



## NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

RUTHANNE FULLER– EX OFFICIO	
Newton School Committee Members	
WARD	
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 28, 2019

**Location:** Education Center, 100 Walnut St., Rm 210, Newton, MA 02460

**Meeting Called by:** Chair Goldman at 7:03 pm

**Members Present:** Ray-Canada, Albright, Shen, Fisher Gomberg, Siegel, Goldman, Shields (late – 8:00), Miller, Fleishman, Mayor

**Students Present:** Maya Mathews, Nayleth Lopez Lopez, Serena Jampel, Cristian Gaines, Ross Halpern, Lucy Chae

**Staff Present:** **Toby Romer**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, **Mary Eich**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, **Eva Thompson**, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, **Liam Hurley**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, **Karen Shmukler**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, **Heather Richards**, Executive Director of Human Resources, **Julie Kirrane**, Business and Planning Director, **Katy Hogue** District Student Data Manager, Elementary Principals: Beth Herlihy, Countryside, Kathleen Smith, Underwood and Tom Morris, Memorial-Spaulling

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

#### Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fleishman reported on two events this week: Martin Luther King Day Celebration last week, the best one so far. Recognition goes out to, Richard King, NPS' Fine Arts Director and Dana Hanson, Director of Community Engagement as well as the student voices one of which is our student rep Nayleth. On Saturday night he attended the Newton Chinese School celebration where Anping Shen gave a speech in Chinese. The celebration was attended by students and adults and you got a sense of how much this is valued. He looks forward to next year!

#### 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).

There were no speakers.

Ruth introduced Liam Hurley, Julie Kirrane and Katy Hogue from Business, Finance and Planning to present the follow up presentation to November's five year enrollment analysis report with this overview of current class sizes, student- teacher ratios in context of current and projected enrolment.

## **Enrollment Planning and Class Size Report**

Document: [Enrollment Presentation](#)  
[Enrollment Planning and Class Size Report](#)

Liam, Julie and Katy each spoke about aspects of the report with the key points as follows:

- Elementary sizes remained the same and secondary class sizes have improved
- Some opportunities for better instructional space in K-5
  - Six elementary schools continue to have tight capacity
  - Angier is at full capacity and has a large grade cohort to manage
- Middle Schools can accommodate projected enrollment growth in near term and then return to current levels
  - Oak Hill enrollment remains higher due to growth at Zervas
- Meeting need in district wide programs is a focus
- Balancing class size at high schools is critical as enrollments continue to grow

### **Average Class Sizes:**

- Elementary: 21.0 (no change)
- Middle: 21.3 (down from 21.7 last year)
- High: 22.0 (down from 22.3 last year)

### **Enrollment Planning:**

- **Elementary:** 5-year decrease by 200 students, no steady decline
- **Middle:**
  - Large grade cohort arrive and move on to high school in the next 5 years
  - Increase of 1.5 FTE needed through FY22, then decrease by 3.0 FTE by FY24
  - Oak Hill grows from 7 to 7.5 teams by 2021 (+59 students)
- **High:** 5-Year growth projection:
  - NORTH – over 2100 students
  - SOUTH over 1900 studentsHigh school enrollment to stay elevated until large cohorts graduate in 2026-2027

### **Next Steps:**

- Kindergarten enrollment sessions
- 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade transitions
- District wide program enrollments
- High School course registration process
- Buffer Zone placements

### **Demographic Analysis- Consultant**

- Consultant is finalizing the report
- 10-year enrollment forecast to increase 0.7% (+165 students)
- Projections include impact of potential 1,785 new apartments in 4 developments
  - 10-year forecast without development shows a small decline
- Special presentation planned

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **Elementary Principals' Update**

Document: [Elementary Principals' Update](#)

Ruth introduced Eva Thompson who presented the update along with elementary principals Beth Herlihy, Kathleen Smith and Tom Morris. Each principal spoke about a range of system-wide goals they were working on. Areas discussed were Principal Learning Teams (PLT's), Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), Culturally Responsive teaching and culture, professional development. School Improvement Plan, Improvement Cycle (Data Wise) used to improve teaching, etc.

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

### **EDCO Update**

Document: [EDCO Annual Report](#)

Diana Fisher Gomberg, School Committee member and Chair of the EDCO Board of Directors gave a brief update. –

- There are 17 districts who belong to the EDCO Collaborative
- New Executive Director Nadine Ekstrom is off to a strong start
- Finances are in the black
- Looking to expand programming
  - In talks now with NPS regarding expanding the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program to the elementary schools, but space may be an issue.

### **Policy Updates: BEDH (Public Comment) and FF (Naming)**

Documents: [BEDH Public Comment](#)  
[FF Naming](#)

Margaret Albright explained why these two policies were revised. Ruth asked if anyone had any questions. A suggestion was made regarding refining the language. Ruth called for a motion to approve the policy changes with the suggest language edit.

**Motion:** Shen

**Second:** Ray-Canada

**Vote:** 9-0-0

### **Mid-Year School Committee Calendar and Agenda Item Review**

Document: [SC Calendar and Agenda Items](#)

The Committee reviewed the remaining School Committee meetings and upon suggestions from various members the following items were added:

- Joint meeting w/City Council
- Crowd Funding Policy Update
- Fine Arts Update
- Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) Update
- High School Start Time Update (HSST)
- Transportation Report

**Vote: Approve Minutes – 12/10/18 and 1/14/19**

Documents: [12-10-18 Minutes](#)  
[1-14-19 Minutes](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the 12/10/18 and 1/14/19 minutes with minor edits reported to Lisa.

**Motion:** Fisher Gomberg

**Second:** Shields

**Vote: 9-0-0** to approve the 12/10/18 and 1/14/19 Minutes with minor edits.

**Vote: Approve Special Meeting (Caucus) Minutes – 11/28/18**

Documents: [11-28-18 Caucus Minutes](#)

Chair Goldman asked for a motion to approve the Special Meeting (Caucus) minutes 11/28/18.

**Motion:** Siegel

**Second:** Shields

**Vote: 9-0-0** to approve the 11-28-18 Caucus minutes.

**Preview: Technology Update**

Dr. Fleishman reported that Steve Rattendi will update the Committee on two parts of IT: Administrative and Instructional. He will report on the roll-out of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative as well as the plan for transitioning to GoogleMail, bandwidth, records law compliance.

**Communications**

Reminder from Anping - SEAPC is holding SPED Basic Rights informational meeting this Wednesday, from 7:00 – 9:00 in room 210 and they have invited a Chinese speaker to present. Bridget – Health/Wellness Committee met with Sodexo – they are trying to add more vegetarian options, improve pizza quality and are making repairs to some warmers. Teachers can order on-line and have it delivered – similar to students set up to pay-on-line. She met with the Nurses/Health department regarding marijuana and a derivative called CBD – which is not regulated and is sold in stores. Also, vaping was discussed. Parks & Rec hearing results – Newton South athletic lights approved. Also reminded everyone of Virtual Office Hours one week from Sunday (2/20/19) at 8:00.

Adjourned: 9:20 pm

*Lisa A. Mazzola*

Date: 2-5-19

Lisa A. Mazzola

School Committee Secretary