



**NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

<b>RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO</b>	
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:** February 6, 2023

**Location:** School Committee meeting

**Time:** 6:30 pm

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

**Students Remote ( R):** Currid (I) , Nabeshima (I), Zeng ( I), 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 (I)**, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, **Martine Alabama**, Director Human Resources (ab) **Jill Murray (I)** General Counsel, **Katy Hogue ( R)**, District Student Data Manager; **Stephanie Gilman ( R )**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion ( R)**, Director of Finance, **Alyssa Baringer ( R)** Budget Analyst; **Amy Mistrot (ab)**, Director of Business Operations, **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services,

**Others (I/R):** Richard King (I), K-8 Fine Arts Coordinator; Todd Young (I), NNHS Fine and Performing Arts Department Head; Jeff Knoedler (I), Fine and Performing Arts Interim Department Head; Orla Higgins Averill (I), Principal, Angier; Edra Wigder (I), Angier Gr 2 teacher; Megan Kamm, (I), Literary Specialist; Maria Kolbe (I), Special Education teacher; Kaitlin Fetzer (I), Math Coach;

Call to order at 6:30 pm.

**Public Speakers: None**

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**

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

The chair asked if anyone want to remove an item from the consent agenda: McKinney Vento Reimbursement; Out-of-State Field Trips and 9/7/22 minutes. Hearing none she asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Motion: Davis

2<sup>nd</sup>: Prenner

**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

### **Superintendent Search**

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

The update included the timeline and next steps of developing questions, scheduling community forums and school tours as well as finalist interviews by the School Committee, the week of February 13 and a selection made by February 17<sup>th</sup>. (Finalists: Peter Light, Anna Nolin and Thomas Anderson).

Questions, answers, comments and discussion followed.

### **FY24 Fiscal and Operational Update**

Liam Hurley presented the FY24 Fiscal and Operational Update which was received and placed on file.

Liam Hurley reported that the district has spent 51% of its annual budget (\$132.2m) to date and the district is projected to end the year with a positive balance of \$682k, an improvement of \$597k over December's projection. A hiring and purchasing review process was put into effect. He provided area summaries and a list of highlights from the current forecast.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

### **Facilities Update**

Liam Hurley and Stephanie Gilman presented the Facilities Update which was received and placed on file.

Updates included NECP, Lincoln-Eliot, Countryside, Franklin, Horace Mann, Underwood/Ward, and others.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

### **Buffer Zone Update**

Liam introduced Katy Hogue who presented the Buffer Zone Update which was received and placed on file.

Dr. Hogue gave an overview of the buffer zone, current considerations and the recommendation to expand the current Horace Mann buffer zone to include all Cabot above the Mass Pike. She asked that the Committee vote on the recommendation at the next meeting.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

### **System wide Goals Update: Fine Arts**

Richard King, Jeff Knoedler and Todd Young presented the Fine Arts Update which was received and placed on file.

The Newton North and Newton South department heads provided a post pandemic status report which highlighted the Visual Arts, Music and Theatre Arts offerings at each school. They focused on Equity and Access and Excellence. They also provided glimpses into how the music and arts instruction and participation adapted during the pandemic. They concluded with the future of Newton Arts.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

### **System wide Goals Update: Elementary – Interventionists**

Ayesha Farag, Orla Higgins Averill, Edra Wigder, Megan Kamm, Maria Kolbe and Kaitlin Fetzer presented the Student Support at Angier Report which was received and placed on file.

This report focused on how the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) works, the problem solving process, and what they do and how they do it. They provided Literacy and Math Data and the impact MTSS has on special education referrals and supporting students who are above benchmark.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

### **School Committee Budget Resolution**

The chair read a resolution from the School Committee in support of securing funding for the Newton Public Schools.

Questions, answers and short discussion followed.

The Chair stated that we concluded the posted business.

Adjourned at 10:28 pm

Lisa Mazzola School Committee Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Date: May 23, 2023