

Shai Fuxman, Ed.D.

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Julie McDonough, Chair
Natick School Committee

Dear Ms. McDonough,

I am excited to submit my letter of interest for the position of Natick School Committee member. I am inspired to take on this role by my two children, both of whom attend Natick Public Schools. Like all parents, I want the best for my children, including a quality education that will enable them to grow and succeed—each in his or her own way. As such, I am committed to working with fellow school committee members and the NPS Administration to ensure that our schools afford the best education to all children in the district.

To this role, I will bring my passion for serving my community. Soon after moving to Natick I searched for opportunities to volunteer my time, and have found them in various roles including as a grant reviewer for the Natick Education Foundation, a Natick Soccer coach, and as a board member at my local temple. Two years ago, I also joined the Natick Special Education Advisory Council (SEPAC), first as a school liaison, and currently as its chair. Through these opportunities, I have been able to experience the best that Natick has to offer—creative and hardworking teachers, supportive parents, and committed volunteers. Joining the School Committee will afford me the opportunity to continue contributing my time in support of our schools and our students.

I will also bring to this role my expertise in the field of education. I have a doctorate in education and over 20 years of experience working in the field. In my professional life, I conduct research, deliver trainings and workshops, and provide consultation to a range of audiences on best practices for promoting the wellbeing of students. For example, I currently lead a collaboration between my organization and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to help school districts bring Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) programs and mental health supports into schools. Through these and other projects, I have helped translate research into practice and policy in communities across the country; I am eager to bring all I have to offer to my own home community.

Lastly, I will also bring to this role my leadership experience—both as a professional and as a volunteer. At work, I lead and mentor staff on various projects, and I serve on various strategic planning teams. As a volunteer, besides chairing SEPAC, I also co-chair the MA DESE's Special Education Advisory Council. Through these various leadership roles, I have learned the importance of being an active listener, asking questions, thinking independently, and working with others to build consensus to achieve outcomes.

With your support, and the support of Natick voters, I look forward to bringing my passion to serve, professional expertise, and leadership experience to the Natick Public School in the years to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Shai Fuxman, Ed.D.

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Summary

Experienced leader and researcher in the fields of education and behavioral health, with range of clients and partners including state agencies, school districts, and community-based organizations. A manager and team player, experienced in mentoring and inspiring staff, and creating a positive and effective work environment. Excellent communication skills used to interact with external funders, clients, partners, and colleagues. Experienced program administrator including overseeing budgets, managing contracts, and reporting results to stakeholders. Creative and analytical, committed to using rigorous and cutting-edge research methods—through both quantitative and qualitative approaches—to inform policy and practice.

Professional Experience

Education Development Center, Waltham, MA

1999-Present

Project Director/ Senior Research Scientist (2018-Present)

As a senior member of the behavioral health portfolio, leads various projects focusing on applying cutting-edge research to improve educational practice and policy; contributes to strategic planning and development efforts to grow portfolio's work; conducts research and presents findings through both written materials and oral presentations on a range of topics related to the promotion of student wellbeing.

Current projects include:

- Project Director, Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)' [Social and Emotional Learning\(SEL\)/Mental Health Academy](#): leads in-person institutes, professional development workshops, online webinars, and consultations to school districts, focused on building multi-tiered systems of SEL and mental health supports.
- Project Director, Connecticut's Opioid Prevention Curriculum and Assessment Tools: leads development of guidance document and tools to support school districts across the state in their efforts to prevent opioid misuse among students.
- Co-lead, research collaborative to support the identification and implementation of evidence-based programs to support post-secondary education transitions for students in Virginia.
- Co-lead, research collaborative to identify and disseminate evidence-based programs for schools in Appalachia to support children impacted by the opioid crisis.
- Training and Technical Assistance Provider, [Prevention Solutions @EDC](#): provides training and consultations to state agencies and community-based organizations on evidence-based and innovative strategies to address substance misuse-related challenges.

Senior Training and Technical Assistance Specialist (2015-2018): On behalf of federally-funded national training and technical assistance center, provided training and technical assistance to state- and community-level grantees focused on the prevention of opioid misuse and overdose.

Project Director (2012-2015): Directed the Más que un Sueño/More than a Dream project—an evaluation of two effective interventions to promote healthy decision-making among Latino youth and their parents. Accomplishments included developing local partnership to recruit over 1,300 Latino parent-youth dyads, successfully managing and reporting on federal grant budget, co-authoring two peer-reviewed journal articles based on data, and disseminating interventions through social media campaign to over 120,000 Latino parents.

Associate Director of Service to Science Initiative (2009-2012): With Director of Service to Science, led and implemented national initiative that built the evaluation capacity of over 200 community-based organizations from around the county, including tribes and US territories with, implementing innovative substance abuse prevention programs.

Research Associate, Northeast Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies (2005-2009): Coordinated initiative to build the evaluation capacity of community-based organizations that developed innovative substance abuse prevention programs in the northeast region.

Research Assistant, Health and Human Development Division (1999-2005): Provided research support for global projects in areas such as school health promotion, violence prevention, and reproductive health.

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA 2006 & 2011
Teaching Fellow: Provided teaching support for two graduate-level courses—*Intermediate Statistics: Applied Regression and Data Analysis* and *Adolescent Development*.

Tufts University, Medford, MA 2006-2009
Instructor/Program Coordinator: Taught undergraduate-level courses during five semesters related to the conflict in the Middle East and cross-religious dialogue.

Artsbridge, Boston, MA 2008-2011
Dialogue Facilitator: Co-facilitated dialogue sessions between Israeli and Palestinian high school students, with Palestinian co-facilitators, as part of summer leadership institute.

Education

Harvard University, Graduate School of Education Cambridge, MA
Doctor of Education, Human Development and Psychology May 2012
Master of Education, Human Development and Psychology June 2002

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA
Bachelors of Arts, Major in Psychology and Sociology, Minor in Journalism May 1999

Professional Skills

- **Language Skills:** In addition to English, fluent in Spanish and Hebrew
- **Computer Skills:** Proficient in PC-SAS, SPSS, PowerBi, Atlas.ti, NVivo, EndNote, and MS Office
- **Statistics Skills:** Able to perform basic and advanced statistical analyses including analysis of variance, linear regression (including multivariate regression), factor analysis, multi-level models, and cluster analysis.

Volunteer Positions

- **MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s Special Education Advisory Council:** *Co-Chair*, 2018-Present; *Member*, 2017-Present.
- **Natick Special Education Parent Advisory Council, Natick, MA:** *Chair*, 2018-Present; *School liaison*, 2017-2018.
- **Temple Israel, Natick, MA:** *Vice President, Member Relations*, 2017-2018; *Board Member*, 2013-2018.
- **Natick Soccer, Natick, MA:** *Soccer Coach*, 2012-2016.
- **Natick Education Foundation, Natick, MA:** *Grant reviewer*, 2012-2015.

Select Publications and Presentations

- Fuxman, S.,** Valenti, M., Kessel Schneider, S., McManama O'Brien, K. H., & O'Donnell, L. (Under review). *Substance use among transgender and cisgender high school students.*
- Fuxman, S.,** Kessel Schneider, S., & Heyman, M. (In press). Social Media, Cyberbullying, and Mental Health: A Comparison of Adolescents With and Without Disabilities. Paper commissioned by the Ruderman Family Foundation.
- Fuxman, S.,** Lucinski, L., Rots, G, and Kar, H. (2018, April). *Caring for the Hidden Victims: Strategies to Support Children and Youth Exposed to Opioids.* Panel at 2019 National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin National Summit, Atlanta, GA.
- Fuxman, S.,** Langis, G., Forrest-Perkins, K., & Davis, C. (2018, April). *Prevention 2.0: Innovative strategies for staying ahead of the trends.* Panel at 2018 National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin National Summit, Atlanta, GA.
- O'Donnell, L., & **Fuxman, S.** (2017). Effectiveness of a brief home-delivered parenting intervention for reducing early sexual risks among Latino adolescents: Salud y Éxito. *Journal of School Health, 87*(11), 858-864.
- Fuxman, S.,** Parker, C. E., & Avery, M. P. (2017). *Connecticut English Language Learner Pilot Program: Final evaluation report.* Waltham, MA: Education Development Center, Inc.
- Fuxman, S.,** Valenti, M., Kessel Schneider, S., McManama O'Brien, K. H., & O'Donnell, L. (2017, November). *Substance use among adolescents by gender identity in a regional census of high school youth.* Paper presented at the 145th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Fuxman, S.** (2017, May). *Preventing risky behaviors among Latino youth through an online/social media-based parent education program.* Presentation at the Society for Prevention Research, Washington, DC.
- Fuxman, S.** (2016, April). *What's on the horizon? Emerging research perspectives and holistic programs and services for youth.* Plenary panel presentation at the 36th Annual National Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- Fuxman, S.,** De Los Santos, S., Finkelstein, D., Landon, M. K., & O'Donnell, L. (2015). Sources of information on sex and antecedents of early sexual initiation among urban Latino youth. *American Journal of Sexuality Education, 10*(4), 333-350.
- Nathan, D., Trimble, D., & **Fuxman, S.** (2015). Building partnerships between Israeli and Palestinian youth: An integrative approach. *Israel Affairs, 21*(1), 148-164.
- Fuxman, S.** (2015, March). *Educating for critical thinking in societies in conflict: Challenges and opportunities.* Presentation at Comparative and International Education Society Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Fuxman, S.,** Finkelstein, D., De Los Santos, S., Landon, M. K., & O'Donnell, L. (2013, November). *Sources of information on sex and antecedents of early sexual initiation among urban Latino youth.* Presentation at the 141st Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.
- Fuxman, S.,** Hernandez Chavez, A., Valverde, S., & O'Donnell, L. (2013, November). *Strategies for recruiting and retaining families in teen pregnancy prevention: A case study of a Latino family-based behavioral intervention.* Presentation at the 141st Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, Boston, MA.
- Fuxman, S.,** Moore Hines, P., High Bear, R., Hernandez Sanchez, M., & Cehonski, J. R. (2012, February). *Building evaluation capacity of culturally-based programs that promote young people's behavioral health.* Panel at CADCA's 22nd Annual National Leadership Forum, National Harbor, MD.