



**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 20, 2023
- Location:** Special School Committee meeting in person
- Time:** 5:30 pm
- Members Present:** Mayor Fuller, Shen, Olszewski, Prenner, Davenport, Parlikar, Brezski, Levy (remote), Greenstein, Kathy Shields
- Others Present:** Chris Walsh, Mike Zilles, Barry Hershenow (left) Jane Frantz,

**School Committee Leadership Caucus  
As of November 20, 2023**

1st Caucus:

**INTRODUCTION:**

As Mayor of the City of Newton, I hereby declare this School Committee leadership caucus open at 5:32 pm.

Welcome to our new School Committee for 2024 and 2025. If there are any retiring school committee members in the meeting please sit in the audience. To begin, I would like to take a roll-call vote of members present.

Ward 1 Rajeev Parlikar	Y	Ward 3 Anping Shen	Y	Ward 5 Emily Prenner	Y	Ward 7 Amy Davenport	y
Ward 2 Chris Brezski	Y	Ward 4 Tamika Olszewski	Y	Ward 6 Paul Levy	y	Ward 8 Barry Greenstein	Y

This is the first caucus the Newton School Committee will hold to determine its Chair and Vice-Chair for the next calendar year - 2024.

At this first caucus, candidates for chair and then for vice-chair are invited speak for up to 5 minutes and are encouraged to address strengths they will bring to the position as well as areas of challenge or growth in the leadership role. Please know that one person can be a candidate for both positions. Time for discussion for each position will occur after all the candidates for each position speak.

I will entertain a motion at the end of the candidates’ speeches whether to hold the vote at this meeting or whether to wait and have a second caucus. If we choose to have a second caucus, at the second caucus, [on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 6:00 pm], additional candidates may come forward in the same manner as in the first caucus, and candidacies may also be withdrawn. New candidates will have time to speak for 5 minutes and we will have discussion. As a reminder, all discussion of candidacies must occur only in open session at these caucuses. Please know that it takes 5 votes to be declared the winner.

If we go ahead at this meeting with the vote, first for chair, and no-one receives at least 5 votes, I will ask if there are any additional candidates for Chair or whether anyone wants to withdraw and ask for a motion for a 15 minute recess AND/OR eventually ask if there is a motion to take another vote on holding a second caucus.

Are there any questions on the process before I move forward with nominations for the Chair?

**CHAIR NOMINATIONS**

We will now begin with candidates for the position of Chair. You may nominate yourself or you may nominate someone else. Nominations are now in order for Chair of the Newton School Committee for 2024 ...

Tamika Olszewski (nominated herself) and Chris Brezski (nominated by Amy Davenport) are nominated. Are there any further nominations? If not, nominations are closed.

Do each of the people who were nominated accept the nomination? Tamika Olszewski and Chris Brezski accepted their nominations.

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The following people are candidates for chair. Each of you will now each have 5 minutes to speak.

Chris Brezski – Mr. Brezski spoke about the many NPS boards/committee he was on before coming to the SC; that he has worked with everyone on the Committee, and when he disagreed, he did so respectfully. He also spoke of the need to support Dr. Nolin.

Tamika Olzewski – Ms. Olzewski promised to be an agent of change, and work hard. She then briefly commented on the enormous tasks she undertook during her first year (hiring an interim superintendent and eventually a permanent superintendent) and her commitment to Dr. Nolin that she would seek the chair for one more year for continuity. Although the job can be frustrating it is equally as rewarding.

Discussion.

Questions were asked of the candidates including key areas facing the SC, and the challenge of maintaining and improving academics.

#### NOMINATIONS FOR VICE CHAIR

We will now ask for candidates for the position of Vice-Chair. You may nominate yourself or you may nominate someone else. Nominations are now in order for Vice Chair of the Newton School Committee for 2024 ...

Emily Prenner (nominated by Rajeev Parlikar) is nominated. Are there any further nominations? If not, nominations are closed. Please know, after we vote for the Chair, I will again ask if there are any further nominations for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Prenner accepted the nomination.

The following person is the candidate for Vice-Chair. Emily Prenner

... You will now each have 5 minutes to speak

Ms. Prenner stated that the role of vice chair is interesting and she brings complimentary and different skill set, a deep knowledge and understanding of the district and that she is excited to work with Dr. Nolin. Role of the Chair and the Vice Chair is to serve the committee. She said she respects others views and supports the staff

Discussion: Brief comments were made.

#### VOTE ON WHETHER TO VOTE NOW OR HAVE A SECOND CAUCUS

At this time, I would like to entertain a motion to take a roll-call vote on whether to have a second caucus or to take the vote on Chair right now. If there is a second caucus, additional candidacies can arise and candidacies may be withdrawn. If there is a second caucus, it will be held on on Wednesday, Nov 29 at 6:00 pm.

All of those who prefer to have the vote tonight on Chair, please vote aye.

Ward 1 [Rajeev Parlikar]? Ward 1 votes \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 2 [Chris Brezski]? Ward 2 votes \_\_\_YES\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 3 [Anping Shen]? Ward 3 votes \_\_\_YES\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 4 [Tamika Olszewski]? Ward 4 votes \_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 5 [Emily Prenner]? Ward 5 votes \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 6 [Paul Levy]? Ward 6 votes \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 7 [Amy Davenport]? Ward 7 votes \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Ward 8 [Barry Greenstein]? Ward 8 votes \_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

Mayor [Ruthanne Fuller] votes \_\_\_\_\_Yes\_\_\_\_\_

THE VOTE IS NOW FOR CHAIR AT THE FIRST CAUCUS: 9-0

Our current candidates for Chair are: We will begin a roll call vote for our voting for Chair. To win, a candidate needs five votes.

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Ward 1 [Rajeev Parlikar] <u>Chris</u>	Ward 5 [Emily Prenner] <u>Tamika</u>
Ward 2 [Chris Brezski] <u>Chris</u>	Ward 6 [Paul Levy] <u>Chris</u>
Ward 3 [Anping Shen] <u>Chris</u>	Ward 7 [Amy Davenport] <u>Chris</u>
Ward 4 [Tamika Olszewski] <u>Tamika</u>	Ward 8 [Barry Greenstein] <u>Chris</u>
Mayor [Ruthanne Fuller] <u>Chris</u>	

Mayor – can we call for a unanimous vote – Chris stated that it was not necessary.

We have 7 votes for Chris and 2 votes for Tamika. I declare the winner of the election for Chair of the Newton School Committee to be Chris Brezski. Congratulations Chris.

#### VICE CHAIR - VOTE ON SECOND CAUCUS OR VOTE NOW ON VICE CHAIR

At this time, I would like to entertain a motion to take a roll-call vote on whether to have a second caucus or to take the vote on Vice-Chair right now. If there is a second caucus, additional candidacies can arise and candidacies may be withdrawn. If there is a second caucus, it will be held on Wednesday, Nov 29 at 6:00 pm.

All of those who prefer to have the vote now on Vice-Chair, please vote aye.

Ward 1 [Rajeev Parlikar]? Ward 1 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 2 [Chris Brezski]? Ward 2 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 3 [Anping Shen]? Ward 3 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 4 [Tamika Olszewski]? Ward 4 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 5 [Emily Prenner]? Ward 5 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 6 [Paul Levy]? Ward 6 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 7 [Amy Davenport]? Ward 7 votes <u>Yes</u>
Ward 8 [Barry Greenstein]? Ward 8 votes <u>Yes</u>
Mayor [Ruthanne Fuller] Votes <u>Yes</u>

#### VOTE NOW ON VICE CHAIR

The candidate for Vice-Chair is Emily Prenner: We will begin a roll call vote for our voting for Vice-Chair. To win, a candidate needs five votes.

Ward 1 [Rajeev Parlikar]? Ward 1 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 2 [Chris Brezski]? Ward 2 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 3 [Anping Shen]? Ward 3 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 4 [Tamika Olszewski]? Ward 4 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 5 [Emily Prenner]? Ward 5 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 6 [Paul Levy]? Ward 6 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 7 [Amy Davenport]? Ward 7 votes <u>Emily</u>
Ward 8 [Barry Greenstein]? Ward 8 votes <u>Emily</u>
Mayor [Ruthanne Fuller] Votes <u>Emily</u>

The Mayor declared Ms. Prenner the Vice-Chair with a unanimous vote of 9-0. Congratulations.

I now conclude the first Newton School Committee leadership caucus. Time: 6:22 pm

Lisa Mazzola Date: November 20, 2024  
School Committee Secretary