

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, February 6, 2012**

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

**Room 118**  
**Mayor Donna Holaday Presided**

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

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

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. A roll call found all members present except Cheryl Sweeney. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motions**

**Warrants:**

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$24,115.48**

**Motion Passed**

**Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote**

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:  
**\$253,569.28**

**Motion Passed**

**Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote**

**Minutes**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee Meeting minutes of Thursday, January 26, 2012 as amended.

**Motion Passed**

**Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote**

**WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY AT NHS UPDATE:**

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble stated that thanks to the generous support of the Newburyport Education Foundation, and the work of Don Skane, and the technology department, we are now live with a very robust public wireless network throughout the building, at the High School. The network was turned on Friday, January 13, 2012.

The network is currently password protected, and students do not have access to the password. Until the policy guidelines are completed it will remain password protected. The Policy Guidelines have been reviewed

by the Department Chairs and are in final editing stage. The acceptable Use and Policy Guidelines will roll-out to students within a subject course that all students take in a given year (for example, English).

Currently, the technology department is connecting teachers with their own wireless devices who would like access on an individual basis. They are reporting a very fast network.

The Acceptable Use and Policy Guidelines and implementation roll-out to faculty will take place at the February 15, 2012, faculty meeting with roll-out to students soon after that.

We are working (and hoping) to develop a culture of “from home technology” which hopefully will ease the financial burden on the district. Future goals: looking at device acquisition/implementation. We have teachers piloting a school owned tablet, other teachers are working with tablets brought from home. Also, the use of a cell phone as a tool is being explored.

There is no wireless equipment available for the wireless, yet. The technology department is moving the handful of science laptops and math net-books to the network but that is simply migrating existing wireless devices to our new network. Don Skane does not expect to see much difference, except better coverage. This will enable students to login to the academic domain (their school accounts).

The Library has great access but for now will be only through student owned devices. Currently, the only school owned portable devices/laptops are in the math and science depts., and are used in classroom work. The Library Ad Hoc Committee is working to implement physical changes in the library and also to determine technology needs that best reflect the use of the school’s wireless system. For the library renovation, we are also going to survey parents about what devices they currently own and what devices they may want to have in the library to use wirelessly.

The High School staff is working diligently to complete each of the pieces so that we can be fully operational for students as soon as possible.

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** asked if we were talking laptops, phones, etc. Dr. Kerble said not limited – he explained limitations.

**APPOINTMENT OF WHITTIER REGIONAL VO-TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Steve Cole it was

**VOTED:** To appoint Mr. F. Nelson Burns to a three year term to the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School as one of two representatives from Newburyport.

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** inquired if we could get the Whittier representatives to attend a School Committee meeting. He also inquired if we could get an update on students who have applied to Whittier. Dr. Kerble said application process for Whittier is in process. Whittier Superintendent DeRosa will update us when the process is completed.

**Dan Koen** stated he felt we could do better.

**Mayor Holaday** said we could have the Whittier representatives come in for the Public Conversation segment – also maybe we could invite Superintendent DeRosa.

**Dr. Kerble** said we should also invite the Principal from the Middle School.

**Bruce Menin** said we should have them understand this segment is informal discussion.

**Dan Koen** said the representative do not hold keys for our success at Whittier.

**Motion Passed**

**Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote**

**MSBA UPDATE:**

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell updated the Committee regarding MSBA.

- The Building Committee met last week – they approved the submittal to MSBA. MSBA will review the submittal – they are also working with Heery.
- The Bresnahan project is ongoing – the Bresnahan model is on exhibit.

Mayor Holaday pointed out changes – the basketball court has been moved – now more green space; sr. package changed; sr. entrance changed.

Ms. Farrell updated the Committee regarding the Nock/Molin project:

- School Building Committee approved the contract for the architect.
- In two weeks borings will be done.

### **BUDGET FY13 UPDATE:**

Assistant Superintendent Farrell reviewed the updated Budget Review and Presentation Meeting Schedule Calendar. She stated the Principals are working on the budget presentations which are due to her on Friday

#### **Discussion:**

**Nick deKanter** asked what budget assumptions are principals working under. Ms. Farrell said same level of services, but also “what do you need”.

**Bruce Menin** inquired when was Central Office going to be presented to them. Ms. Farrell said on the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Bruce Menin** asked if they will have access to the budget presentations before the Wednesday dates. Ms. Farrell said yes.

**Bruce Menin** questioned when site based budgets will be received by the Committee. Ms. Farrell explained.

### **NEW EDUCATOR EVALUATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dr. Kerble stated we have a new teacher evaluation committee. Cheryl Sweeney and Bruce Menin serve on this committee and have familiarity with the model. They will join with the Superintendent and lead the School Committee through a process for understanding the Model Evaluation Process for Superintendents.

Bruce Menin gave an overview of the training session; the system looks roughly the same – the School Committee is evaluating the Superintendent. He explained the standards. The system begins by the Superintendent doing a self-assessment, giving five or six goals. These are shared with the Committee. The goals/benchmarks, etc. are discussed and decided by the Committee during public session. At the end we do summative assessments.

School Committee members had been asked to read part VI of the materials in the model evaluation system binder. Each member was asked to speak about a step in the 5 step evaluation cycle. Nick deKanter – step 1, Dan Koen – step 2, Bruce Menin – step 3, Steve Cole – step 4, and Cheryl Sweeney and Audrey McCarthy – step 5. Each member was asked to summarize each step, which they did.

#### **Discussion:**

**Dr. Kerble** explained that Assistant Superintendent’s Farrell and Bik were caught in this little quagmire as they are evaluated by the Superintendent. He will be looking at standards. The evaluation is about “growth and development.

**Mayor Holaday** said we have established our goals for this year – are we supposed to do a midpoint evaluation.

**Bruce Menin** stated, we are not obligated to do that until the next cycle.

**Mayor Holaday** stated it makes sense to do this informally this year.

**Nick deKanter** said he had a concern – how do we make sure these steps tie in to our strategic plan – “long term planning piece of it”.

**Bruce Menin** said this is a very substantial process.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dr. Ralph Orland, 4 Wm. Hall Dr.** **CONCERN:** Regarding wireless technology – the generosity of the NEF was a significant outlay of money. Just to put it here is not getting bang for your buck – get it in the Middle School. He explained some aspects of it. We need to figure out novel ways to use this in classrooms.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Communications:**

Nick deKanter said they met last Friday. They reviewed their goals. Each goal was assigned to a member of the subcommittee. They are working with the Port Pride Community group – they now have a logo, which he displayed. They are working on websites, and an effective location for School Committee meetings.

**Policy:**

Bruce Menin said they will be meeting this Friday at 8:00 AM.

**Joint Ed:**

Audrey McCarthy said they met briefly and discussed procedure for the agenda – what the City Council would like discussed. Next meeting is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Dr. Kerble reported on the following activities and topics:

- New NHS Profile
- Read Across America, Friday, March 2 – we need volunteers to read in class.
- 2012 Northeastern Junior District Festival accepted students:
  - Andrew Allman, Alex Connor, Kaylee Hawkes, and Morgan Pyle
- Cathy Hill and the Teams of Tomorrow basketball skills demonstration team, 60 Gr. 3 students, have been practicing before school and will perform on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the NHS Varsity boys' game, Friday, Feb. 10, at the NHS Varsity girls' game, and on Sat. March 31, at 2 PM in the TD Garden during the Harlem Globetrotters halftime.
- Students, Lauren Sundstrom (Clothes for Hope), Maggie Budzyna (fundraising for 2 week theater project for students in Lawrence), and Rachel Rikeman (organizing meatless Mondays) Community Service Projects.

Mayor Holaday said there is a box for collections at City Hall for "Clothes for Hope".

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:**

**Assistant Superintendent Bik** reported on the following:

- On Friday they met with a large group concerning the new evaluation system – they have started to develop a nice bunch of questions – it was a good day

**Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** said from the perspective of the State they have made the proficient level very rigorous. Ms. Bik said people really started to pull the rubric apart.

**Assistant Superintendent Farrell** reported on the following:

- The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has put out new rules and regulations for the School Food Service Dept.

**Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** questioned the Food Service Contract. Ms. Farrell explained.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM

**Motion Passed**

**Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote**