Call Vote of the members:

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

The motion does not carry 2 yes/4 no/ 3 absent.

The Chair announced that this concludes the posted business for tonight and the next School Committee meeting will a Special Meeting be on June 13, 2022. She thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting @10:20 pm.

Lisa Mazzola _____ Date: September 8, 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/1bfojwwbHeNjl3DPe27JwF75kFYTxUK7O>
Video recording is available [here](#).