



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: November 20, 2023

Location: School Committee Meeting

Time: **5:30 pm Executive Session**(vote to convene in executive session in rm 304)

6:30 pm SC re-convened in rm. 210 at the Education Center 100 Walnut St and [via ZOOM](#)

Members: (I/R): Dr. Nolin (I), Parlikar (I), Brezski (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (I), Prenner (R), Levy (R), Shields (I), Davis (R), Mayor (I)

Students Remote (I/ R): NSHS: Helen Liu (I), NNHS: ()

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, **Joany Santa (R)** Director Human Resources; **Jill Grady (I)** General Counsel; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services; **Dr. Katy Hogue (I)** Chief of Data and Research, **Stephanie Gilman (R)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion (ab)**, Director of Finance; **Alyssa Baringer (ab)**, Senior Budget Analyst; **Awino Odhiambo (ab)**, Budget Analyst **Amy Mistrot (R)**, Director of Business Operations, **Julie McDonough**, Communications Director (ab), **Kathy Lopes, (R)** DEI Director

Others (I/R): **Jesse Krotick, Maria Kolbe (R)**, Elementary, **Dan Rubin & Beth Swederskas (I)**, HS Counseling Dept. Heads, **Jordanna L’Esperance (I)** School Psychologist, Bigelow.

Chair Olszewski convened a regular School Committee meeting at 6:35 pm. She announced the results of the Leadership Caucus which included our two new members: Amy Davenport and Barry Greenstein – Chris Brezski was elected Chair and Emily was elected as Vice-Chair. She and Dr. Nolin introduced Dr. Irwin Blumer who was here to present the Blumer Book Award to the recipients of the MASS/MASC Academic Achievement Award.

Dr. Nolin gave a brief description of each student’s accomplishments and contributions after which Dr. Blumer presented them with the MASS/MASC Certificate and his book selection, *Horse*, by Geraldine Brooks.

NNHS: Surya Gopal, Jadyn Grant, Shira Lobron

NSHS: Taban Malihi, Suvi Talvitie

At the conclusion of the awards, the Chair called for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) Sue Cohen, Ryan Normandin- Length of negotiations – VDH firm represented 6 other districts – where are the funds coming from? Not from the City – paid from the school budget – one person can authorize these funds – the Mayor. Why did you hire this firm – track record for protracted negotiations?
- 2) Alison Lobron – 83 Fairway Dr. –Proud of her daughter and grateful for all that NPS’ has done for her. Wholeheartedly disagree with the SC’s hiring VDH. Stop wasting tax money on an overpriced lawyer.
- 3) Peter Hamel – 97 Newton St Waltham – NPS since 2004 felt welcomed and appreciated. Sleep in Waltham but live in Newton. Negotiations disheartening, work more, pay less, modification of time in learning agreement,
- 4) Laura Carlin –Day staff – in the beginning Newton is where they wanted to teach. Newton yes, is becoming Newton No. Applicants first choice is elsewhere.
- 5) Ishan Tewari – second time speaking here – don’t have the time, but easy to support his teachers.
- 6) Evan Ng - contract
- 7) Boston Bolis – truths
- 8) Corrie Popp – reading for a colleague self reflection.
- 9) Taban Malihi – moved here for the school system

The Chair thanked everyone for their perspectives.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda which includes: 11-6-23 Minutes, NECP Tuition Change, Additional Staffing and Grants which were received and placed on file.

The Chair then called for a vote on the consent agenda items:

1. 11-6-23 Minutes
2. Vote to approve NECP Tuition Change
3. Vote to approve additional staffing
4. Vote to approve grants

Motion: Parlikar 2nd: Shields

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion passes 9 (yes) 0 (no) 0 (abstain) 0 (absent)

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE – ENTRY PLAN

1. Superintendent Nolin's **Entry Plan** was received and placed on file.

Entry planning process does not end with this report, a lot is still ahead. Part one of ongoing information.

After this meeting she'll do phases 3 & 4. She told the Committee they had the complete report and gave them some highlights. What we need to take Newton to the next level.

- Thought exchange (crowdsourcing technology) (AI Analysis)
- Key Findings: Social workers, Teaching & Learning, High School Class size, HR, Business Office Upgrades, Communications/Transparency, Data Dashboards, Expand DEI work, PK-22 Curriculum & Assessment, technology assessment, long range planning.
- Next steps
 - Settle the contracts
 - Portrait of a graduate
 - Strategic Plan
 - Budget Education and Transparency workshops

Brief questions, answers and comments followed.

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. **Negotiations Update – was received and placed on file**

The Vice-Chair, Kathy Shields gave a brief negotiations update and summarized the strike resolution in another district that will result in major cuts and layoffs.

- Clear up the misconceptions that the SC is not negotiating in good faith.

Question, answers and comments followed.

2. **Budget Guidelines Overview Newton**

The Chair announced that she has asked Emily Prenner to remain on the Budget Guidelines Committee and Rajeev will join. She gave a brief overview of the purpose of ad hoc group and the Budget Guidelines that will assist during the budget season.

3. **MCAS Accountability Data/Results – received and placed on file**

Dr. Katy Hogue and Dr. Renee McCall gave an overview of the MCAS data and the district's plan to address the needs. MCAS is only one data point.

- Trends pre and post pandemic
- High School ELA & Physics, grade 4 Math and grade 5 Science have regained or surpassed 2019 performance.
- Concerns remain grade 3 Math and ELA

Question, answers and comments followed.

4. Mental Health Update – Elementary/Secondary/YRBS received and place on file

Casey Ngo Miller and her Elementary and Secondary teams presented this update which included:
Pre-pandemic, Measuring SEL & Mental Health

- Supplementing the qualitative
 - School Connectedness
 - Panorama
- Systems and Structures
- MTSS
- Areas of Need
- Social Workers FTE
- Inequitable SEL Coach Allocation
- Time on Learning Structures
- This School Year
- Where Students Thrive

Question, answers and comments followed.

- Collaborative
- Not getting better – resource constraints or other barriers

5. Policy Revisions - received and placed on file: GA (Personnel Policy Goals), GCQD (Resignation of Professional Staff Member), GCQE (Retirement of Professional Staff Members) GDQC (Retirement of Non-Professional Staff Member), GDQD (Suspension/Dismissal of Non-Professional Staff Member), LBC (Relations with Non-Public Schools)

Attorney Jill Grady presented the policy updates for discussion.

Brief questions, answers and comments followed.

6. MASC Conference Update – did not cover - will provide a memo

The Chair announced that the Committee had concluded the posted business for tonight. The next meeting is December 4, 2023 at 6:30.

Adjourned at 10:15 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 11/20/23

School Committee Secretary