



Newton School Committee Members

WARD

I	Rajeev Parlikar
II	Christopher Brezski- Chair
III	Anping Shen
IV	Tamika Olszewski
V	Emily Prenner -Vice Chair
VI	Paul Levy
VII	Amy Davenport
VIII	Barry Greenstein

RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DRAFT Minutes

Date: February 26, 2024

Location: School Committee Meeting

Time: 6:30 pm The School Committee 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 (arrived 8:09), Prenner (I), Levy (R), Davenport (R), Greenstein (R), Mayor (I)

Students Remote (I/ R): NSHS: Helen Liu (I left at 8:00), NNHS: (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 (R), Assistant Superintendent for Special Education/Student Services, Joany Santa (ab) 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 (ab), 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 (ab), Director of Business Operations, Julie McDonough (ab), Communications Director, Kathy Lopes (ab), DEI Director

Others (I/R): Dr. Matthew Cropper, Project Manager - Cropper GIS Consulting and Dr. Jerome McKibben, Demographer

Legend: (I) In Person (R) Remote (ab) Absent - Not on Agenda

Chair Brezski reconvened a regular School Committee meeting at 6:35 pm following the Executive Session. He welcomed everyone and called for Public Comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1) **Ryan Normandin –NPS 4 Ayr Rd, Boston-** He stated that he doesn't want to go back he wants to move forward to what's better. In order to get there the NTA needs partners. He expressed that the community forums w/Anna & Chris were painful. He doesn't feel that they are being honest. Educators are seeing what was wrong with this district
- 2) **Elizabeth Ross Del Porto – NPS –** She stated that they want to move forward in a healing way, but there's an obstacle – dishonesty. She gave some examples of what she thought was dishonest, i.e almost the entire cola increase was included in the Dec. offer. She then gave a list of things that were gained after strike. She felt that NPS was insinuating that the NTA were dupes for the MTA & NEA which she felt was Insulting. She said they were watching and listening carefully – Truth.
- 3) **Bruce Hedison/Sue Cohen – 124 Mt. Vernon St/ Waverly –** Sue Cohen stated that she feels that Liz Valerio from Valerio, Dominello and Hill (VDH) was the reason for the discord in negotiations. Bruce Hedison - Retired teacher Hudson Teachers Union, then recounted his experience with working with Liz Valerio. Moved to Interest Based Bargaining(IBB) after this experience and hopes that NPS will move towards this as well. Sue Cohen – first time negotiations were so contentious, need to vet outside counsel.
- 4) **Enrique Rosero-** Trust has been lost – community needs to heal. Feb 8th shout out. You don't get credit for putting out fires that you started. You should feel embarrassed and ashamed.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda which includes: 2-1-24 Special Meeting and 2/8/24 Regular Minutes, Zervas 1-Day Liquor License, and Grant Award which were received and placed on file.

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

1. 2-1-24 and 2-8-24 Meeting Minutes
2. Grant Award
3. Zervas 1-Day Liquor License

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Prenner 2nd: Parlikar

No further discussion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion passed 8 (yes) 0 (no) 0 (abstain) 1 (absent)

BUSINESS AGENDA

1. Presentation and Discussion: McKibben Demographic Study Report which was received and placed on file.

Matthew Cropper gave an overview of their work around the country. He and Dr. McKibben then presented the results of their demographic study.

OBJECTIVES:

- Develop:
 - population forecasts for the next 10 years
 - enrollment forecasts for FY25 – FY33
 - a written summary of study findings
- Analyze:
 - Current and future demographic dynamics

He explained that there is a difference between projections and forecasts. This report results in “forecasts.”

The study includes methodology, assumptions, data sources, graphs, forecasts and analysis.

- Do not use nationwide trends
 - Specific to Newton
- Big three assumptions:
 - 30 year fixed rate mortgage rate – effect housing market
 - 50 new housing units per year over the next 10 years
 - District will have an average of 1,100 home sales per year for the next 10 years
 - Concerned that Newton won’t make that number

He spoke about the demographics of Newton, including empty nesters, migration, etc.

He explained the “pyramid” from the 2020 census at district level comparing Lincoln Eliot vs. Memorial Spaulding.

Household Characteristics

- by total households explained – 2.82 persons per household down to 2.36
- by age and by ownership
- single person vs, single 65+
- enrollment by grade starting with under 1 year olds by elementary are
- migration main variant, not birth rate
- 2023 Population forecast explained

Enrollment Forecast:

- Size of 12 grade cohorts going out vs. size of K cohorts coming in
 - HS enrollment will start to decline after 2026
 - Baby boomers 67-77

The Chair thanked Dr.’s Cropper and McKibben for their presentation and asked the Committee for any questions.

Questions, comments and discussion followed.

- Was it easy or hard to factor in the types of housing units in Newton, which is changing.
- Forecast – potential error range? Plus or minus 2% for the life of the forecast
- If you have 900 – 950 home sales he'll be too high. If there are 1,200 home sales he'll be too low.
- Assumption f. I housing completed by, thought we asked you to consider the MBTA housing to be built (not permitted yet, but envisioned) strong belief and premise that the build out will occur.
 - 8,000 housing unit (heard it bandied around all of the towns) that would represent a 25% increase in housing stock – not even Texas builds that. Too unrealistic.
 - 11,000 (1/3 of your housing will turn over in 10 years – more concerned about that)
- 2023 home sales down by 100 – attribute that to financial conditions (interest rates)
- Gender have any impact on student enrollment
- Slowdown of Chinese migrations and other countries contribute to this.
- Transient population due to visiting professors
- Private school data-
 - Newton vs similar towns anything different?
 - If so, worth looking at the data by school?
 - Private school levels almost at pre-covid level
 - More affected by economics than charter or home school
- Housing stock in Newton (fully developed for decades) single family homes 3-4 BR+ cyclical thing that perpetuates itself
- Majority of your population not under 18
- Added funds to this contract to ask for an exclusive analysis re: MBTA act. Specifically ask that the consultation be made with the city planners – did you conclude before or after you spoke with the planners.
 - Student yields: k-12 = .25 to .28 students coming out of those developments whereas single family homes are at .4 - .6
- No weight given because it's uncertain is dismissive
 - 10,000 existing housing that will turn over should be of more concern
 - Existing home sales wins out over new housing every year, every time.
- Given us a “guideline” to use, we can adjust the rules of thumb as needed

The chair thanked Dr. McKibben and Dr. Cropper for their report and for answering all of their questions.

The Chair announced that the Committee discussed these increases in Executive Session and agreed that they needed more time to discuss the issue so they will schedule another Executive Session. This agenda item is tabled.

Adjourned at 8:23 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 2/26/24

School Committee Secretary