

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 4, 2012**

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

**Room 118
Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found 6 members present; Dan Koen was absent. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant
\$78,705.39

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$250,259.03

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$284,484.76

Motion Passed

Minutes

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, August 20, 2012 as amended.

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To table the minutes of Monday, July 30, 2012 until the next school committee meeting, to give the Committee time to read the report of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST:

Background Information

Loco Sports, Inc. is requesting the use of the Newburyport High School gymnasium on Sunday, November 4, 2012, for the purpose of the All Women's Half Marathon. Loco Sports would like to use the building for preparation beginning at 6:00 AM. All festivities should be ended at approximately 2:00 PM.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced Mike St. Laurent from LOCO Sports who was present to answer questions regarding the All Women's Half Marathon.

Mr. St. Laurent informed the Committee of the race agenda as follows:

- Sunday, November 4 from 6 AM – 2 PM
 - 6:00 AM – Move in to Gym with Registration materials – tables & chairs (they provide)
 - 8:00 AM – Registration begins – Number pickup – 3 hours
 - 11:00 AM – Registration ends
 - 11:05 AM – Race starts
 - 11:20 AM – Gym is cleaned up
 - 12:20 PM – first runner finishes on Low Street
 - 12:20 PM – 2:30 PM – Refreshments served to runners on Low Street
 - 3:00 PM – Last runners in, and area cleaned up
 - Gym to be used for runners to come warm up – only if inclement weather from 12:30 – 2:30 PM and a place for runners to store gym bags.
- Parking Plan
 - Early arrivals to park in the High School Parking lot – only in approved areas. Parking marshals to instruct runners where to park.
 - Entrance and exit to be blocked with cones when school lot is full. No Parking signs posted where needed. All others to use street parking or Middle School parking or Cashman Park – Parking map provided.
- City Council has approved the use of city streets. The Police have signed off on it.
- Sponsors

The Race Web site has only food and one health drink sponsors listed.

There is positively no intention to serve alcohol at this event.

Our beverages include HINT a natural energy drink and Poland Spring water.

(The LOCO site which has all of our races does have the Smuttynose sponsor, but this is not associated with this race in any way)

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated he was satisfied with this information.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To take the decision to approve the All Women's Marathon sponsored by LOCO Sports off the table.

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve the use of the Newburyport High School gymnasium on Sunday, November 4, 2012, for the purpose of the All Women's Half Marathon, sponsored by LOCO Sports, from 6:00 AM to approximately 2:00 PM.

Discussion:

Mr. Cole will bring the matter of use of facilities before the Sub-Committee; future discussion will come before the Committee. This was last updated in 2005.

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION:

Cheryl Sweeney called the attention of the Committee to the Summary Report page – all rating indicators are in one space. She stated we need discussion regarding this document.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated that they need a working meeting with a facilitator present to assist us with this.

Mayor Holaday stated they were not prepared to proceed with discussion this evening. She concurred with Mr. Menin that we need a separate meeting with a facilitator.

Nick deKanter said the need to address why there was such a disparity in some evaluations. They need to prepare for this meeting so their time will be well spent.

Cheryl Sweeney instructed the Committee to make themselves familiar with the ratings; they will have a separate meeting in the future with a facilitator present. She will work with Dr. Kerble to work out the agenda for the meeting. They will find a facilitator.

Steve Cole said there are some things we will need to take action on

- Introductory training
- Descriptors
- Identify areas where we can take action on
- What our operating principles are

Cheryl Sweeney said they need to look at some of the statements in some of the areas.

Steve Cole said they are moving along on policies, recognition and mission statement.

Cheryl Sweeney said she will send a summary of their discussion.

Dr. Kerble said MASC is a formidable organization; they should look to them.

Nick deKanter said MASC does not understand their issues; they need to see how this applies to us or doesn't apply to us.

Dr. Kerble said MASC understands governance, school committees. He thought they would be very helpful.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- Start of School – At the staff meeting there was a very positive energy in the room. High School students performed; Deb Szabo has students do a Poetry Slam (they received an ovation); Pat Leavitt spoke regarding the new teacher evaluation. Dr. Kerble asked the staff to inspire and motivate. All in all, it was a great day. The students arrive tomorrow.
- High School Science Update/science meeting.
- 990 update – this has been approved by DESE
- New Teacher Evaluation Update – a timeline was passed out
- Foreign Language update – a new teacher has been hired; a new German teacher is being looked for.
- Chartwell’s Dining Services – Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell spoke regarding the new regulations. Lunch prices may have to be increased at a later point in the year, after an evaluation of the new regulations.
- SPED update – Cindy Joyce signed two new people today; they are very capable; three more still need to be hired – this will happen shortly.
- Science Fair – Steve Cole reported that the structure of the fair has been changed this year – students are not required to participate – we are in a good spot. Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik said they are looking at dates.
- Maps – Ms. Bik said these are all rolled over – they are putting these in individual teacher accounts; when finished they will be on the website. Mayor Holaday stated she did not have access; Ms. Bik instructed her how to access this.
- Mass Insight meeting – it was discussed how to raise enrollment in AP courses and how to provide support for teachers and students. High School Principal Mike Parent will get feedback from AP teachers.
Mayor Holaday said she supports this – the statistics are great.
Ms. Bik said this will help us to shift our thinking regarding AP.
Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to what would this application give us. Mayor Holaday explained.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** He stated he would like access to the public document concerning the Self-Evaluation. He commented on Science labs at the High School. He inquired how we got to 990.

Dominique Deare, 5 Warren ST. **CONCERN:** Regarding the School Committee Self-Evaluation – communication and access of information is pivotal.

Kathy Flaherty, 30 Columbus Avenue **CONCERN:** Regarding important information – post this on website – she does not fully understand the exam policy – this information needs to be posted so we can be kept up-to-date.

MSBA REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell reported on the following:

- School Building Committee meeting at the Library – a financial related spreadsheet was handed out – she will provide this to the Committee. Contracts were discussed. Tuesday, Thursday meetings have taken place during the summer.
- MSBA meeting – they went to MSBA last week. They were not going to participate in several areas:
 - Auditorium, ADA compliance
 - Labs

- Gymnasium

In our submittal we addressed all this – all have been approved. Financial aspects have been addressed. We will speak to staff, particularly the Nock/Molin staff, to let them know how they will be affected.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed – Audrey McCarthy said they met today. They discussed the MSBA update. The next meeting will be in October.

Superintendent Goals – Mayor Holaday said the Superintendent is taking what the Committee gave him – what is the next step? Dr. Kerble said he has been waiting for the Summary Report.

Cheryl Sweeney said the Superintendent Evaluation Committee will meet with the Superintendent monthly.

Dr. Kerble said he will implement a committee to take a look at the new evaluation requirements.

Cheryl Sweeney said she will section off the notebook regarding the Superintendent Evaluation to make this easier and smaller.

Policy – Bruce Menin has put together two drafts of the Mission Statement – a reworking of words – these were passed out to the Committee. Mr. Menin read them aloud, and opened up for discussion.

Dr. Kerble inquired if this was going to be routed through our schools (staff) for their input – we need the voice of teachers.

Nick deKanter said the purpose of this district wide document of this nature is to set a direction of our schools. Each school should have their own mission statement as well. It is important for them to have a document.

Angela Bik said this should be a community process.

Dr. Kerble said every work stands on its own.

Steve Cole explained how the Mission Statement was developed. They should not fault Mr. Menin. The Policy Committee was charged with coming up with an updated Mission Statement.

Bruce Menin asked Mr. Cole how this process involved the community.

Nick deKanter asked the Committee to point out to them where any wording needs updating.

Dr. Kerble stated he liked the statement – it will be healthy to see how other people look at this.

Cheryl Sweeney said the Policy Committee will get together with the new information to come up with direction – get comments to Bruce Menin – decide next step with this.

Finance - Steve Cole said the following was discussed at their recent meeting:

- Foreign Language at the Middle School
- Losses in Title I grant
- FTE's at the High School

Communications – has not met

Building Committee – Reported at MSBA line item.

NEF Update: Cheryl Sweeney said Mike Strem from Strem Chemical has donated \$60,000 for the Nock Robotic Lab. Coming up is the NEF Auction, Golf tour, and a NEF meeting next Wednesday evening.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.

Motion Passed

Dan Koen absent for vote