

From: Superintendent Nolin
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 10:17:06 PM
Subject: Updates from the Superintendent's Office

Dear Newton Parents,

It is with great worry and pain that I write to you again in this same summer to notify you of a murder within our Newton community. Last night one of our families, with three NPS students, lost their mother, Nancy Hanson, in a tragic and violent domestic incident; their father is in custody--a double blow to these children. This is still an active investigation, but we wanted the community to know that City and School partners are working to support the boys through this horrible time. They are being cared for and have family and friends supporting them at this time. They have their needs met and are safe.

News of this may be hard to share and discuss and you may have connections with this family. Death affects children in different ways. Our guidance counselors are available to provide support and resources to your children here at school. Should you wish to have a conversation with your child at home, I would offer the following resources:

[Tips for Survivors: Coping With Grief After Community Violence](#)

<https://www.dougy.org/assets/uploads/Supporting-Children-and-Teens-After-a-Murder-of-Violent-Death.pdf>

We will be offering students the opportunity to engage in professionally facilitated coping groups at the various schools they young people attend. In addition, the following resources may be useful for finding additional support:

- Riverside Outpatient Center, 64 Eldredge St., Newton, MA - 617-969-4925
- William James College Interface Referral Service - 888-244-6843

If you have specific concerns about your son or daughter, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

Violent and unexpected tragedies like this rock us all. Our community has been hit with trauma of a violent nature two times within a month and this can also take a toll on any individual, even if you are not close to the family. Support groups can be created both within the school community and the city at large, please call/email your child's school principal if you are affected and need support. Or, collaborate with our highly effective partners in the City offices:

If more supports or resources become available, we will be back in touch with the community.

Two Other School Business Updates

We will hold a school committee meeting on July 25, 2023 to address next steps in **Ward-Underwood School planning**. This is a public meeting and there will be time for stakeholders to speak to issues, up to 30 minutes.

Today we had another round of **contract negotiations with our teachers' union leadership**. This was the first session of negotiations I was able to attend as your superintendent. The hardworking NTA, administration team, and school committee team met a large portion of the day to try to craft our next set of union contracts.

We share the desire to enhance the education profession and ensure the best for Newton students.

Negotiations is a hard and complex process that has already been going on for months and months during a difficult financial landscape here in Newton. Despite this, a robust sharing of ideas, worries, protests and hopes was shared and proposals were traded. Since no agreed upon talking points on details were voted, this is the most we can say at this time without giving inaccurate updates on the fluid nature of negotiations and proposal making. Nothing is final or agreed to until it is agreed to by both sides and we are not there yet. Anything shared at this time would be premature, speculative, and not accurate to the viewpoints of all parties. I will update you with any new developments as the summer wears on.

Anna Nolin
School Superintendent

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Sincerely,



Anna P. Nolin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools