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Friday, Feb. 17, 2023

Mayor's Newton Update



Next Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools

Dr. Anna Nolin, the outstanding Superintendent nearby in Natick, will be the next Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools.

I felt honored to make the motion to hire Dr. Nolin and to join my colleagues on the School Committee in unanimously voting for her to become the next leader of our school district. All of us are impressed by her commitment to and deep experience with reinforcing high standards, providing full support, nurturing deep respect, personalizing learning, using data to inform decisions, modeling listening and learning, engaging collaboratively with teachers & staff, parents/guardians & students, city colleagues and community members, and sharing continuously.

She is a terrific educational leader.

The following is the official announcement of Dr. Nolin's selection from the Newton Public Schools:

Pending successful contract negotiations, Dr. Nolin will assume leadership of the district on July 1, 2023

[Newton, MA] - The Newton School Committee voted on Friday morning to select Dr. Anna Nolin as the next Superintendent of the Newton Public Schools. Dr. Nolin comes to Newton from the Natick Public Schools where she currently serves as superintendent. Dr. Nolin was selected by a unanimous vote of the School Committee, who emphasized her commitment to data-driven outcomes for students, collaboration with families and community partners, and serving as the lead teacher of a learning organization. The Newton School Committee will approve the appointment of Dr. Nolin, conditional on successful contract negotiations and acceptable background check.

"We are thrilled to invite Dr. Nolin to join the Newton Public Schools as our next superintendent. Her values as a data-driven leader focused on improving outcomes for all students align perfectly with the mission of the Newton Public Schools," said Tamika Olszewski, Chair of the Newton School Committee. "We deeply appreciate her commitment to developing a strategic vision for our district

that articulates the strength and skills we want for both our staff and our students.”

Dr. Nolin has spent nearly 20 years in the Natick Public Schools, first serving as assistant principal and principal of Wilson Middle School and then assuming the position of Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. She has served in the role of superintendent since 2018. In addition, she is an experienced graduate instructor in educational leadership and instructional leadership, serving in the doctoral program collaboration between the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents and Boston College. She is currently the president of the New England's Superintendents' Association representing superintendents from MA, ME, NH, RI, VT and CT.

Dr. Nolin impressed the School Committee with her collaborative approach to working with union leadership, welcoming diverse perspectives and viewpoints, and personalizing learning for all students. Feedback from the community and staff noted Dr. Nolin's strong history of implementing social emotional supports and programs for students to address mental health needs.

The search for Newton's next Superintendent of Schools began in fall 2022 and was led by a search committee composed of a diverse group of Newton stakeholders. Using feedback from community surveys and focus groups, the committee developed a leadership profile and identified desired characteristics for the next district leader. In January, the search committee reviewed applications, interviewed semi-finalists, and recommended three candidates to move to the final stage of the selection process. One candidate withdrew, while two finalists spent a full day in the district meeting with administrators, staff, community members, and the Newton School Committee. Feedback from the visits was collected and reviewed by the committee prior to their final selection. More details on the search process, including documents and timelines, can be found on this district webpage:

[*Newton Superintendent Search Process*](#)

Dr. Nolin is expected to assume leadership of the Newton Public Schools July 1, 2023, conditional on successful contract negotiations. The district is currently under the leadership of Interim Superintendent Dr. Kathy Smith after Dr. David Fleishmen left the district last summer following a 12-year tenure.

Boylston St./Rt. 9 Westbound Chestnut Street Ramp Closure

National Grid is starting work this Tuesday, Feb. 21 to replace the gas main under the off-ramp to Chestnut Street on the westbound side of Boylston Street (Route 9).

The work will require the westbound off-ramp to be closed to traffic for approximately eight weeks on weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. National Grid expects to work an additional week on the eastbound side of Boylston Street, and another two weeks during nighttime hours from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. under the bridge at Chestnut and Boylston Streets to complete the project.

Preliminary work in preparation for the start of the replacement project began last night and will continue tonight on the eastbound off-ramp from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

This work will cause inconvenience for all of us who drive through the area and especially for those who live on Richardson and Cragmore Roads.

We were only notified of this project by National Grid this week and NGrid (with an assist from Newton's DPW team) are notifying residents in the area of the work and putting up sign boards. There will also be a detour around the work.

The Newton Public School Transportation Department has also been notified. National Grid will make an exception for school buses only to enter the closed westbound off-ramp to Chestnut Street while their crews are working. This accommodation is for safety of students. National Grid crews, Massachusetts State Police and Newton Police details will assist with drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians at the work site.

Override Voting Starts

The Newton City Clerk's Office has processed approximately 8,100 mail-in ballot applications as of this morning, and they mailed the first ballots for the March 14 override election to voters today.



After voting, place the mail-in ballot in the inner envelope and sign the envelope. Ballots can then be returned by mail (envelopes are addressed and postage is provided), placed in either of the two secure drop boxes at the front of City Hall, or dropped in person at the City Clerk's Office on the first floor of City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

If you prefer to vote by mail, please try and return your completed *application* to the Clerk's Office (by mail or placed in a secure drop box at City Hall) as soon as possible so election staff have time to process your application and mail a ballot to your home.

Find more information on mail-in voting [here](#).

Early In-Person Voting March 3 – March 7

Early, in-person voting for the March 14 Override Election will begin at City Hall on Friday, March 3 and run through Tuesday, March 7.

Voters can cast their early, in-person ballots at City Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, Friday, March 3, Monday, March 6, and Tuesday, March 7. Weekend early, in-person voting will be open 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on both Saturday, March 4 and Sunday, March 5.

Two Polling Location Changes

There is a change in two polling locations.

Voters in Ward 2, Precinct 3 who had voted at the Senior Center will instead vote at Cabot School, 229 Cabot Street. (This is a temporary change while the new Senior Center is constructed with a ribbon cutting anticipated late summer/early fall 2024.)

Voters in Ward 3, Precinct 2 who had voted at the Peirce Elementary School will now permanently vote at Temple Shalom across Temple Street from Peirce.

Find your polling location [here](#). (Scroll down to the bottom of the page.)

Interested in Working at the Polls?

We need your help. The City of Newton is hiring poll workers for the March 14 Override election for both the early, between Friday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 7 as well as on Tuesday, March 14. Pay begins at \$15.00 per hour. Training will be provided. Interested? Contact the Newton Elections Department at 617-796-1350 or email elections@newtonma.gov. Applications are available [here](#).

Not Registered to Vote?

The last day to register for the Override is Saturday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m. You can register in-person at the Clerk's Office at City Hall or on-line [here](#).

An Important Day in Newton

Today is an important and exciting day in the City of Newton and for our Newton Public Schools.

With the unanimous selection of Dr. Anna Nolin as our next School Superintendent, we have an experienced educator, an exceptional leader, and a woman of strong character who will double down on our mission of academic excellence and educational equity for our students.

Welcome Dr. Nolin!

Warmly,

Ruthanne



P.S. Monday, Feb. 27, is **Preston Settles Day in the City of Newton**, a year to the day after the Newton teenager died after collapsing on the court during a basketball game. Preston loved to fish, be near water and play basketball. In his memory, his family will be donating benches and trees in Newton at Crystal Lake near the new fishing dock, Newton Centre near the basketball courts, and at the Waban Hill Reservoir. In June, the West Suburban YMCA will also hold a basketball tournament in his memory. We will celebrate Preston Settles Day with a zoom celebration of his life. Click [here](#) to register for the zoom celebration of Preston Settles' life on Feb. 27 starting at 7:30 p.m.

P.P.S. The City of Newton's Cultural Development staff are looking for talented Newton school student artists for a spring public art project. Newton students in grades 6 to 12 are invited to apply to participate in **SHINE, a temporary art installation** that will run from May through October 2023. The project consists of six 4-foot x 8-foot horizontal murals painted onto plywood and grouped in small clusters in a few parks and playgrounds across the City. Proposals and

accompanying materials should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28. Click [here](#) for details about the project and info on how to apply.



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