

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING
Monday, December 5, 2011**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:07 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Bruce Menin Presided**

Present: Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday,
Nick deKanter, Dan Koen

Absent: Stephanie Weaver

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. A roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman Bruce Menin assumed chairmanship of the meeting. He announced changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
following warrant:
\$5,566.71

Motion Passed

Stephanie Weaver absent for vote

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
following warrant:
\$201,307.65

Motion Passed

Stephanie Weaver absent for vote

Minutes

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee meeting minutes of Monday, November 21, 2011.

Motion Passed

Stephanie Weaver absent for vote

NHS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

School Committee Student Advisor Alex Bradley reported on recent activities at Newburyport High School.

- Fall sports are over.
- The Sophomore semi-formal is upcoming.
- Youth for Youth meeting was held earlier this week – issues important to students were discussed. Bruce Menin stated this was very well done.
- College deadlines – some have passed and some are upcoming.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble reported on the following:

- He stated he was impressed with the very well done **Youth for Youth** meeting.
- **Strem Chemical:** won the Parsons Award from SOCMA's (The Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates) Chemical Education Foundation. This is a \$2,500 award that Mike Strem will donate to the Newburyport Schools, which will be used for the science program.
- **NHS Fall Sports Highlights**
 - Football**
CAL/NEC Division III Champions
Division IIIA semi-finalist
Dr. Kerble extended kudos to coach Ed Gaudiano and stressed his importance – as well as being a great coach he writes recommendations, etc.; he has a great relationship with his team and other coaches.

Boys Soccer

Qualified for the state tournament for the 1st time in 4 years

Adam Traxler: All-League

Nate Northey: All-Star

AJ MacDougall: All-Star

Girls Soccer

Division II North Champions

Hannah Martin: All-League

Jaycie Triandafilou: All-League

Jackie Krusemark: All-Star

Meghan Corbett: All-Star

Aly Leahy: All-Star

Field Hockey

CAL Division I Champions
CAL Team Sportsmanship Award
Paige Hefferan: All-League
Molly Rowe: All-League
Kelsey Crowley: All-Star
Kate McCauley: All-Star
Madison Stanton: All-Star

Boys Cross Country

CAL Division I Champions (12-0 in dual meets)
CAL Meet Champions
Division V EMass Champions
Qualified for All-Star Meet
Chris Suprin: All-League
Keith Crowley: All-League
Nick Carleo: All-League
Joe Santo: All-League

Girls Cross Country

CAL Team Sportsmanship Award
Qualified for All-State Meet

Golf

Cam Caldwell: All League

- He extended congratulations to the various clubs and theatre arts students.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell reported on MSBA updates in the Item XI MSBA Updates. She also reported on Budget development – all principals are working with their staff on budget development.

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik gave an update on the Science Department and her meeting with Department Chairs and High School Curriculum leaders. They are meeting weekly (which is much more frequently than in the past), working on things in a balanced way. This week, based on a recent three hour workshop content, they developed a “Science Dept. Best Practice Proposal” which she distributed to the School Committee. They discussed 21st century learning, teachers possibly going on site visits, consultants, etc. The Science Dept. Best Practice Proposal contained an overview of the following: Instruction, Pacing, Homework, Projects, Labs, Assessments, Safety Nets and grades. They proposed the following:

College Prep/Elective Courses

- Homework 2-3 times/week
- Formative Assessments 3-6/unit

- Labs 3-4/unit
- Summative Assessments 1/unit
- Unit should take between 4-6 school weeks

Honors Courses

- Homework 4-5 times/week
- Formative Assessments 3-5/unit
- Labs 3-4/unit
- Summative Assessments 1/unit
- Unit should take between 4-5 school weeks

AP Courses

- Homework 5 times/week
- Formative Assessments 3-5/unit
- Labs All AP labs should be conducted meeting the nat'l standard
- Tests 1/unit
- Unit should follow the timing of the national standards

Discussion

Nick deKanter asked Ms. Bik to go through the standards. Ms. Bik read the proposed standards/framework. She stated that nothing is set in stone – this is a work in progress.

Dan Koen inquired if they had any idea as to obstacles we would be facing. Ms. Bik said sharing lab space, the schedule, freeing up more class time, and collaboration time.

Bruce Menin asked her to speak to the issues to other grades regarding science. Ms. Bik stated she has discussed this with Principal Hopping – he has had discussions with his teachers. They will continue to work with the Middle School regarding alignment of curriculum, expanding their knowledge re: science instruction. They have a consultant working with them.

Ms. Bik stated the release day was successful – she reported on various parts of the day at the schools.

Bruce Menin asked her to give an update on place based education – GOMI. Ms. Bik said they had a meeting last week – the goal takes funding, which they discussed. Mayor Holaday was very helpful with several suggestions regarding funding.

Dan Koen inquired regarding having a consultant at the high school. Ms Bik said they are in consultation regarding this.

NHS ADVISOR-ADVISEE PROGRAM REPORT:

Dr. Kerble introduced the NHS Advisor-Advisee Committee – Matt LaChapelle, Michael Testa, Wendy Crofts and Deb Szabo. They presented a PowerPoint presentation which outlined and explained their charges, which are to:

#1 - To implement NEASC recommendations to develop a formal Advisor-Advisee Program

#2 - To ensure 100% of students fulfill a minimum of 990 hours of structured learning time as defined by Massachusetts DESE Laws and Regulations

Discussion

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to what they have done in advising colleagues. Mr. LaChapelle said they have presented this to the staff and asked for their input.

Dan Koen said this was a fantastic presentation.

Steve Cole inquired regarding courses that students were unable to take – how many empty seats were there in these classrooms. Mr. LaChappelle explained.

Nick deKanter inquired regarding continuity over four years – do the changes they are proposing provide more time for students to meet with teachers. The committee explained.

Bruce Menin said this was a thoughtful job.

Steve Cole asked how does this whole program express collaboration – how do they see it. Mr. LaChappelle said they are not the schedule committee, although they will work with this committee.

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM:

Dr. Kerble introduced Brown School Principal Amy Sullivan who presented a proposal for change in the Brown School Preschool Model/Offerings for the 2012-2013 school year based upon current educational research, best practices, information gathered from local preschool models and the new common core curriculum frameworks for preschool. Specifically, we would like to restructure our program to delineate between younger students who are in their first year of preschool and older students in their second year of preschool who are preparing for Kindergarten. Our program will remain an integrated program that follows an inclusive, developmentally appropriate curriculum designed to meet the needs of all children from a wide variety of backgrounds, skills and abilities. Our integrated team will continue to include dually certified preschool and special needs classroom teachers, an occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a speech and language pathologist, a school psychologist and behaviorist.

We are proposing a preschool model for 3 year olds and a pre-kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds. Our preschool model for 3 year olds will be very similar to our current model which is an integrated program structured through play and meaningful activities in a developmental sequence that is center-based and includes skills embedded during circle time. Our pre-kindergarten model for 4 year olds (and 5 year olds that miss the kindergarten cut-off) will follow the same model and also incorporate more advanced academic skills and kindergarten readiness skills in alignment with the national common core standards.

January 11 is pre-school registration.

Discussion

Steve Cole asked how they chose 61 parents for their survey. Principal Sullivan explained they distributed these surveys at their fair and through other schools in the system to parents who may have pre-school children.

Steve Cole asked where does FTE come in, and how does this impact the new building. Principal Sullivan explained the FTE, and said this does not impact the new building at all.

Steve Cole inquired as to the 45%. Principal Sullivan explained.

Nick deKanter inquired regarding the ½ day and extended day. Principal Sullivan explained with input from her teachers.

Dr. Kerble thanked all involved and said this will be back on the agenda in two weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kristen Sherman, 60th Street, PI **CONCERN** She stated she has an issue as a working family and early care – why can't the pre-K start at 8:30.

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR **CONCERN** He stated he was speaking directly to School Committee members – bring things back to Public Conversation regarding critical issues, surveys, schedules.

MSBA UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell said they met 2 days with MSBA with Steve Bergholm – one session was training how reimbursement works. The School Building Committee is meeting tomorrow evening. They have received 7 proposals re: the Nock Molin project. The committee gets 3 votes and MSBA gets 14 votes. Things are moving quickly.

Discussion

Dan Koen commented regarding the lopsided vote – he inquired if we get a chance to explain our vote. Ms. Farrell said yes and explained.

ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:28 PM for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Motion Passed

Stephanie Weaver absent for vote