



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	

SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING –FY25 BUDGET DRAFT Minutes

- Date:** March 20, 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 (R), Brezski (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (I), Prenner (I), Levy (R), Davenport (I), Greenstein (I), Mayor (I)
 - Students (I/ R):** NSHS: (), 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 (ab)** Director Human Resources; **Jill Grady (R)** General Counsel; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services; **Dr. Katy Hogue (ab)** Chief of Data and Research, **Stephanie Gilman (I)**, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability; **Sean Mannion (R)**, Director of Finance; **Alyssa Baringer (R)**, Senior Budget Analyst; **Awino Odhiambo (ab)**, Budget Analyst **Amy Mistrot (ab)**, Director of Business Operations, **Julie McDonough (R)**, Communications Director, **Kathy Lopes (ab)**, DEI Director
 - Others (I/R):**
- Legend: (I) In Person (R) Remote (ab) Absent - Not on Agenda**

Chair Brezski convened a Special School Committee meeting, no public comment at 6:30 pm. He explained that this was the beginning of NPS budget process.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove an item from the Consent Agenda which includes: 2/26/24 Special Meeting-Work Session and 3/20/24 Regular Meeting Minutes; International/Overnight Out of State Field Trips; McKinney-Vento Reimbursement; Helpsy Bins Reimbursement; Grant Awards; Approval of 5-year Substitute Staffing Vendor Contract and Superintendent and Non-Aligned Salary Increase clarification vote. which were received and placed on file.

Ms. Olzsewski asked that the non-aligned memo be pulled for further discussion because it doesn't explain what the discrepancy was.

The Chair then called for a vote on the consent agenda items as presented minus the non-aligned vote clarification memo:

Motion: Levy 2nd. Olzewski

No discussion.

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 passed 9 (yes) 0 (no) 0 (abstain) 0 (absent)

The non-align memo explanation was given by Chair Breszki

The motion in Executive Session was to approve a 25 % increase for the superintendent and non-align staff and the open session vote was to approve a 25 % increase for non-align staff. Although the superintendent is non-aligned, it was best to re-vote and specify the increase applied to non-aligned staff and the superintendent.

Motion: Olzsewski

2nd: Parlikar

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 passed 9 (yes) 0 (no) 0 (abstain) 0 (absent)

SUPERINTENDENT FY25 Budget presentation:

Dr. Nolin presented her proposed FY25 Budget which was received and placed on file.

Dr. Nolin covered the FY25 Budget Goals, Budget Drivers, Educational Stabilization, Advocating for additional state funding, Restorations and Future Visioning; Reductions proposed, internal; fee increases proposed – none.

- Entry Plan Priorities
- Class Sizes
- Breadth of Programming
- Educational Programming and Professional Development
- Student Services and Mental Health Supports
- Operational Infrastructure
 - Budget Drivers
 - Rising Costs
 - Increased complexity of student need
 - One Time Funds/Loss of Covid Funds
 - Proactive vs reactive Building Maintenance
 - Vision for a Thriving School System

Dr. Nolin presented her vision regarding NPS students and the budget. She gave examples of the Top 10 Skills, Future of World Work: Key Skills, and Skills on the Rise and others.

She outlined ways NPS is seeking additional funding: Grants, School Choice, Educational Stabilization Fund, Alumni & Development., covered the increase in total available funding for FY25 and gave examples of other districts facing the same issues, and what this budget and stabilization fund supports. She also covered Key additions and Restorations, and the \$6.2 m supplemental funding for curriculum and facility.

Dr. Nolin explained the Tale of Five Budget Models that range from less than level service to a Thrive Budget and what the savings/cost would be and what. Next she covered Net Budget adjustments by program Area, Elementary, Secondary Education, Teaching and Learning, Student Services, Technology and Library Services, Facilities and Administrative Overviews, impact and major changes.

She then introduced Assistant Superintendents Farag and Romer to present the Elementary and Secondary budgets in more detail which was received and placed on file.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION:

Elementary:

Dr. Farag gave an overview of projected enrollment, number of classrooms, average class sizes, enrollment changes by school. She also covered how the supplemental funding was used and explained that these improvements do not yet restore the previous cuts.

Secondary:

Assistant Superintendent Romer gave an overview of the middle and high school enrollment changes, school enrollment shifts, impact on staffing, team and class sizes.

Questions, answers, and discussion followed.

Superintendent Nolin introduced Jill Murray Grady to explain the changes to the Physical Restraint Policy and Corporal Punishment.

BUSINESS AGENDA

Jill Murray Grady presented Policy Revisions for Review-JKAA (Physical Restraint) JKA (Corporal Punishment) which were received and placed on file. She also explained the Protocols and Guidelines have been updated several times, last time was in November 2023 and our online version will reflect that tomorrow.

Brief questions, answers and discussion followed.

The Chair announced that the Committee had concluded its scheduled business and adjourned the meeting.

Adjourned at 8:39 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 3/20/24

School Committee Secretary