



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 27, 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 – late 7:34), Brezski (I), Shen (I), Olszewski (R), Prenner (R), Levy (R), Davenport (I), Greenstein (I), Mayor (I – late 6:40)

Students (I/ R): NSHS: (), NNHS: ()

Staff (I/R): **Toby Romer (R)** Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education; **Ayesha Farag (R)**, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Renee McCall (ab)**, 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 (ab)** General Counsel; **Steven Rattendi (I)**, Director of IT and Library Services; **Dr. Katy Hogue (ab)** Chief of Data and Research, **Stephanie Gilman (ab)**, 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 (R)**, Director of Business Operations, **Julie McDonough (ab)**, Communications Director, **Kathy Lopes (ab)**, DEI Director, **Regina Moody,(R)** Director of Transportation

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 third session of FY25 Budget Review covering Instructional Technology/Library Services and Non-Instructional (Human Resources, Transportation, Fees, Operating) budget areas.

CONSENT AGENDA: The Chair asked if anyone wanted to remove any items from the consent agenda which includes March 25, 2024 minutes, Scovell Trust Fund Transfer, Restraint Policy Revisions and a Grant Award which were received and placed on file.

Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Levy moved to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.
2nd.

No discussion.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion passed 7 (yes) 0 (no) 0 (abstain) 2 (absent)

FY25 Budget presentation:

Instructional Technology/Library and Media Services

Superintendent Nolin introduced IT Director Steven Rattendi.

Mr. Rattendi presented the FY25 Budget for Instructional Technology/Library and Media Services which was received and placed on file.

Mr. Rattendi outlined major changes in the department and their impact, as well as continued challenges including aging infrastructure and devices for the department. He also provided an overview of the department and their services. He and Dr. Nolin provided information regarding new software, Thought Exchange and Parent Square, and Panorama based on questions submitted by members before the meeting.

Dr. Nolin gave a brief update about cooling station options for elementary schools after Mr. Rattendi spoke about the “book lice” issue (brought on by heat and high humidity).

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Non-Instructional

Assistant Superintendent Liam Hurley presented the FY25 Budget for Non-Instructional Areas which was received and placed on file.

Assistant Superintendent Hurley gave an overview of the many facets of the Business, Finance and Planning department, reported on the major changes and their impact on the department. His report included the status of the completed and in-progress school building projects; projected revenue from fees; projected non-personnel expenses and key issues to be monitored. Also addressed were issues regarding private school transportation and fees.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

BUSINESS AGENDA:

Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

Dr. Nolin gave a brief overview of SOA and presented NPS’ SOA plan for submission to DESE. She explained the purpose of the plan, and asked for a vote to approve the plan at the next meeting so it can be submitted to DESE on April 1, 2024.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

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

Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Lisa Mazzola (R) _____ Date: 3/27/24
School Committee Secretary