

**NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

<b>RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO</b>	
Newton School Committee Members	
<b>WARD</b>	
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 SPECIAL MEETING – CAUCUS Minutes**

**Date:** November 17, 2022  
**Location:** Special School Committee meeting in person  
**Time:** 5:30 pm  
**Members Present:** Mayor Fuller, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Parlikar, Brezski, Levy, Davis (remote)  
**Others Present:**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The caucus was called to order at 5:35 pm, for the purpose of determining School Committee Leadership for 2023.

**PRESENT by Roll Call:**

Ward 1 Parlikar	here	Ward 5 Prenner	here
Ward 2 Brezski	here	Ward 6 Levy	here
Ward 3 Shen	here	Ward 7 Shields	here
Ward 4 Olszewski	here	Ward 8 Davis	here - remote
		Mayor Fuller	here

After nominations took place the Mayor called for a motion to vote for Chair tonight.

**MOTION:** It was moved to complete the vote for Chair tonight and not hold a second caucus.  
 (Levy – Prenner)

**CHAIR VOTE TONIGHT by Roll Call:**

Ward 1 Parlikar	Y	Ward 5 Prenner	Y
Ward 2 Brezski	Y	Ward 6 Levy	Y
Ward 3 Shen	Y	Ward 7 Shields	Y
Ward 4 Olszewski	Y	Ward 8 Davis	Y – remote
		Mayor Fuller	Y

Tamika Olszewski is the only nomination for Chairperson. Voting will be by Roll Call.

**CHAIRPERSON VOTE by Roll Call:**

Ward 1 Parlikar	Y	Ward 5 Prenner	Y
Ward 2 Brezski	Y	Ward 6 Levy	Y
Ward 3 Shen	Y	Ward 7 Shields	Y
Ward 4 Olszewski	Y	Ward 8 Davis	Y – remote
		Mayor Fuller	Y

Mayor Fuller declares Tamika Olszewski the Chairperson with a vote of 9-0.

Next the Mayor stated that there were no further nominations for Vice Chair and asked for a roll call vote by ward to decide if the Committee will vote for Vice Chair tonight:

**MOTION:** It was moved to complete the vote for Vice Chair tonight and not hold a second caucus.  
 (Levy – Shen)

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON VOTE TONIGHT - by Roll Call:**

Ward 1 Parlikar	Y	Ward 5 Prenner	Y
Ward 2 Brezski	Y	Ward 6 Levy	Y
Ward 3 Shen	Y	Ward 7 Shields	Y
Ward 4 Olszewski	Y	Ward 8 Davis	Y – remote
		Mayor Fuller	Y

The Mayor declared it was unanimous. The Committee will vote for Vice Chair tonight and since there were no further nominations voting will be by roll call by ward for candidate Kathy Shields:

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON VOTE – by Roll Call**

Ward 1 Parlikar	Y	Ward 5 Prenner	Y
Ward 2 Brezski	Y	Ward 6 Levy	Y
Ward 3 Shen	Y	Ward 7 Shields	Y
Ward 4 Olszewski	Y	Ward 8 Davis	Y – remote
		Mayor Fuller	Y

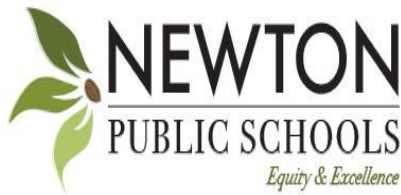
Mayor Fuller declares Kathy Shields is the Vice-Chairperson with a vote of 9-0.

Mayor Fuller announced that the School Committee Leadership Caucus is concluded. She congratulated Tamika and Kathy and said she looks forward to working with them in the days ahead.

Chair Olszewski Motioned to adjourn the Caucus  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Brezski

Mayor Fuller adjourned the meeting at 5:51 pm

Lisa Mazzola Date: May 3, 2023  
School Committee Secretary



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VI	Paul Levy
VII	Kathy Shields, Vice Chair
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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING–Minutes**

**Date:** November 17, 2022

**Location:** School Committee hybrid meeting, in-person 100 Walnut Street, Newton, MA room 210 and the Public via **ZOOM**

**Time:** 6:30 pm

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

**Students:** Currid, Nabeshima, Zeng, Liu

**Staff:** **Toby Romer (R)**, 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, **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel, **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services,

**Other Staff/Presenters:** **Jennifer Shore (I)**, Director of Special Initiatives and Programs for Teaching & Learning, Jen Ortega, Math Coordinator, Monica Matrisciano, 3<sup>rd</sup> gr teacher at Williams, **Stephanie Gilman (R)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Katy Hogue (R)**, Director of Data Analysis and Enrollment Planning, **Alyssa Baringer (R)**, Budget Analyst, **Amy Mistrot (R)**, Director of Business Operations, **Valerie Davisson ( )** PTO Equity Spending Committee,

The School Committee Chair opened a hybrid School Committee meeting on November 17, 2022, at 6:31 p.m., in-person and via Zoom.

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting to Public Comment:

- 1) Eliza Spaulding – Pine St. Spoke on behalf of SEPAC– re: significant disparities – MCAS /YRBS.
- 2) Adam Lunin – 24 Court St – Feeder school – splitting Cabot only clear choice.

The Chair thanked the speakers and closed Public Comment. She then asked Interim Superintendent Smith for her update.

**Superintendent Update:**

Interim Superintendent Kathy Smith spoke about advocating for NPS regarding the Override ballot in March. She said there is important information on NPS website as well as community opportunities to learn about regarding the needs of the city.

She attended Tri-County Supt roundtable regarding legislative initiatives and announced that the Mayor has graciously accepted an offer to host a breakfast to talk about the benefits. Superintendent Smith spoke about the multi-cultural event at NNHS where 25 countries were represented – parents/staff/students worked together. She expressed faith in the new generation coming up. She stated that the SC will continue with their workshops and will look at the goals for the interim superintendent.

There were no questions so the Chair asked Jennifer Shore for her Update.

**Goals Update: Summer Programs**

Jennifer Shore, Jen Ortega, Monica Matrisciano

Jennifer Shore presented the Summer Programs Update which was received and placed on file. The team gave an overview of the Summer Success program, how it evolved and the highlights. Included in the overview was the total number of students, cost of the program, the feedback received and some of the challenges.

Question, answers and discussion followed

The chair thanked them and said we look forward to their next update.

Next on the agenda is another update on the Day/Bigelow Feeder Pattern from Liam Hurley, Katy Hogue and Stephanie Gilman

### **Enrollment, Student Assignment and Feeder Pattern Update**

Liam Hurley, Katy Hogue

The Enrollment, Student Assignment and Feeder Pattern Update was received and placed on file.

Dr. Hogue gave a brief background and overview and 2 options:

- Feeder school swap
- Cabot split
- Timeline- Dec. 19 vote, 1/23/23
- Class size report implement Fall 2023
- Criteria 5 key areas and sub areas
- Map – Split criteria; maps and projections
- Transportation – Swap = additional buses/split no additional buses.
- Projected bus costs

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **Bigelow Start and End Time Change Discussion**

Liam Hurley, Toby Romer, Ayesha Farag, Stephanie Gilman, Sean Mannion, Katy Hogue, Regina Moody

The Bigelow Start and End Time Change report was received and placed on file.

The team explained transportation issues necessitated a slight change in start and end times for Bigelow from 8:05 – 2:35 change to 7:55 to 2:25. This is the same start/end as Day.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **YRBS Special Report – Special Education**

Casey Ngo Miller, Katy Hogue

The YRBS Special Report was received and placed on file.

The team provided some background on YRBS and its use to plan and evaluate policies and programming. The Committee requested that the report be broken down by disabilities. Import ONLY IF THEY SELF REPORTED and ONLY AT THE HS LEVEL.

Participation rates –

Key take ways –

- Bullying
- Stress/depression, suicidal
- Safety in School
- School Connectedness

Supports for all students

- Bullying Prevention – anti-bias and anti-bullying curriculum
- -advisory
- Digital citizenship
- Suicide – SOS
- Substance Abuse SBirt – vaping addiction
- Self-Harm – counseling groups student intervention teams
- Partnerships, Dept of H&HS,

What do we do?

- Change the wording on the survey to correctly capture students.  
Consider universal screening option for MS & HS students

- Changed from Opt in to Opt out. Significant increase in participation.
- Cross reference data

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

The chair asked for the next item:

### **PTO Equity Spending Update**

Valerie Davisson, Michelle Tsay, Helen Makadia

The PTO Equity Spending Guide was received and placed on file.

New committee member person is Andrea Vargas, Principal at Peirce.

They requested that:

- the SC revise the Equity Policy – clear that it applies to PTO Spending.
- Codify a comprehensive statement for NPS
- Working to define activities. And publish some reference guides

FY22 Actuals – Presented Secondary actuals for the first time.

FY23 Budget all PTO's will be in compliance.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **FY23 Fiscal and Operational Update #1**

Liam Hurley, Alyssa Baringer and Amy Mistrot

The first FY23 Fiscal and Operational Update was received and placed on file.

Overview:

- 28% of budget spent as of 10/31/22.
- \$600k in reserve.
- Highlights of major categories and projects of positive or negative balances.
- Food services and grants
- Financial waiver process made simple and easy.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **Superintendent Search Update**

The chair then gave an update on the Superintendent Search:

- Focus groups underway and on-going.
- Surveys are open
- Completed one day of focus groups.
- Representation from across the community.

Next, the chair moved on to items up for a vote:

Is there a motion to accept the Grants as presented in the amount of \$7,749,242 NSF Grant as presented in the amount of \$16,010

Motion: Levy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Shen

Discussion: NOne

Vote:

1 – Y    5 – Y

2 – Y    6 – Y

3 – Y    7 – Y

4 – Y    8 – Y

Mayor Y

Y – 9    n- 0    absent 0

The chair asked for a motion to approve the International Filed Trips as presented.

To approve the International Filed Trips as presented.

Motion: Parlikar

2<sup>nd</sup>: Shields

Discussion: None

Vote:

8 – Y    4 – Y

7 – Y    3 – Y

6 – Y    2 – Y

5 – Y    1 – Y

Mayor Y

Y – 9    n- 0    absent 0

Interim Superintendent Smith gave a brief preview of the Safety & Security Update on the agenda for December 5, 2022. Review drills, training; Police and Fire Chiefs along with Linda Walsh will join us.

The Chair announced that this concludes the posted business for tonight. The next meeting will be December 5, 2022.

She thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 4/25/23

School Committee Secretary

Documents and Closed Captioning transcript for this meeting are available [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tqYIz2wVXJ9I1UngDfySK5DuzY3iiEZc) (or copy and paste: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tqYIz2wVXJ9I1UngDfySK5DuzY3iiEZc>)



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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING –NO PUBLIC COMMENT Minutes**

- Date:** December 1, 2022
- Location:** Special School Committee meeting in via Zoom
- Time:** 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
- Members Present:** Kathy Smith, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Shields, Parlikar, Brezski, Levy, Davis, Mayor
- Others Present:** Jeff Melendez, Aresta Johnson

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting at 7:00 pm.

**Roll Call**

Ward 1 Parlikar	present	Ward 5 Prenner	present
Ward 2 Brezski	present	Ward 6 Levy	present
Ward 3 Shen	arrived @7:03	Ward 7 Shields	absent
Ward 4 Olszewski	present	Ward 8 Davis	present
		Mayor Fuller	present

**Leadership Profile**

Jeff Melendez presented the Leadership Profile which was received and placed on file. He gave a brief background regarding demographics, strengths and challenges.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed including:

- Revise language of the editorial
- Strike editorial, seems out of place
- Highlight strengths
- Staff voices – families and community mentioned, where are the staff voices? Anyone mention low turnover rates, rtc.
- Importance of superintendent who could recruit and retain excellent staff
- Challenges: Student migration to private school was during the pandemic, migration has “normalized” to pre-pandemic level.
- We own or co-own with HYA?
- Academic excellence & equity conversation quote “lowest common denominator”
- Reads as if excellence at the expense of all students learning
- Be careful to not change what the community says.
- Some additional word-smithing took place.

Tamika asked if there was a motion to approve this document with the edits

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

Any discussion - none

**Roll Call Vote:**

Parlikar	Y	Prenner	Y
Brezski	Y	Levy	Y
Shen	Y	Shields	absent
Olszewski	Y	Davis	Y
		Mayor	Y

8-0-1 (absent) Leadership Profile was approved.

### Statement of Qualifications/Desired Characteristics

Jeff presented the Qualifications/Desired Characteristics document which was received and placed on file. He then gave an overview of input HYA received from stakeholders that were incorporated into this document.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed including:

- Wording
  - Definitions of Leader
  - Accomplished vs. Demonstrated ability
  - Self – assured
  - Listener
  - Transparent
  - Collaborative
  - Innovative
- Phrasing
  - Academic success vs. educational outcomes
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
  - Coalition builder
  - Lowest common denominator

The Chair called for a motion to approve the Qualifications/Desired Characteristics as edited.

Motion: Levy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brezski

Discussion: A few clarifying questions were asked and answered.

Parlikar	Y	Prenner	Y
Brezski	Y	Levy	Y
Shen	Y	Shields	absent
Olszewski	Y	Davis	Y
		Mayor	Y

8-0-1 (absent) Qualifications/Desired Characteristics was approved.

Tamika asked Aresta Johnson for the Survey Analysis which was received and placed on file. Aresta Johnson then reviewed the Survey Results. Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

- Quantitative data was briefly explained
- Number of participants = 2,194
- Item Analysis

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Levy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Brezski

Parlikar	Y	Prenner	Y
Brezski	Y	Levy	Y
Shen	Y	Shields	absent
Olszewski	Y	Davis	Y
		Mayor	Y

Motion passes 8-0-1 (absent) to adjourn.

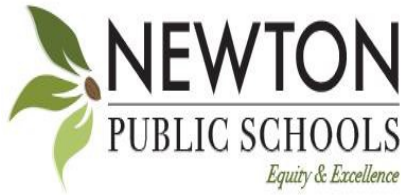
Adjourned at 8:30 pm

*Lisa Mazzola*

School Committee Secretary

Date: May 3, 2023





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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT Minutes**

- Date:** December 5, 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 **(I)**, Davis **(I)**, Mayor **(I)**
- 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; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services
- Others (I/R):** **Ruth Hoshino (I)** Director of School Health Services; **Jordana L’Esperance (I)** School Psychologist, Bigelow M.S., **Jacob Bultema (R)** Principal, Mason-Rice; **Chassity Coston, ( R)** Principal, Bigelow; **Mindy Johal ( R)** Principal, Burr; **Eric Sprung ( R)** Principal, Cabot; **Beth Herlihy (I)** Principal, Countryside; **Chief John Carmichael (I)** NPD; **Sgt. Brandon Hagai (I)** NPD; **Lt. Amanda Hendrickson (I)** NPD; **Chief Gregory Gentile (I)** NFD; **Lt Michael White (I)** NFD Assistant Chief Bianchi,

Chair Olszewski opened the meeting at 6:35 pm, and began with Public Comment.

**Public Comment:**

1. Heather Tausig 120 Garland Rd.: Gun Violence and Safety education in schools.
2. Laura Towvim 61 Islington Rd: Gun Violence and Safety education in schools.
3. Elisa Rodriguez 109 Bellevue St: Appreciation for SC and Search Committee. DEI as a priority.
4. Jenn Martin 86 Allen Ave: Safe Passage – transportation. Safety training every year at every school.

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

**Interim Superintendent’s Update**

Interim Superintendent Smith spoke about the School Committee/Central Staff Retreat which was devoted to establishing and discussing Superintendent Goals, Sustainable Budget including Override; Profile of a Graduate; Publish an annual report, a transition plan for new Supt; develop a strategy & plan for k-5 literacy curriculum. She also spoke about the DEI work the district was participating in (REDI), a team that went to the METCO conference supporting work going on in NPS; the override fact sharing events she is participating in. As well as events at Horace Mann and Zervas. Superintendent Smith then answered a few questions.

The Chair gave a brief explanation of the next item – a vote to approve the use of a “Consent Agenda.” She then called for a motion to approve the use of a Consent Agenda.

Motion: Levy

<sup>2</sup><sub>nd</sub>: Davis

There was no discussion

**Roll Call**

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

The motion passed 9-0-0

Next the Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda: Signature Authorizations; Non-Align Pay Raises; Career and Technical Education Donation; June 13, 2022 Draft Minutes.

The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the consent agenda. Negative.

Motion: Shields

2<sup>nd</sup>: Prenner

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 Y

Mayor Y

The motion passed 9-0-0

Chair Olszewski moved on to Updates and Reports and asked for the Safety and Security Update.

**Safety and Security Update: Cameras and Cyber Security**

The Safety and Security Update by Toby Romer and Steven Rattendi was received and placed on file.

The Mayor spoke about the wonderful team that works with Toby and introduced Police, Fire and Health representatives.

Toby and some members of the Safety and Security team gave an overview of the work that has been done, including: excerpts from the Emergency Operation Plan, sample school materials, safety drills, training, security cameras, communications systems, firearm safety outreach and this year's the areas of focus.

Tamika thanked group for presentation and asked for any questions. Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed including

- Polling information
- Active shooter drills and students anxiety
- Weapons and permits
- Open campus
- Communication

The Chair thanked all for their efforts and for coming to the meeting.

**Safety and Security Update: Cameras and Cyber Security**

Steven Rattendi continued with the Cyber Security portion of the update:

- Strengthen procedures
- Educate staff
- Framework
  - US Govt services
  - Internal cybersecurity team
- Additional work:
  - Formalizing a plan
- Challenges
  - Keeping up
  - Limited resources
  - Cyber consultant

A few questions and comments followed.

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

### **Enrollment and Feeder Patter Update**

The Enrollment and Feeder Pattern Update was received and placed on file.

Liam presented a high level view of the feeder pattern process, options and timeline regarding Cabot including community feedback from the evaluation matrix. The result is a recommendation to utilize the Cabot split to achieve the enrollment stabilization the district is seeking with minor suggestions to increase 6<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment at Bigelow.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed including:

- Too sudden, can it be delayed of this change, any detriment to delaying
- Participation rates
- Additional bus stops
- Family scenarios – siblings, etc
- 

Next up, the Chair asked Steven Rattendi to present the Goals Update on 1:1 Technology Integration in the Classroom.

### **Goals Update on 1:1 Technology Integration in the Classroom**

The report was received and place on file.

Steven Rattendi and his team Instructional Technology Specialists. Lisa Vancans, Anie Galbraith, Eileen Keane Jackie Dupuis, Lauren Dietz, Brenda Doucette, Jennifer Roy, Dona Busa gave an overview of:

- Districtwide Goals
- What does EdTech does and what it looks like?
  - Stations
  - Multimodal
  - Research component – accessing texts
  - Access to more – music from around the world, easier to design curriculum, and for students to show their understanding
  - Use of hyper docs (lots of links embedded in the document)
- Professional Learning opportunities
  - ITS
- Challenges
  - Availabilty for PD
  - DESE Grant
  - EdTech \$44K
  - ITS Staffing- cuts
  - Gauging efficacy
  - Equipment Budgets

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed including:

- The efficacy of technology and young children
- Pandemic influenced
- Teacher usage and knowledge
- 1:1 program
- Customization, differentiation

The Chair thanked Steven and his team and then asked committee members Emily Prenner and Paul Levy to present their proposed Budget Guidelines

### **Budget Guidelines**

The Budget Guidelines were received and placed on file.

Tamika thanked them for the great memo and agreed there was a need for scenario planning: with and without override. One area could be revised – breadth of programming. They stated that they word work collaboratively to figure out where to go from here.

The Chair presented an update on the Superintendent Search.

**Superintendent Search**

The update was received and placed on file.

Tamika informed the Committee that community engagement phase has been completed, the job posting is up on HYA, comments are up on the website, and we are on track and on target. A communication will go out on Wednesday.

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

Next the Chair asked Inter Superintendent Smith to preview the English Language Learners report that will be presented at the December 19, 2022 School Committee meeting.

Superintendent Smith stated that ELL is seeing what we are seeing – more people arrive in Newton – and has had to address staffing levels. They are working with principals for ELL open houses, and will have some data to present.

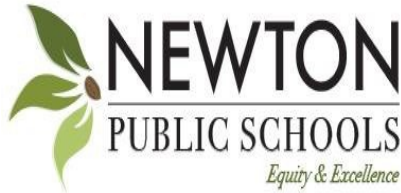
The Chair declared that that concludes the posted business. The next meeting Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>, which will include public comment.

Adjourned at 9:45pm

Lisa Mazzola

School Committee Secretary

Date: May 3, 2023



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## NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**DRAFT**

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** April 10, 2023  
**Location:** Special School Committee meeting FY24 Budget  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Members: (I/R):** Kathy Smith (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (I), Prenner (I), Shields (I), Parlikar (I), Brezski (I), Levy (I), Davis (I), Mayor (I)  
**Students Remote (I/ R):** Currid (ab) , Nabeshima (ab), Zeng ( ab), Liu (ab), Hawthorne (ab)  
**Staff (I/R):** **Toby Romer (ab)**, 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, (ab)** Director Human Resources; **Jill Murray (ab)** General Counsel; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services  
**Others (I/R):** **Stephanie Gilman (R)** Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Donna DiNisco, ( I)** DiNisco Design; **Steven Brown( R)**, Dorr & Whittier, **Thomas Buchau ( R)** IT – Asst Coord Tech Services, **Jack Polnar ( R)** IT- Database, **Eileen Keane, ( R)** ITS

The Chair convened the meeting at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone.

The Chair asked for the Superintendent’s Update.

#### Interim Superintendent’s Update:

Thanked Assistant Superintendent’s for their hard work on the budget in support our students. Thanked the many constituents regarding a variety of issues. The Superintendent will share an update at the end of the meeting with the Chair’s permission.

#### IT Update:

Steven Rattendi presented an update regarding Information Technology and Library Services which was received and placed on file.  
Projects:

- NECP
- Phone Upgrades
- Wireless Network Upgrades @ Middle Schools
- Chromebook Purchases
- Cyber Security Initiatives

Questions, answers and discussions followed.

- Q. Range/ages of equipment is concerning
- Q. What percentage of 1:1 devices funded by PTO
- Q. Emails – reducing 1:1 devices instead of cutting positions.
- Q. Pleased w/progress re: cyber security
- Q. Staff – grant funded for training – how many?
- Q. BYOD - 500 less devices per year

#### Countryside Design Enrollment:

Donna DiNisco presented the Countryside Design Enrollment for MSBA approval which was received and placed on file.

No questions.

Superintendent Smith opened with an overview of the Budget process and challenges.

### **FY24 Budget Review: Information Technology and Library Media Services (ITLMS)**

Steven Rattendi presented the details of the FY24 Budget for IT & Library Services. The presentation was received and placed on file.

Reductions:

- ITLMS Overview
  - Reductions last year 2.7 and this year 0.8
    - Library Teacher -0.1 (Mem-Spaulding)
    - -0.7 High Schools (-0.4 NN/-0.2 NS)
      - Less students that can receive instruction on any given day
- Eliminate Seesaw (\$10k)
- Reduce WeVideo (\$4k)
- Reduce Zoom (\$4K)
- Eliminate Summer intern (\$15k)

Additions:

- 1:1 Program \$190k
  - Uses – elementary “centers”, writing, speech to text and vice versa, alternative assessments i.e. videos, blogs etc.
  - Need \$600k annually to maintain 1:1
  - Available software after reductions/eliminations including 3<sup>rd</sup> party apps
  - Data analytics (\$50k)
  - Cybersecurity (\$10k)
  - Continued work:
    - VoIP
    - Maintenance/Repair of Network Infrastructure
      - Challenges: classroom equipment

Questions, answers and discussion followed:

- Q. HS Library reductions impact
- Q. Do HS Library teachers do win blocks?
- Q. iPads – replacement projection of 300 per yr or 40k per year – what was the ratio before
- Q. How are we measuring the efficacy of 1:1
- Q. Which provides more educational value: k aides or 1:1 tech @ k-1
- Q. Will be hard to track end points re: use of technology.
- Q. Pricing benefits for devices?
- Q. Jr/Sr – BYOD – save \$
- Q. Equity issues?
- Q. Want utilization data, BYOD staff program?
- Q. 2 versions of chromebooks – where did we end up. Touch screen vs. non
- Q. Concept of access- i.e. special needs, language, etc.

The Chair expressed her final thoughts stating that NPS will be reevaluating over the next year and there are a lot of questions and we'll have to figure out how we are going to evaluate the efficacy. She thanked Steven Rattendi for the update.

### **FY24 Budget Review: Business, Finance & Planning**

Liam Hurley along with Sean Mannion, Alyssa Baringer presented the BF&P budget.

Liam gave an overview of:

- non-instructional FTE's and responsibilities in BF&P and HR
- School Buildings (completed/In Progress)

- Changes:
  - Facilities -2.0 Custodians (less frequent cleaning)
  - Restore Charter Maintenance
  - Increase Utilities budget for higher rates/usage
  - Administrative – reduce 1.4 Admin Asst, ADD 1.0 Financial Analyst
  - Tools for Data and strategic analysis
  - Increase all user fees (last increase 5 years ago) most are \$50 increases
- Chart of % of increases by category
  - +25.2% Utilities
  - + 15.9% Equipment
  - +71.2% Tuition
- Year to Year Budget Comparison
- Increases
  - Utilities = \$6, 301,519
  - Maintenance = \$4,620, 871
  - Contracted Services = \$2,028,426
  - Tuition = \$7,320,590
  - Circuit breaker Carry forward = \$2m
    - become less dependent on 1 time funds
    - Build a reserve for legal settlements
    - Build a reserve for Out-of District tuitions
    - Build charter maintenance
  - Transportation = \$8,881,819
    - Law vs. Practice to consider
      - Follow the Reduce to 6-8 busses = major savings for NPS, challenge for City & families, save \$1.2m
  - Supplies = \$2,309,079
  - Equipment = \$1,870,284
  - Athletics = 1,259,250

## OTHER AREAS:

- Grants
- Food Services
  - \$35k bad debt cushion
- Benefits

## Recap of Net Budget Adjustments by Program Area

## Key issues to monitor:

- Overextended resources
- Support SEL
- Rates of special education referrals
- Capacity for systemic improvement work
- Educator wellbeing/retention
- Ward/Underwood Planning/Recommendation
- Health Insurance Changes
- Inflationary Pressures
- Unanticipated student needs

Superintendent Smith recapped the Budget presentation and then went through the Budget Calendar.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Q. Electricity

Q. Transportation

Q. Medicare reimbursement

Q. Data Analysis & Planning – Katy, Stephanie & Julie (2.5 FTE)

Q. Percentage is covered by fees.

The Chair thanked all the presenters and then Superintendent Smith spoke about the *ToBeGlad* day at NNHS. She said she is very comfortable about the opportunities for students. She explained that advisors and students play a role in preparing for a cultural day, She then read a statement which was placed on file..

Questions, answers, discussion followed.

Mayor Fuller expressed that the last 20 minutes was the best illustration of a school committee grappling with the issues of the day.

The Chair announced that they have concluded the posted business and the next meeting will be on April 12. She reminded all that there will be a Public Hearing re: FY24 Budget @6 pm on Zoom and that the public can sign up in advance or use “Raise your hand” during the hearing.

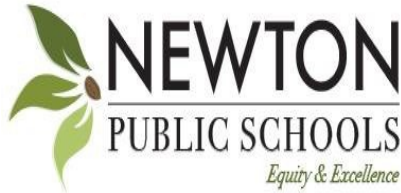
Adjourned at 9:23 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 4/26/23

School Committee Secretary





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

## NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** April 24, 2023  
**Location:** School Committee Public Hearing - FY24 Budget and meeting  
**Time:** 6:30 pm  
**Members: (I/R):** Kathy Smith (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (I), Prenner (I), Shields (I), Parlikar (I), Brezski (I), Levy (I), Davis (R) **late 7:15**, Mayor (I)  
**Students Remote (I/ R):** Currid (ab) , Nabeshima (I), Zeng ( ab), Liu (ab), Hawthorne (ab)  
**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, (ab)** Director Human Resources; **Jill Murray (R)** General Counsel; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services  
**Others (I/R):** **Katy Hogue ( R)** Director of Data Analysis and Enrollment Planning

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:33 pm, acknowledged the strings concert outside, explained there was a change in the Agenda order and then asked for the Superintendent's Update.

#### Public Speakers:

1. Mary Margaret Pappas, 70 Prospect Street – UOD advocacy
2. Susan Paley, 1525 Commonwealth Ave - 1525 Commonwealth Av. – UOD advocacy
3. Katherine Read – 75 ? UOD advocacy
4. Joseph Quintanilla 21 Skilton Ln. Burlington –UOD advocacy
5. Melissa Monokroussos – Class size advocacy
6. Debbie Berechman 102 Pearl Street- UOD advocacy
7. Kim Smith – Behavioral Health/pandemic effects. No cuts at all.
8. Amy Davenport 86 Park Avenue – 86 Park Ave. – petition re budget staffing cuts -

The chair thanked the commenters and asked for the Interim Superintendent's update

#### Interim Superintendent's Update:

Interim Superintendent Smith thanked those participating in the string recital. She stated that she has read all of the email and letters regarding the various concerns expressed. She then spoke about the ToBeGlad Day at NNHS. She thanked Melanie Pennison, Lisa Goldthwaite Wright, Henry Turner and the GSA stating that she had never been so proud to be your Superintendent.

The Chair asked for questions – there were none.

#### Consent Agenda:

- 1) Countryside Enrollment and Space Program
- 2) FY23 Scovell Fund Transfer
- 3) Underwood PTO 1-Day Liquor License
- 4) Minutes from 10/21/22, 10/27/22 and 11/7/22

The documents were received and placed on file. The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the consent agenda.

Hearing none, she asked for a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Levy

2<sup>nd</sup>: Parlikar

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

The motion passed 8-0 (Davis absent)

Next, she asked for Interim Superintendent Smith to provide the Calendar Working Group Update which was received and placed on file.

### **Calendar Working Group Update**

Interim Superintendent Smith, Anping Shen and Chris Brezski

Superintendent Smith reviewed the make-up of the group and the content of their meetings. A survey has been drafted, which will be finalized as soon as possible to get out to students, staff and families. Recommendations will be made once the data has been analyzed.

A question was asked about the surveys.

The Chair called for a quick 2 minute break while Dr. Hogue connected. Once everyone was back she introduced Katy Hogue and asked for her presentation.

### **Private School Enrollment Update**

Katy Hogue presented her update regarding Private School Enrollment which was received and placed on file.

This report covers the current school year private school enrollment.

#### Key points

- census done each year
- data on where students are attending other than NPS
- Total school age population trends
  - Declined by 220 (1.4%)
  - 22.3% enrolled in non NPS schools (compared to 23.1% last year)

#### Non-NPS enrollment by level

- Transition years (5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>) – increased to non NPS schools during the pandemic.
  - Middle school leveled off
  - High school still high, but lower than last year.

95% of non-NPS enrolled are in MA private schools

24% of those are in private schools in Newton/76% are in other MA towns

27% enrolled in schools with religious affiliations

Questions, answers and discussion followed including:

Q. Decrease due to decline in elementary or smaller families

Q. Ward 45% private school enrollment, but only

Q. Central staff/SC have taken ostrich-like approach and what it means to this district. Referred to the Supt search survey. Claims that 360 more students left for private school. States that there is a persistent problem here.

Q. Increase 16% to 22% - if this continues it is concerning. Any data re: exit survey

Q. Neighboring peer districts to compare to?

C. Caution, that until we get the data – many, many different reasons why parents send their kids to private school.

C. SC has not been silent as suggested, highlighting our successes, Portrait of a Graduate, the hiring of Anna Nolin. Do not think we are ambivalent.

Q. K enrollment – main factor of declining enrollment – decline from the peak – attending non-NPS – something to learn from the grade levels they left at?

Q. How should we be looking at the next 5 years

Q. Analysis shared with KH – mean home price: declining enrollment. Elementary district lowest 750K 17% 1.3m 26%- vote with their feet if they have the ability to do so. Bigger picture of income/private schooling?

Q. Ward data – no other school is even close, been that way for a long time.

Q. Remiss to make assumptions about which students are leaving i.e. demographics, owners vs. renters,

C. Mistake to assume that if a student goes to a religious school they are affiliated with that religion.

The Chair thanked Katy and moved on to a continued discussion regarding the FY24 Budget that had been presented and discussed during the last several meetings. Bill Ferguson (Sustainability), Ann Berwick (Sustainability) and Maureen Lemieux (CFO) are joining the Mayor for this discussion.

### **FY24 Budget Review**

The Chair asked for Chris Brezski's memo.

School Committee member Brezski's memo was received and placed on file.

Chris summarized his recommendations, and the reasons why he undertook this endeavor.

He stated that the proposed budget did not support School Committee Budget Guidelines and priorities and he was looking for alternate ways to fulfill those priorities. He feels this can be a bridge to sustainability and would be a temporary reduction, probably 2 years. He concluded by saying he was open to any suggestions/alternatives. In his opinion, in the absence of any alternatives this is the only way forward.

Mayor Fuller then asked for clarification regarding the status of the renewable energy credits

Chair Olzewski asked that the members keep the questions tailored to Chris' proposal then the Mayor and her team will present their response.

Q. Confirm – not talking about a permanent shift in OPEB funding. Changing the timing of contributions.

Q. Clarify the numbers OPEB payment for this year = forecast 3.187m. Proposal is to decrease that payment by \$1.35 m therefore you are not making a formal proposal today for next year. It's an illustration of what that path looks like.

Q. Not fully understanding – not paying the 1.35m to OPEB we'd have to make it up in another year. How does that put us on the path to sustainability.

Q. How to not view this as 1X funds.

C. Concerned about what happens when the 1X funds stop. What will year 2, or year 3 look like?

C. 1X funds not the cause, the 1X funds helped get us through.

C. Limping around due to rising costs.

C. The NPS budget has grown at a larger pace – crowded out the rest of the City budget. Gone from 83% to 89% greater than 3.7 – 3.8% NPC has to find a way to live within a 3.8% increase.

The Chair thanked Chris and asked the Mayor to respond.

The Mayor expressed that these are important discussions to have and that everything should be on the table. She stated that as Mayor she is the responsible for all city departments, not just the school department.

- Provider services – all services including Education
- All long term needs – physical assets – school bldgs.
- Unfunded liability – because of the decisions of previous SC & administrations
- Steward of budget strengths and unpredictability.

When the voters spoke on March 14, they did not fund NPS, nor Horace Mann. She said she is acutely aware that the NPS budget is not sustainable right now. She said she wants to set Superintendent Nolin up for a sustainable budget going forward. She outlined the steps she's taken since March 14 to funnel additional monies to NPS:

- 1) Increase the allocation of up to \$9.m or 3.77% (requires City Council. Decrease the amount needed to bond Horace Mann)
- 2) Bridge of \$1.4 to make up Out of Districts increase
- 3) Worked with Retirement Board to extend to August 2031 which will free up money for the debt service of Horace Mann
- 4) Union leadership – change health insurance – to save money and phase out Medicaid part B
  - a. Year 1 \$650k
  - b. Year 2 \$650

5) Docketing city funding – two legal settlements = \$580K

She commented that she is doing her best to carry out the mission.

Mayor Fuller and her team, Maureen Lemieux, Bill Ferguson and Ann Berwick then gave explanations as to why Chris' proposal was not in the best interest of the City or the School Department. Reasons included:

Mayor Fuller concluded by saying that the interrelationship between the City (mother ship) and NPS is a fabulous intricate web of relationship and support. She understands why members are looking for alternatives that seemingly do not impact students. She said she has gone over every line item in search of additional funding.

The Chair asked for questions from the members.

Comments, questions, answers and discussion followed including:

- Class sizes
- Bond rating
- Temporary decrease.

The Chair suggested that the committee ask questions of Bill, Ann and Maureen now, and the members can pick up again tomorrow with Kathy Smith and Liam.

- Electricity rates
- Were OPEB CB's motion to pass you would find it necessary to reduce the allocation to NPS by the same amount.
- Plan to make a number of motions to help restore a number of items Kathy & Liam have prioritized. Based on community input regarding class size – preserving these class sizes may be of interest to Moody's
- Appreciate the out of box thinking from Chris Brezski. As to Paul's question – what will happen if we vote for Chris's proposal

The Chair stated there are a lot of shared costs between NPS/City. She reminded everyone that the City came in to help fund when NPS was in trouble, i.e. Bridge loan/Settlement costs. She expressed that she thinks the proposal is aggressive, and would be stepping back from the partnership. She's not sure that stepping back from our obligations of today in exchange for retirees of tomorrow is the right course. These may not be the only creative ways. We know we have an Infusion of \$680k this year and the same for next year.

The Chair thanked Bill Ann and Maureen and stated that the Committee will take a look at the monies we have and what we can do with it and see where we are with Chris's proposal. She declared that the Committee had concluded the posted business for this evening.

Paul – procedural question – Chris never made a motion. You are planning to make a motion to which Chris affirmed.

Tamika recommended that they start with the restorations we can make with the monies provided. Then take up Chris' proposal.

Chris made a rebuttal regarding his OPEB fund proposal and his disagreement with the City's financial advisors who believe that the points would be at 15 ½. He spoke to experts who believe that the difference between Triple A and Double A bonds is substantially less than what Maureen quoted. He went on to say that the liabilities were always there, just more apparent when put on the balance sheet and that \$5.8m difference in the OPEB fund balance will not change minds (AAA/AA). He said he understands the concern that NPS/City will abandoned the obligation, but FY26 is adding back \$760 and \$760 in FY27.

He asked, can we do the responsible thing, acknowledging that we can't do this forever. He suggested that if 2 years go by and we make no progress, will have to make tough decisions and compared it to the ARPA funds last year. In two years, the kids will hopefully be better able to handle larger classes if we can't rein this in as we plan.

Maureen and the Mayor reiterated their concerns with Chris's proposal including, fears about replenishing those funds – the 1.4m bridge grant – if the state keeps the 14% increase; if NPS receives 75% circuit breaker; and the futures market for utilities is much higher now; way behind on funding retiree health care.

Tamika thanked everyone and said we will pick this up tomorrow at 10:00 am.

The Chair asked Jill to present the last item, Policy GBEF

April 24, 2023

Minutes

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**Policy GBEF – Vaccination Policy**

Jill Murray presented the update of policy GBEF which was received and placed on file. She explained that she is recommending the Committee vote to sunset the policy on May 11, 2023.

Mayor – If Commissioner of Health & Human Services were here she would agree and add that our knowledge has vastly increased and we have tests, therapeutics, etc. to mitigate.

Jill asked that the recommendation to sunset Policy GBEF be put it on a future agenda to vote.

Mayor – Regarding hiring – you may want to make it soon.

A question was raised as to whether the Medical Advisory Group was still in effect or has it disbanded to which the Chair responded that it was disbanded.

The Chair thanked everyone and reminded all that there was another special meeting tomorrow morning at 10:00 am and then adjourned the meeting at 10:00 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 4/26/23

School Committee Secretary