

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 DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** December 19, 2022
- Location:** School Committee meeting
- Time:** 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
- Members: (I/R):** Kathy Smith (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (I), Prenner (I), Shields (I), Parlikar (I), Brezski (I), Levy (R), Davis (absent), Mayor (R)
- Students Remote (R):** Currid, Nabeshima, Zeng, Liu (all absent)
- Staff (I/R):** **Toby Romer (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; **Ayesha Farag (absent)**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Renee McCall (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, **Liam Hurley (I)**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, **Casey Ngo Miller (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel, **Katy Hogue (R)**, District Student Data Manager; **Stephanie Gilman (I)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion (R)**, Director of Finance, **Alyssa Baringer (R)** Budget Analyst; **Amy Mistrot (R)**, Director of Business Operations, **Alisson Levit (I)** Director English Language Learners (ELL), **Lauren Harrison (I)** Assistant Director ELL; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services, **Beth Herlihy (R)**, Principal, Countryside
- Others (I/R):** **Amy Werner (I)**, **Cynthia Dantas (I)** Newton Schools Foundation; **Angie Kim(R)**, **Marie Lundbak Eriksen (R)**, **Li Yin (R)** (ELL); **Donna DiNisco(I)**, **Steve Brown (R)** DiNisco Design

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. She then called for Public Comment.

Public Comment:

- 1) Manu Sarna- Commented about NPS’ DEI practices. He stated that NPS is obsessed with racialization everything, claims best practices for teaching for BIPOC is insulting and families of color find it shameful . He called it Neo –segregationist and categorized it as Racial guilt vs. excellence.
- 2) Janet Jackson – 10 Charles River Terr – Stated she is unhappy with NPS’ Dyslexia screening citing her own child’s experience as an example. She claims the screening is under identifying students in NPS.
- 3) Eric Gold 235 Melrose St. Commented on NPS’ search for Literacy Curriculum and stated that he supports the science of reading.

The Chair thanked the public speakers and asked Interim Superintendent Smith for her update.

Interim Superintendent’s Update

The Interim Superintendent presented her Interim Superintendent Goals which were received and placed on file. Superintendent Smith stated that NECP move over December break and classes resume Jan. 5th; she recounted her school visits and presented her goals for the year.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

Next the Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: Bigelow Start/End Time FY24 Change; Change to the FY23 School Calendar re: Middle School Professional Half Day; Grants; Budget Guidelines; Revised Policy KCDE.

Consent Agenda:

Bigelow Start/End Time FY24 Change; Change to the FY23 School Calendar re: Middle School Professional Half Day; Grants; Budget Guidelines; Revised Policy KCDE presented and placed on file.

Does anyone want to remove an item from the consent agenda?

Chris Brezski asked that policy KCDE be remove from the consent agenda. A motion was made to approve the remaining items in the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Rajeev

2nd : Chris

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 8-0-1 (Davis absent)

Policy KCDE:

Chris Brezski explained that he aske to remove Policy KCDE – the Recommendation from Equity Committee – because the wrong version was presented.

The chair said the correct version will be presented at January 9 and voted on at that time.

Chair Olszewski moved on to Updates and Reports and asked for the Newton Schools Foundation Update

Newton School Foundation (NSF)

Amy Werner President: The Newton Schools Foundation presented their update and donation which was received and placed on file. She briefly explained their mission, the demand, highlights, projects funded, total grants to date, board members, next steps and presented NPS with a check for \$250,000.

Tamika thanked Amy for presentation and the Committee is honored to accept the donation.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the generous \$250,000 donation from NSF.

Motion: Prenner

2nd : Shen

Any discussion - none

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 8-0-1 (Davis absent)

The Chair then asked for the Enrollment and Feeder Patter Recommendation from Katy Hogue, Liam Hurley and Toby Romer

Enrollment and Feeder Patter Recommendation for Vote

The Enrollment and Feeder Pattern Update from 12/5/22 and the 12/19/22 and the Recommendation Memo were received and placed on file.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Cabot Split Feeder Pattern as recommended.

Motion: Shields

2nd: Shen

Any discussion – none

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 7-1-1 (Davis absent)

Next, the Chair asked for their English Language Learners Update from Allison Levit and Lauren Harrison.

Mayor Fuller and Paul Levy left at 7:30 pm

English Language Learners (ELL) Update

Allison Levit and Lauren Harrison, Angie Kim, Marie Lundbak Eriksen (Denmark), Liyin (China) presented the ELL update which was received and place on file.

The update included Enrollment and Trends, Department Goals, Professional Development Opportunities and English Learner Parent Advocacy Council (ELPAC).

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

The Chair thanked Allison, Lauren Harrison, and their team and asked for the Countryside Project Educational Program and Space

Countryside Project Educational Program and Space Summary

The Countryside Project Educational Program and Space Summary were received and placed on file. A brief summary and overview was then presented including MSBA process, preferred schematics, visioning sessions, two enrollments and space summaries and timelines.

The Chair thanked the group for their presentation.

The Chair then asked for any questions. There were none.

The Chair then asked for the Fiscal and Operational Update from Liam Hurley.

Fiscal and Operational Update #2 Liam Hurley presented the update which was received and place on file.

Liam gave a high level overview of the financial status of the district as of 11/30/22 which is projecting a surplus. The team is looking at ways to reserve some money, with the override coming up.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

Next, the Chair presented updates on the Superintendent Search and the Collective Bargaining Negotiations.

Superintendent Search

The update was received and placed on file.

The Chair updated the Committee on the timeline regarding next steps in the search process.

Collective Bargaining Negotiations Update

The update was received and placed on file.

12/1/9/22

Minutes

Page 4

Kathy Shields explained the purpose of this update stating that it gives the School Committee and the public a little perspective on the process. She covered the timeline for the three union contracts, a general schedule of meetings to date and upcoming meetings and goals. She then explained negotiation from a salaries and benefits perspective. She stated that the Negotiation Sub Committee will provide additional updates as the process continues.

Brief discussion followed.

Next the Chair asked Inter Superintendent Smith to preview the School Lunch Program report that will be presented at January 9, 2023 meeting.

Superintendent Smith reported that Amy Mistrot will present an update covering Universal free meals, Repair/Replace, Grant Opportunities, Negotiations and Request for Proposals (RFP) for Food Services contract.

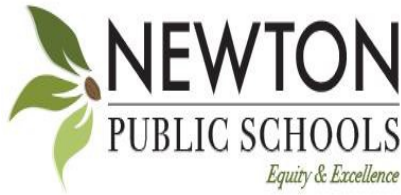
The Chair declared that that concludes the posted business. The next meeting Monday, January 9th, w/public comment and she adjourned the meeting.

Adjourned at 9:05

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 5/11/23

School Committee Secretary



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 DRAFT Minutes

Date: January 9, 2023

Location: School Committee meeting

Time: 6:30 pm

Members: (I/R): Kathy Smith **(R)**, Shen **(R)**, Olszewski **(I)**, Prenner **(R)**, Shields **(I)**, Parlikar **(I)**, Brezski **(I)**, Levy **(R)**, Davis **(I)**, Mayor **(R)** **7:50**

Students Remote (R): Currid, Nabeshima, Zeng, Liu (all absent)

Staff (I/R): **Toby Romer (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; **Ayesha Farag (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Renee McCall (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, **Liam Hurley (I)**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, **Casey Ngo Miller (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, **Martine Albama,** Director Human Resources (I) **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel, **Katy Hogue (R)**, District Student Data Manager; **Stephanie Gilman (I)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion (R)**, Director of Finance, **Alyssa Baringer (R)** Budget Analyst; **Amy Mistrot (I)**, Director of Business Operations, **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services,

Others (I/R):

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. She stated that there were no speakers for Public Comment and asked Interim Superintendent Smith for her update.

Interim Superintendent’s Update

The Interim Superintendent presented her Interim Superintendent Goals which were received and placed on file.

Superintendent Smith spoke about her decision to close school on Friday, December 23. She spoke about visiting Lincoln[Eliot, NNHS (CTE). She thanked Kathleen Browning and NECP for their efforts moving into the new building. She then asked Toby Romer to give a brief update on the International Travel Programs which included overview of trips, GELF funds, and website.

Brief comments followed.

Next the Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: Countryside Project –Educational Program and Space Summary; Revised Policy KCDE; Interim Superintendent Goals; 5-Year Contract Request for Special Education Transportation RFQ; Out of State/International Field Trips

Does anyone want to remove an item from the consent agenda?

Chris: 5 year contract request clarification.

Motion: Davis
2nd : Parlikar

Roll Call

- Ward 1 Y Ward 5 Y
- Ward 2 Y Ward 6 Ab
- Ward 3 Y Ward 7 Y
- Ward 4 Y Ward 8 Y
- Mayor ab

The motion passed 7-0-2 (Levy, Mayor absent)

School Lunch Update

Amy Mistrot presented the School Lunch Update which was received and placed on file.

Amy Mistrot: explained Universally Free vs. National School Lunch Program, requirements, and participation comparisons. She the shared a Program viability chart explaining that participation is essential. She covered expenses: staffing being highest expense, food is second. Lastly, she explained that Whitson is negotiating with their employees (NPS is not a party to it) and stated that replacing equipment will bring a return on investment.

There were a few questions and answers. The Chair thanked Amy and the team, and asked for the System wide Goals Update: Human Resources – Attracting/Retaining Staff from Martine Albama.

Systemwide Goals Update: Human Resources – Attracting/Retaining Staff

Martine Albama presented her update which was received and placed on file.

Martine presented a snapshot of what she and her team does on a daily basis, ongoing work such as benefits, retirement info sessions, license compliance, LOA's, accommodation requests. She then reviewed the FY22 2-year, \$58,000 DESE Teacher Diversification Pilot Program Grant - which included signing bonuses. FY23 awarded \$33,000 (max was \$90k) for signing bonuses, loan repayment, Relocation assistance and tuition assistance. She outlined recruitment strategies to attract people to the district. She outlined the current and retired staff vs. the number of staff to assist them. Comparison of retention rates Newton vs. other districts, current open positions Unit A and Unit C. Sean Mannion then gave an overview of Teacher and Aide Salary comparisons. Martine added that this was just base salary – does not include benefits. ie. other districts staff pay 50% in Health insurance.

A few questions and answers followed. The Chair thanked Martine and her staff, Sean and Liam and then asked for the FY24 Draft School Year Calendar.

FY24 Draft School Year Calendar

Toby Romer presented the Draft FY24 School Year Calendar which was received and placed on file.

Toby gave an overview of the FY24 Calendar. The Chair stated that the Committee will take up the Calendar next meeting. Next, the Chair presented update on the Superintendent Search.

Superintendent Search

The Chair stated that she was in close contact with HYA, the deadline for applications is January 13. There is a possibility of extending the deadline, but are confident with the number of high quality of candidates coming in. They are working on the finalist's schedule, including visits to the district to introduce themselves, and providing the community an opportunity to share their feedback on the finalists in addition to the SC interviewing the candidates. Dates to put on your calendar will come very soon. The Search Committee is meeting on Thursday in order to prep for the January 21 meeting which is to whittle down the list to finalists for interviews on February 4.

There were no questions. Next the Chair asked Interim Superintendent Smith to preview the Enrollment Analysis and Class Size Report that will be presented at January 23, 2023 meeting.

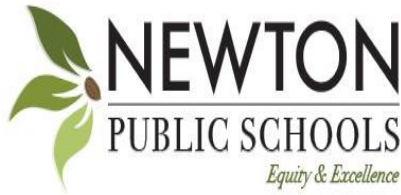
Superintendent Smith gave a brief overview of the upcoming presentation. This report is especially important this year as it effects the budget development, particularly since we will be developing two budgets, with override and without override.

The Chair stated that we concluded the posted business. The next meeting is Monday, January 23th, w/public comment and adjourned the meeting. She then announced upcoming events.

Adjourned at 8:28

Lisa Mazzola
School Committee Secretary

Date: 5/11/23



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 DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** January 23, 2023
- Location:** School Committee meeting
- Time:** 6:30 pm
- Members: (I/R):** Kathy Smith (R), Shen (R), Olszewski (I), Prenner (R), Shields (I), Parlikar (I), Brezski (I), Levy (R), Davis (R), Mayor (R)**7:50**
- Students Remote (R):** Currid (I) , Nabeshima (I), Zeng (R), Liu (I), Harthorne (I)
- Staff (I/R):** **Toby Romer (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; **Ayesha Farag (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Renee McCall (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning, **Liam Hurley (I)**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial, and Administrative Officer, **Casey Ngo Miller (ab)**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, **Martine Albama**, Director Human Resources (ab) **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel, **Katy Hogue (R)**, District Student Data Manager; **Stephanie Gilman (ab)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion (ab)**, Director of Finance, **Alyssa Baringer (ab)** Budget Analyst; **Amy Mistrot (ab)**, Director of Business Operations, **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services,
- Others (I/R):** **Mark Chitty**, Principal- Franklin, **John Harutunian**, Principal – Oak Hill, **Chassity Coston**, Principal – Bigelow, **Alice Wong Tucker**, Burr E.S., and **Mary Brown**, Underwood E.S. **Kathy Lopes**, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Chair Olszewski opened the January 23, 2023 School Committee meeting at 6:30 pm. She wished everyone Happy Luna New Year, expressed deepest sympathies for the senseless violence during the New Year celebration in CA, said the School Calendar working group will be working on Chinese New Year, Eid al-Fitr, Diwali, etc. and recognized the high school student representatives. Next she called for Public Comment.

Public Speakers:

- 1) *Yujia Wei - 19 Dunstan Street, Comment on Lunar New Year as a category 1 school holiday.*
- 2) *Grace Cai – NSHS – Lunar New Year as a category 1 school holiday*
- 3) *Amy Cheu – Boylston ST – Comment on Lunar New Year as a category 1 holiday*
- 4) *Anita He - 34 Westbourne Rd - Comment on Lunar New Year as a category 1 holiday*
- 5) *Sarina Chand – NSHS 65 Stoney Brae Rd.- Comment on Diwali as a category 1 holiday*
- 6) *Jack Liu - 79 Carl st- NSHS - Comment on Lunar New Year as a category 1 holiday*
- 7) *Thamzhin (Tammy) Tsikar - 26 Spiers Road, Comment on Lunar New Year as a category 1 holiday*

The Chair closed public comment welcomed the other student reps who came during public comment. She then asked Interim Superintendent Smith for her Superintendent’s update.

Interim Superintendent’s Update

Superintendent Smith wished the Asian community a happy Lunar New Year, and spoke about the incident in CA and referenced her message that went out earlier today, and offered her support. She thanked the PTO’s and the schools for welcoming her at the in-person/hybrid meetings; she attended the production at NNHS on Thursday, Lost & Found, Our Stories of People of Color. She stated that in early October she met with Anping, and students, and have moved forward with the Calendar Working Group. The Chair assigned members to this working group, to talk about the process, develop a survey, etc., and will report back to the SC on a regular basis.

The Chair asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Next the Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: FY24 School Year Calendar w/NECP Early Release Time Change; FY23 Grant Awards, Merger of CTE Graphics/Carpentry/Auto Accounts, METCO Expansion Request, Out-of—State/International Field trips, 6/21/22, 6/30/22 and 8/8/22 minutes.

Does anyone want to remove an item from the consent agenda?

Remove METCO Expansion, FY24 School Year Calendar for discussion.

Motion: Parlikar

2nd: Prenner

FY23 Grant Awards, Merger of CTE Graphics/Carpentry/Auto Accounts, , Out-of—State/International Field trips, 6/21/22, 6/30/22 and 8/8/22 minutes.

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 9-0-0

METCO Expansion

Liam Hurley explained the reason for the METCO Expansion is to allow an additional 10 students to come to Newton.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed with a request for a larger update on the METCO Program, and a comment that the expansion would bring additional funds.

Motion: Shen

2nd: Shields

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 8-0-1 absent

FY24 Budget Preview

Superintendent Smith and Liam Hurley presented the FY24 Budget Preview which was received and placed on file.

Superintendent Smith briefly explained the Override and shared the impact of both – with and without the override based on the priorities the SC gave the administration:

- Optimal class size
- Continue current programming
- > preserve mental health supports
- Meaningful Professional Development

Liam explained the overlap of the FY23 and FY24 budgets and the FY24 Budget reductions necessary in the Elementary and Middle schools. He further explained that even if the override passes there will still be a gap (deficit).

With Override deficit = \$2 - \$4 million

Without override = \$6 - \$8million

He and Superintendent Smith explained the “Budget Drivers” and Unknowns and gave examples of possible ways to address remaining gap. They explained that 75% of the override is earmarked for NPS - \$4.5m directly into base budget and growing at 3.5% over time.

Next they gave an overview of the Budget Process (build two budgets) and what reductions will be necessary to balance these budgets further explaining that even with the override there will still be a small gap. They concluded by outlining the next steps in the process.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Smith and her team for pulling together two budgets. She announced that on Thursday @7:00 via Zoom there will be a brief explanation and an extensive question and answer period regarding the override.

Questions , answers and discussion followed.

The Chair thanked Liam and Superintendent Smith then asked for the Enrollment Analysis and Class Size Report from Katy Hogue.

Enrollment Analysis and Class Size Report

Liam introduced Katy Hogue who presented the Enrollment Analysis and Class Size Report which was received and placed on file.

Katy’s presentation overview included

- Enrollment estimates for budgeting purposes
- Key points
- External Source Enrollment Trends
- Planning:
 - K census
 - Registration Gateway monitoring
 - Internal monitoring through spring/summer
 - January 2023 private school census – will share the results later this year.
- Class Size
 - Elementary 19.4
 - Middle 20.7
 - HS 22.0
- Class size class distribution

• >25 elementary= 0%	Middle = 3%	High = 28%
• < 25 elementary = 48%	Middle = 26%	High = 24%

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

The Chair thanked Katy, Liam and the team.

System wide Goals Update: Literacy Equity Project (LEP)

Renee McCall introduced Kathy Lopes, Alice Wong Tucker and Mary Brown who presented the Literacy Equity Project Update which was received and placed on file.

Alice Wong Tucker, founder and coordinator of LEP spoke last year just as the program was beginning and is here tonight to share the results of the pilot year along with Mary Brown. She explained that there are 11 teachers from 6 schools, working with a focused group of BIPOC students. They shared the results from year one which covered:

- Responsiveness to families
- Student Achievement
- Impact on Teachers and Schools

Alice explained that expansion was possible thanks to NSF funding.

Tamika thanked the team and asked for questions.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

The Chair called for a discussion regarding the FY24 School Year Calendar which was removed from the Consent Agenda.

FY24 School Year Calendar

After a brief discussion the Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the FY24 School Year Calendar.

Motion: Davis
2nd: Parlikar

Discussion: Anping read a statement from Paul Levy.

Roll Call

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

The motion passed 7-1-1 absent

Next, the Chair presented update on the Superintendent Search.

Superintendent Search

Chair Olszewski presented the Superintendent Search Update which was received and place on file.

The Chair gave a brief overview of the process, what has been completed and what the next steps are, including the scheduling of the interviews of the semifinalist candidates. She announced that the Finalist interviews will be the week of February 13 and will include

- Finalists day in Newton:
- Building visits
- Meet w/interim/staff
- Community Forums
- School Committee interviews in public.

Questions, answers, discussion followed.

The Chair stated that we concluded the posted business. She reminded everyone about Thursday's Town Hall, the NECP Open House on Saturday January 28 and announced that the next School Committee meeting is Monday, February 6th, w/public comment.

Adjourned at 10:10 pm

Lisa Mazzola
School Committee Secretary

Date: 5/18/23