

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Library of Nock Middle School, 70 Low Street, Newburyport  
Monday, May 3, 2021**

**Meeting Convened at 6:30 PM**

**Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided**

**Present: David Hochheiser, Mayor Donna Holaday, Bruce Menin,  
Brian Callahan, Sean Reardon, Steve Cole, Sheila Spalding**

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ROLL CALL:**

**Mayor Donna Holaday** called the School Committee meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present.

At this point Vice-Chairman **Brian Callahan** assumed chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**STAFF RECOGNITION - NPS NURSING STAFF:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** recognized the NPS Nursing team for their dedication and incredible contributions to the health and well-being of the Newburyport school community during the COVID-19 Pandemic. He stated their flexibility to take on expanding roles and additional responsibilities over the past year has been extraordinary. Educating students and staff on safety protocols, performing contact tracing, managing the pool testing process, alongside their nursing duties taking care of sick children on a daily basis.....these are just a few examples of how this dedicated group has worked tirelessly over the past year to create a safe learning environment within our schools. He thanked Nelson Lane and Michelle Thivierge (Bresnahan School), Michelle Rybicki (Molin School), Rebecca Murphy (Molin School/IDC), Bridget Sheehan (Nock Middle School), Susan Anderson and Angela Casella (High School) and nurse substitutes Kathy Becker and Robin Emmerling. Cathy Riccio spoke stating she was pleased that the team was being recognized.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.

**\$211,009.40**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Sierra Leahy reported on the following events at NHS:

- The High School is now in its second week of having a majority of its students back in-person.
- The *Academic Honors Celebration Ceremony* aired last Thursday on Port Media Local Channel 9. This event recognizes students who have earned an Academic Key and formally announced the Senior Class Valedictorian (Caroline Walsh), Salutatorian (Dreese Fadil), and Bresnahan Scholar Athlete (Leah Metzkehr). Unlike in years past, the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, along with Bresnahan Scholar Athlete, each offered an address to recognize their time at NHS and share their own perspectives and insight on academic and social achievement. Also at the Celebration our representatives to this year's North Shore Scholars were revealed. We have 10 students who will join other top scholars from around the North Shore.
- MCAS testing dates for the High School are set. Sophomores will take the ELA and Math exams on June 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th. The freshmen will sit for the Biology test on June 8th and 9th. Juniors are no longer required to take the MCAS as a graduation requirement. However, if a junior would like to take the exam to qualify for the Adams Scholarship and Koplik Certificate of Mastery, they are able to opt in. Right now there are about 20 juniors opting to take the exam.
- *Spring Art Walk* (April 17-May 14) Student artwork from across the District is being displayed across the city at participating shops, restaurants, and businesses.
- *Interact Grocery Drive*: A huge shout out to Nolan Smith, Graham Smith, Sam Cooper, Leah Metzker and Sophie Calie for additional work they did to organize the Interact Grocery Drive. Thanks to the community's generosity, eight different families greatly impacted by the pandemic received much needed items.
- *Moynihan Lumber Student Athlete of the Month & Girls Track CAL Champs*: Congratulations to Sydney Yim. She received this month's Moynihan Lumber Student Athlete award. Congratulations to the girls' track team on winning their 3rd straight Cape Ann League championship.
- *Where Are Our Seniors Going?* Check out [@newburyportguidance](#) on Instagram to see where our seniors are heading after high school. As each senior finalized their decision, the guidance office will be updating the postings.
- *National Arts Honor Society Induction Ceremony* is this Thursday at 7 PM. The NAHS strives to aid members in working toward the attainment of the highest standards in art areas, and to bring art education to the attention of the school and community. 20 students will be inducted.

### **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:**

#### **Restraint & Behavior Support Procedures & Policy (JKAA).**

**Sheila Spalding** explained that the original JKAA policy "Corporal Restraint of Students" needed to be rewritten as a result of the Tiered Focused Monitoring recently completed by DESE. The JKAA policy will now be known as the "Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Procedures".

#### **Acceptance of the Ethics Policy (BCB) and Operating Principles & Norms of Interaction Policy (BCC/BCD)**

**Motion**

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To approve the change of the original JKAA policy “Corporal Restraint of Students’ now be known as the “Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Procedures” and the Acceptance of the Ethics Policy (BCB) and Operation Principles & Norms of Interaction Policy (BCC/BCD)

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**SCHOOL CHOICE 2021-2022:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** recommended grades that can accommodate students under the school choice program for 2021-2022. They are as follows:

- Grade 4 - 7 seats (possible adding 3)
- Grade 6 - 7 seats (possible adding 3)
- Grade 7 - 7 seats (possible adding 3)
- Grade 9 - 15 seats (possible adding 5)

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

**VOTED:** To approve **Superintendent Gallagher’s** recommendation School Choice Seats for 2021-2022 as follows: Grades 4, 6, 7 up to 10 seats; Grade 9 - up to 20 seats.

**Sean Reardon** asked about numbers.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**FY22 NPS BUDGET:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** presented the FY22 school budget. College and Career Counselors added - same as at Budget Forum with Literacy Coordinator, Tech Integrator at Bresnahan as priorities.

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

**VOTED:** To approve the FY22 NPS Budget as presented by **Superintendent Gallagher**.

**Sean Reardon** thanked everyone for their hard work. He stated the budget should include the Literacy Coordinator position.

**Mayor Holaday** said she had to cut positions in the city budget to fund the school budget. The budget goes to the City Council on Monday. Keep the Literacy position as a priority.

**Bruce Menin** inquired re: ESSER III money - can we use some of that to fund that position? Nancy Lysik stated we should wait on this until we see how we stand at the end of year.

**Sheila Spalding** said she valued this position - was there any wiggle room?

**Bruce Menin** spoke re: ESSER funding.

**Brian Callahan** said why not use Choice money.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said the Committee could amend the motion.

**David Hochheiser** said we should minimize taking teachers out of classrooms. He said the School Budget is huge. We should send the budget to the City Council with both of those positions in it - our responsibility is to present the best budget.

**Brian Callahan** said both should be in the budget.

**Sean Reardon** asked about money put in the budget and not used - what happens to it?

**Bruce Menin** asked the Superintendent - make it happen - how?

**Superintendent Gallagher** and Nancy Lysik explained.

**Steve Cole** asked were there some hard numbers from the State?

### **Motion**

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** To amend the original motion to approve the FY22 NPS Budget as presented by **Superintendent Gallagher** to include the Literacy Coordinator, Tech Integrator at Bresnahan positions.

**Motion passed Unanimously**

**Steve Cole** said the original motion should be taken off the table. **Bruce Menin** and **Mayor Holaday** agreed to remove the original motion.

**Mayor Holaday** thanked Nancy Lysik for her hard work on the budget. Everyone clapped.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Bruce Menin** said it is time of the year when we have to evaluate the Superintendent. He will look at what we did the last time. This must be finished by June. He asked the Committee to send him suggestions as to what are the key areas we want to focus our attention on.

**Mayor Holaday** said we were given direction on what areas to focus on.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said he will find out.

**Sean Reardon** said it was Teacher Appreciation Week - he gave a shout out to all teachers.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:25 PM.