

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 10, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:13 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:13 PM

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Alex Bradley reported on the following activities at Newburyport High School:

- Students are preparing for mid-year exams.
- The Student Advisory Council is organizing a Spirit Week (4th week in March). There will be a different activity each day.
- Alex and several of his peers attended a convention at NE College in Concord, NH, where they made news headlines by questioning and clashing with Republican presidential candidate, Rick Santorum, regarding his views on gay marriage.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble apologized to Alex Bradley for not realizing that Alex had not been notified regarding the postponement of the School Committee last week.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dominique Deare, 5 Warren Street **CONCERN: She stated she hoped the website will be updated with the new sub-committee names, and urged people to get involved with issues relating to the School Committee.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$1,441.95

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$218,343.07

Motion Passed

Mayor voted: Present

Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee meeting minutes of Monday, December 19, 2011.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee meeting minutes of Monday, January 2, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

OPEN MEETING LAW:

Dr. Kerble commented on and explained the Open Meeting Law.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin wondered if our rules have captured the latest iteration of the Open Meeting Law, the ability to participate electronically or by phone.

Cheryl Sweeney said this will be referred to the Policy Committee to make it reflect the new laws.

SUB-COMMITTEES: GOAL SETTING

Dr. Kerble and Cheryl Sweeney discussed the sub-committees and goal setting. Each Committee member was asked to bring one goal for each sub-committee to tonight's meeting. Dr. Kerble distributed three cards to each member – they were asked to list their goals for the Finance, Communication and Policy committees and present the cards to the Chairmen of the three sub-committees. Members then broke down into groups with the Chairmen of the sub-committees and met for 12 minutes to reduce suggestions down to three goals for each sub-committee. The chairmen of the committees then reported on the three goals that were arrived at:

Policy:

Chairman Bruce Menin reported on the three goals

- An annual review of the School Committee Policies is overdue – they will undertake this.
- Gifting
- Establish how we manage our business – review district policies.

Finance:

Chairman Steve Cole said it is important to have transparency. Their goals are:

- Bring back monthly reports from the Assistant Superintendent Farrell regarding finances.
- To have more school site based budget development
- Increase general interface with municipal government (work with City Council).

Communication:

Chairman Nick deKanter reported their three goals are:

- Revamp/redo the district wide website to make it more user friendly and the district wide calendar
- Make sure that everyone knows all that is good that is going on in our schools – improve communication with the public
- Development of a process to give community at large a process to dialogue with us and us with them

Nick deKanter that we must develop “who” is responsible. This sub-committee is a service committee with the community at large.

Joint Ed will meet at 5:30 PM on the evening of the first regular school committee meeting.

Communications will meet at 5:30 PM on the evening of the second regular school committee meeting.

Policy will decide on a date and time and inform the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dominique Deare **CONCERN:** It is important for the good of the order to inform the public – put information on list serve.

Mayor Holaday reported on Place Based Education (GOMI). She stated we need to support this initiative – she asked the City Council for \$25,000 to support this. 25 students spoke at the last City Council Meeting regarding Place Based Education – they spoke quite eloquently of the importance of this initiative. They hope to use a building donated to the City and currently located in the parking lot of the Towle building, as a regional Place Based Education Center. On Thursday, January 12, at 9:30 AM, DCR will meet with us to discuss moving the building.

Tomorrow evening at 7:00 PM there will be a meeting with the abutters of the Bresnahan School. All members of the School Committee are invited to attend this meeting.

The architect who has been selected for the Nock/Molin School project will be on site Thursday.

Bruce Menin stated students on college break spoke regarding Place Based Education at the City Council Meeting.

Dr. Kerble stated this has been a great week for our students. Teachers and parents are doing a great job. Mayor Holaday said there is great leadership.

NHS students will be presenting their Place Based Education projects in Room 118, on Jan. 11 at 12:30.

NEF event – Texas Hold-‘Em fundraiser – February 10

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:19PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously