



**NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

<b>RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO</b>	
Newton School Committee Members	
<b>WARD</b>	
I	Bridget Ray-Canada
II	Margaret Albright
III	Anping Shen
IV	Diana Fisher Gomberg
V	Steven Siegel, Vice-Chair
VI	Ruth Goldman, Chair
VII	Kathy Shields
VIII	Matthew Miller

**DRAFT Minutes**

- Date** January 14, 2019
- Location** Education Center, 100 Walnut St., Rm 304 and Rm 210, Newton, MA 02460
- Meeting Called by** Chair Goldman at 6:00pm in rm 210 for the purpose of voting to enter into Executive Session in rm 304 to discuss strategy related to Collective Bargaining with the NTA and an update on the OML violation filed by Rep. Howitt. The School Committee will reconvene in open session.
- Members Present:** Ray-Canada, Albright, Shen, Fisher Gomberg, Siegel, Goldman, Shields, Miller, Fleishman, Mayor
- Students Present:** Maya Mathews, Nayleth Lopez Lopez, Serena Jampel, Cristian Gaines, Ross Halpern, Lucy Chae
- Staff Present:** **Liam Hurley**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, **Mary Eich**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, **Jennifer Shore**, K-8 Math Curriculum Coordinator

Chair Goldman moved for the School Committee to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with Newton Teacher’s Association (NTA). Chair Goldman called for a roll call vote. All in favor of entering into Executive Session for this purpose:

ROLL CALL:

Ray – Canada	Y	Shen	Y	Goldman	Y	Shields	Y	Mayor	Y
Albright	Y	Fisher Gomberg	Y	Siegel	Y	Miller	Y		

The vote was unanimous to convene in Executive Session. Chair Goldman reconvened in regular session at 7:02pm.

Chair Goldman opened the meeting by asking for the Superintendent’s report.

**Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Fleishman informed the Committee that he announced to all employees that NPS would be transitioning from First Class Email to Gmail. A timeline was sent out to all, with a completion date of October 2019. He also reported on his visit to Oak Hill’s “Girls Who Code” program where 50-60 girls meet each week on a Friday after school. This program is part of a national non-profit that seeks to close the gender gap in technology. It was so engaging and powerful. It is led by two Oak Hill parents and taught by a Newton parent.

**Public Comment**

(The Committee is not required to hear from every person, but it is required to hear every topic. Newton citizens have preference. Maximum of 30 minutes, three minutes per person, no sharing of time and please be respectful of those in the room).

**Jerry Tuitt**, Hokinton – He wanted to express his opinion regarding the November 27, Public Hearing and the fact that NPS unanimously rejected all the proposals requested in the petition. He believes it contradicts what is being said.

**Tanya Gorlin**, Brookline – She also wanted to comment on the November 27 Public Hearing. She stated that she felt shame for the SC and that the hearing was like a “kangaroo court.” She was not pleased that David Bedar “manipulated” people to leave before the petitioners could be heard. She stated that the battle was not over and then invited the Committee to a meeting by the JCC on Monday, January 28.

### **Elementary Math Update**

Document: [Elementary Math Update](#)  
[Elementary Math Presentation](#)

Mary Eich and Jennifer Shore presented the Committee with an update on the new math program “Investigations 3”, now in its second year. Jen began by briefly explaining the selection process as some of the Committee members were not on the board at the time the math selection committee was searching for a math curriculum that met our needs and values. Jen then explained the various lessons and options available to all teachers, and how once trained and fully invested, this program provides teachers with the tools to reach all students.

She explained the improvements over the previous curriculum:

- Tightly aligned to MA Frameworks
- Shift to student exploration, discovery and making connections
- Closely aligned to Responsive Classroom
- Built-in PD
- Data Collection and analysis
- Very enthusiastic teacher response

Then she outlined the challenges:

- Teachers- learning and implementing new program
- Coaches – compacting rollout over two years
- Introducing system wide data collection, new content learning and pedagogy all at once
- Explaining the new program to the community.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **Equity Committee Update**

Document: [Equity Update and Chart](#)

Chair Goldman reminded the Committee that last spring the Committee voted to approve the Equity Guidelines to be implemented in FY20 and then asked the Equity Committee to report on their work to date.

Committee member Katy Shields along with PTO parent volunteers, Christine and Andrea reported that their findings were of no surprise:

- Wide diversity in spending across “equity categories” and overall spending

The group was charged with investigating the feasibility/agreeability of pooling PTO funds (centralized). In order to do that, they would need to solicit community feedback. They are recommending a 3-tiered community outreach program:

- 1) Focus Groups
- 2) Questionnaires
- 3) Survey

The hope was that the group would make a recommendation to the Committee in the Spring of 2019, but the members do not believe they will have gathered the necessary feedback to make an informed recommendation and report that the recommendation will be made by December 2019.

Question, answers and discussion followed.

### **Policy Revisions: First reading – BEDH (Public Comment) and FF (Naming)**

Document: [BEDH - Public Comment](#)  
[FF - Naming Policy](#)

Chair Goldman asked Margaret Albright to explain the minor changes in the Public Comment and Naming policies. Margaret explained that Jill Murray, Assistant City Solicitor recommended that due to some legal issues the Natick School Committee encountered, MASC is recommending that all school committees revise their Public Comment Policies using the language they provided. Margaret also explained that due to the additional recommendations that came out of the 225 Nevada Street Naming Committee, the School Committee is officially changing the Naming Policy to reflect those recommendations. The Committee will vote on these changes at the January 28, 2019 meeting.

**Vote: Approve Field Trips**

Document: [Field trips](#)

Chair Goldman called for a motion to approve the new International Field Trips listed.

**Motion:** Fisher Gomberg

**Second:** Ray-Canada

**Vote: 9-0-0** to approve the new international field trips listed.

**Vote: MSBA Statement of Interest (SOI) Accelerated Repair Program (ARP) Boiler & Roofs**

Document: Document: [MSRP ARP Boilers and Roof](#)

Originally the plan was to approve Round 2 of the Accelerated Repair Program and file a Statement of Interest (SOI) for the boiler and roof at Memorial Spaulding and the roof at Underwood. However, due to the unexpected increase in cost for Round 1 – the boilers at Day and Bigelow, the Committee will vote to put Round 2 on Hold.

Motion to put a hold on voting for Round 2 of the ARP for Memorial Spaulding and Underwood

**Motion:** Albright

**Second:** Ray-Canada

**Vote: 9-0-0** to put the ARP vote on hold until further notice.

**Vote: Approve Minutes – 11/14/18 and 11/28/18**

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the 11/14/18 and 11/28/18 minutes with minor edits reported to Lisa.

**Motion:** Ray-Canada

**Second:** Shen

**Vote: 9-0-0** to approve 11/4/18 and 11/28/18 minutes with minor edits.

**Preview: Elementary Principal's Update**

Dr. Fleishman reported that the Elementary Principal's update will include:

- supporting mental and emotional health of elementary students,
- Courageous Conversation work

He asked if the Committee had any areas of interest they would like to hear about. Committee members asked for:

- Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)
- Math Data
- Connectedness Data Survey grade 3-8

**Communications**

- Equity Working Group has an email address: [equityworkinggroup@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:equityworkinggroup@newton.k12.ma.us)
- SC has kicked off the PTO tour circuit at NECP
- Transportation Safe Routes Working Group
- Reminder of Virtual Office hours at 8:00 on Sunday with special guests!

Adjourned: 9:25 pm

*Lisa A. Mazzola*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Lisa A. Mazzola

School Committee Secretary