



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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - **DRAFT Minutes**

Date: April 8, 2019

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

Meeting Called by: Chair Goldman at 7:00 pm

Members Present: Ray-Canada, Albright, Shen, Fisher Gomberg, Siegel (7:05), Goldman, Shields, Miller, Fleishman, Mayor Fuller (7:03)

Students Present: Serena Jampel, Ross Halpern

Staff Present: **Toby Romer**, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, **Mary Eich**, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, **Liam Hurley**, Assistant Superintendent/Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, **Karen Shmukler**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, **Julie Kirrane**, Business and Planning Director, **Regina Moody**, Director of Transportation and Rich Labrie, Public Management Associates, LLC.

Chair Goldman welcomed everyone and stated that we had a packed agenda and an outside speaker (consultant) coming at 8:00. She apologized for having to move the agenda around to accommodate the consultant and for the lateness of the High School Start Time and Transportation reports, which won't begin until after the consultant arrives at 8:00.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Fleishman reported that on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 he hosted a forum on the vaping epidemic among youth. The evening included a panel of speakers providing health, wellness, and prevention education on the topic of vaping. Attorney General Maura Healey provided the keynote for the event. Medical experts and NPS educators provided information, insight, and education for families and community members. He also congratulated the "Understanding Our Differences," program which honored long-time Newton residents and UOD visionary leaders Marcia Herrmann and Mary Beth McIntyre for their long standing commitment at their spring benefit last week.

Chair Goldman then opened the floor to Public Comment.

Jim Epstein, 110 Manchester Rd., Newton – He stated that David Hoag, whom he called a left wing activist in favor of gun control had been invited to speak twice and he asked that Andy Pollack, father of one of the Parkland students killed be asked to speak to balance it out.

Jerry Tuitte, Hopkinton – Education Without Indoctrination (EWI) has had to sue NPS over the biased curriculum which he contends not an error, but intentional against Israel and Jews. He spoke about the "5 stages of hate pyramid" and claims that some NPS classrooms are on the pyramid.

Sande Young, Newton- Quoted AA's first step. States that many people come to meeting after meeting . She spoke about a book that was written. She said she is willing to pay out of pocket to have speakers come and balance Middle East day speakers.

Margot Einstein, 63 Burdean Rd., Newton – Spoke about Mayor Fuller and transparency.

Valerie Davisson, 239 Temple St., Newton – Spoke about the Equity Policy and proposed:

- 1) CAS correcting factor be added,
- 2) COLA restored,
- 3) FORJ be exempted

Christina McMahon, 120 Crescent St., Newton – Concerned about reduction in PTO money. The issue is complex, ie programs charge by the number of classrooms, not the number of students. There should be an adjustment factor for school size.

Nicolas Nesta, 51 Highland Ave., Newton- Proposes that the Equity Policy maintain COLA and gave examples of inflation costs. Asked that the SC not enact what he considers a flawed policy.

Joana Canedo, 55 Huntington Rd – *Green Newton*, recycling sustainability in Newton schools. Asks that dedicated sustainability faculty hired. Recycling not doing well, addressed annually, usually by students. Intermittent headway over the years. The group is applying for an EPA grant that is available to address recycling.

Heather Tausig, 120 Harland Terr., Newton – *Green Newton*, States that they are looking for School Committee support regarding the recycling problem. They've met with Liam Hurley and Dave Stickney. They are asking for a district wide recycling policy, which is needed in order to apply for the EPA grant.

Andy Glock, Underwood School – He is boots on the ground in regards to recycling and he feels alone. He asks for help from the School Committee.

Janet Sherman, 120 Church St. Newton – Stated that she wasn't in attendance, but watched on NewTV when the students spoke about anti-Semitism and intimidation. She spoke about the ADL and JCC in regards to the Middle East Day program and guidelines she'd like to see re: 2019 speakers.

Tanya Gorlin, 28 Marshall St., Brookline – She spoke about the differing opinions and ideas of people. Claims that critical thinking turns into group thinking – NPS has no interest in the truth. She states that Islam is religious dogma. Stated that this happened in Brookline and they engaged parents in the solution. They had teachers train at Brandeis.

Ruth closed Public Comment and asked for the EDCO Update while we waited for Rich Labrie to arrive.

EDCO Update

Documents: [EDCO](#)

Diana Fisher Gomberg gave a brief update on EDCO:

- 1) No increases in membership dues
- 2) Interesting roundtables
- 3) Professional development
- 4) 3 Newton students enrolled
- 5) 31 NPS Educators attended seminars

CONSENT AGENDA:

Ruth asked if there were any questions or comments on the proposed last day of school, June 18 and then asked for a motion.

Discussion Vote: Last Day of School

Documents: [Last Day of School Memo](#)

Motion: Fisher Gomberg

Second: Shen

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve June 18 as the last day of school for students (June 19 for teachers).

Discussion & Vote: Field Trips

Document: [Field Trips](#)

Motion: Albright

Second: Shields

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the field trips presented.

Discussion & Vote: Draft Minutes: 3-18-19

Document: [3-18-19 Minutes](#)

Motion: Shields

Second: Fisher Gomberg

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the 3-18-19 minutes.

Ruth introduced Toby Romer, Joe Stembridge and Henry Turner who presented an update on the status of the work done regarding the revision of the High School Schedule.

Toby described the work that had been done over the past two years. He stated that they were recommending the 5-Day cycle schedule because it had a lot of advantages:

- 1) Only 4-5 classes per day (mostly 4)
- 2) Allows busses to work in tiers
- 3) Enables an overall slower pace to the day
- 4) Less transitions/periods
- 5) Flex blocks – lots of flexibility in its usage. NN/NS forming committees to work out the details

Additional Considerations:

- Career & Tech Ed challenges
- Small department/ELL courses

Next Steps:

- Collective Bargaining
- Fall 202 Implementation
- 6 hr 45min day facilitates later start time

Questions, answers and discussion followed regarding:

- Long Blocks
- CTE
- 990 hours
- Cross Registration
- Flex Time
- Transportation
- Electives
- Clubs/Activities

Ruth thanked the group for their efforts as it was no small undertaking. She then introduced Liam Hurley, Regina Moody, Julie Kirrane and Rich Labrie.

High School Schedule, Start Time and Transportation Plan Update

Documents: [Transportation Report](#)

Liam introduced Rich who has 35 years of experience looking at cost efficiencies and bell schedules.

Rich thanked Regina for her assistance, knowledge and hard work. He explained the terminology in the report and concluded that NPS' transportation department is cost effective according to the standard benchmarks. His report outlined several options for NPS if we were to implement a later high school start time. Each scenario was defined as Feasible or Not Feasible and its impact on:

- Cost
- Effect of other schools start/end times
- METCO
- Private School Transportation

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Ruth stated that the Committee reviewed changes to the guidelines as identified by community members and will present their recommendations in this revised Guidelines document.

Discussion & Vote: Equity Guidelines Revisions

Document: [Equity Guidelines - Revisions](#)

Kathy Shields stated that as was discussed at the March 25 School Committee meeting, the Equity Committee recommends making two small changes to the Guidelines:

- 1) Section B, i:
 - \$20 X the number of students or the cost of one Chromebook cart
 - Rollover of unspent funds for up to three years

Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Ruth asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the Equity Guidelines as presented.

Motion: Albright

Second: Shen

Vote: 9-0-0 to approve the revisions to the Equity Guidelines as presented.

Discussion & Vote: FY20 School Budget

Documents: [Proposed FY20 Budget](#)

Ruth stated that there have been several meetings and discussion regarding the FY20 Budget and the Committee will vote tonight. We will go around the table for final comments after which she will call for a vote. The mayor stated that we are all appreciative of the teachers and value their work. There were no questions, but each member expressed their appreciation of the work the teachers do.

Ruth then called for a Roll-Call Vote by Ward:

Ward 1	(Ray-Canada)	Yea	Ward 5 (Siegel)	Yea
Ward 2	(Albright)	Yea	Ward 7 (Shields)	Yea
Ward 3	(Shen)	Yea	Ward 8 (Miller)	Yea
Ward 4 (Fisher Gomberg)	Yea	Mayor	Yea	
Ward 6	(Goldman)	Yea		

The FY20 Budget, in the amount of \$236,372,312 passed by unanimous vote.

Communications

Margaret reminded everyone about MASC "Day on the Hill," May 1, 2019 and Diana reminded all about the Demographer's Report being presented at City Hall on Wednesday, April 10.

Adjourned: 10:00 pm

Lisa Mazzola

Date: 5/6/19

School Committee Secretary