



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

SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING –Minutes

- Date:** August 8, 2022
- Location:** Special Hybrid School Committee meeting In-Person and via **ZOOM**
- Time:** **9:00 am** School Committee Meeting
- Members Remote:** Smith, Parlikar, Brezski, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, ~~Shields~~, Levy, Davis, Mayor
- Students Remote:** ~~Nabeshima, Currid~~
- 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; Casey Ngo Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services; Jill Murray, General Counsel; Steven Rattendi, Director of IT and Library Services

Other Staff/Presenters:

The School Committee held a hybrid Regular Meeting on August 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., in person (School Committee) and via Zoom (Public), the Chair and vice chair being present.

Tamika Olszewski opened the meeting and welcomed Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith. She announced that the Committee may utilize hybrid through March 2023.

The Chair asked Kathy Smith for the Superintendent Update and stated that if time allows she'll take some questions.

Superintendent Update

Dr. Smith said that last Tuesday she toured City & Schools with Dr. Jim Marini, noted that there parking at schools is an issue; she met with all School Committee members except Cove. She will also meet with Health and Human Services, Police and Fire. She emphasized that the most important work is being done with the leadership team and she is excited that everyone is committed to doing some retreats/training. She reported that she met with Mike Zilles and Christine Walsh and she is going forward with an Opening Day in person. The Interim Superintendent said she feels it's important that people be able to put a name to the face. She expressed that she expects all SC be present for the school year kick-off, and to hear what the goals are. She then asked Liam to provide an update on the Governor's final budget.

Governor's Final Budget Update -

Liam gave a brief history of Chapter 70 Funding and provided a spreadsheet with historical information regarding Chapter 70 funding which was received and placed on file. He explained that Chapter 70 provides aid to districts according to a specific formula. He also provided information of free lunches and lunchroom settings.

The Chair stated that we have time for 1-2 follow-up questions.

Questions, answers and discussion followed

The Chair acknowledged that there were no other questions.

Interim Superintendent Smith thanked Carolyn and Lisa for helping her to settle in.

The Chair asked the Central Staff Team for the Districts System wide Goals.

FY23 Systemwide Goals

Interim Superintendent Smith said that it was important to keep our focus at on the goals at hand. Assistant Superintendent's Romer, Farag, Ngo Miller and Hurley presented the Systemwide Goals report which was received and placed on file.

They outlined the main Objective for each goal, and the Key Activities to achieve these goals.

The Chair opened the meeting to questions from the members.

Questions, answers and discussion followed regarding metrics and assessments to measure outcomes and progress, missing information the Committee would like to see, request for some sort of "report card" for the district such as "Portrait of a Graduate," the need for NPS to develop the School Improvement Plans post pandemic. The team will continue to refine the goals document and incorporate suggestions/requests from the Committee.

The Chair thanked the team and said they will look forward to the next version. She then brought forth the FY23 School Committee Calendar which was received and placed on file. She noted that the Committee will vote to approve the calendar at the next scheduled meeting.

Questions, answers and discussion followed regarding, agenda items not on the list, such as Student Services; Sustainability; MOA w/NPS; Retreats/training/workshops; revising policies that aren't being followed (i.e. receiving materials); School Councils/Improvement Plans; PTO Spending Guidelines; Food Services.

The Chair then announced that Emily Prenner and Paul Levy have ben tasked with looking into ways the Committee can build a better budget process and making recommendations to the members. Emily gave a brief explanation of the internal committee – it will start Sept/Oct with a draft in November to help inform budget discussions that will begin in December.

Chair Olszewski gave a quick verbal update on the Superintendent Search. The Search Team is reviewing the Request for Proposal (RFP) that Liam, Alyssa, Martine, Emily & she are working on. Next week they will review the two submissions, Ray & Assoc. and Hazard, Young and Attia (HYA) They will vet the companies and then make a recommendations to the SC based on interviews/references.

Questions/answers and discussion followed regarding next steps in the search, MASC Training, scope of work, survey design, etc.

The chair announced that they had concluded the posted business. The next meeting on Wed. Sept 7, 2022. Agenda items include Equity Spending, Superintendent Search Update and a vote on the FY23 SC Calendar.

Adjourned at 10:26.

Lisa Mazzola

School Committee Secretary

Date: January 11, 2023

Documents and Closed Captioning transcript for this meeting are available 50 (or copy and paste: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bfojwwbHeNjI3DPe27JwF75kFYTxUK7O>)
Video recording not available due to technical difficulties.