

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 5, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:10 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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Mayor Donna Holaday called for a roll call, which 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 Cheryl Sweeney assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble reported on the following:

- **SOCMA'S Educational Outreach Award:** Dr. Kerble introduced Mike Strem of Strem Chemical who was awarded SOCMA's Educational Outreach Award, the Parsons Award. The faculty at Strem Chemical has worked on school related projects with Newburyport High School and Middle School students dating back to 2004. This was a Middle School award. Accepting the award check was Principal Barry Hopping, Science teacher Kristen Quinn and Nock Middle School students. The award money will be used toward Nock Science education.
- **Boys Indoor Track Team:** Dr. Kerble acknowledged the NHS Varsity Boys Indoor Track Team and Coach Tim Foley (who has been acknowledged as "Coach of the Year") to congratulate them on their achievement of Boys' Indoor Track Team Division IV State Champions. All members of the track team were present and asked to identify themselves, at which time they received a hearty round of applause.
- **Beth Castantini:** Dr. Kerble acknowledged Beth Castantini who recently reached her 1,000th point in her basketball career at NHS

NHS Athletic Director John Daileanes announced that the hallway outside the NHS Gym is going to be festooned with acknowledgements of athletic achievements of NHS athletes. He held up blown up newspaper articles of the Boys' Indoor Track Team and Beth Castantini's achievements which will be hung in the hallway.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dominique Deare, Warren Street

CONCERN: She commented on Place Based Education.

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:

\$213,912.52

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin voted Present

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Alex Bradley reported on the following:

- **RENT Opening** – The musical “Rent” will be opening this Thursday evening – tickets are on sale. Alex stated he has seen the set and this play will be amazing.
- **School Wide WIFI** – This has been installed school wide – by being able to use this in class it is making things much easier on the students.
- **Pep Rally** will be held March 14. **Woodman Tour** will be held on March 13. A **hypnotist** will be performing on March 21. The **No Talent/Talent Show** will be held on March 28. A **Mega Dance** will be held on March 27. Alex stated that he has pledged that if \$2,012 is raised from the Talent Show that he will shave his head on stage.

Dr. Kerble stated that a Public Forum for parents and students will be held following the first night performance of “Rent”.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Background Information:

Principals submitted a 2-year School Improvement Plan developed after months of meetings with their individual School Councils in 2009-10. Last year, principals were asked to report out on the progress of the School Improvement Plan Year 1 to date, and also what was still needed to be accomplished. Principals will report out on the progress of the School Improvement Plan Year 2 to date, and also what was still needed to be accomplished.

Rupert A. Nock Middle School:

Principal Barry Hopping and his School Council Representative presented an update of the 2-year School Improvement Plan for the Middle School.

Discussion:

Dan Koen stated this was a great School Improvement Plan and a great operation. Regarding data gathering he asked if there was a stream of data to identify students who would benefit going to Whittier. Newburyport is poorly represented. Principal Hopping discussed all the procedures that are in place now for bringing information forward to students and parents. He commented that he does not know what the “hook” was to try to improve attendance at Whittier. There seems to be a stigma in going to Whittier.

Dan Koen stated that students going to college are graduating with “mortgages”. We need to break down this stigma. He stated he will gladly serve on any ad hoc committee to address this issue.

Principal Hopping stated students can get a quality education at Whittier.

Dan Koen stated we need to bring parents into these conversations. Principal Hopping said maybe we can have Whittier present to parents.

Bruce Menin spoke of getting a quality education at Whittier – place based education.

Steve Cole said that Whittier is no longer your father’s technical school. He spoke of the various fields of education at Whittier especially the health care field.

Nick deKanter stated this was a great job. He inquired about progress concerning a longer day. Principal Hopping said he is keeping on this. Mr. deKanter commented on chorus and fee based athletics.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS:

Middle School:

Principal Hopping explained regarding the field trip to Camp Kieve. He explained that next year he has arranged to have students attend at the end of October. He also explained regarding the trip to Washington, D.C.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the Middle School Grade 6 field trip from Monday, April 23, 2012 to Friday, April 27, 2012 to Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve the Middle School Grade 6 field trip from Monday, November 5, 2012 to Friday, November 9, 2012 to Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the Middle School field trip to Washington, D.C. from May 29, 2012 to June 1, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

High School:

Coach Lori Solazzo explained the field trip. The trip will be paid for by fundraising.

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To approve the NHS Softball Team Field Trip to Newport, RI to scrimmage Middletown and N. Kingstown from Friday, April 6 to Saturday, April 7, 2012.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS (Continued):

Newburyport High School:

Newburyport High School Principal Michael Parent and his School Council Representative presented an update of the 2-year School Improvement Plan for the High School.

Discussion:

Dan Koen commented on this great plan. He was excited by the review of the Clipper Compass. He hopes X2 continues to grow. He spoke regarding technology at the high school – wireless.

Principal Parent said kids have responsibility; teachers need to develop this. We need professional development to master this technology – we are on the edge of something great – we are in the process of getting there.

Dan Koen inquired if WIFI is everything we hoped it would be. Principal Parent explained.

Nick deKanter said he was excited concerning the things that are being worked on – we need collaboration on how technology will involve student critical thinking. Principal Parent commented on 21st century learners.

Nick deKanter inquired from Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik regarding how much we are spending. Ms. Bik explained.

Mayor Holaday asked Principal Parent to speak regarding dual enrollment. Principal Parent said they have had several speakers address this – he would also like to see credit recovery – we should address both at the same time.

Mayor Holaday commented on the Senior Project. Principal Parent said senior projects will take affect the year after next.

Mayor Holaday asked for an update on virtual high school. Principal Parent said they have not yet maxed out 50 seats.

Principal Parent said not having a sense of the budget puts our plans at risk – we are hoping we are able to run all our new programs.

Dan Koen inquired regarding Summer School; he asked Principal Parent to speak of options open to students. Principal Parent said students can attend community college, Winnacunnett High School night program, and there are some on-line programs that will be accepted. He stated he met with a family today and worked out a plan. He has met with all seniors that are “on the bubble”. Options are out there although he would like to have this in house.

Dan Koen stated these kids need our help.

School Council member said the school does help needy children.

Dr. Orlando stated it is hard to move things forward when you don’t know how much money is available.

MSBA UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell gave her regularly scheduled update regarding MSBA:

- Bresnahan – there is a meeting in Boston tomorrow regarding the budget document (estimated budget) to which Ms. Farrell and Steve Bergholm will attend.
- Nock/Molin – the architect and MSBA have been in the building doing forensic analysis.

Mayor Holaday said there is a meeting this Thursday evening at 7:00 PM at the Union Church - the community group is meeting to organize volunteers. On March 13 at 6:30 PM there will be a neighborhood meeting regarding the Bresnahan School. The Senior/Community Center costs have been received and they are outrageous. It will be cheaper to demolish the present building and build new.

Dan Koen said that MSBA will reimburse 50% to demolish the building.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired if we were far enough along in the process to make a different footprint. The Mayor explained. Ms. Farrell said we are taking advantage of the building site.

Dan Koen commented on the fact that there is still no room for a ball field – even if we left it empty.

BUDGET F13 UPDATE:

Dr. Kerble said reality is setting in for us. We are looking at FY13 with a sense of reality. We can predict with some certainty on certain things. Revenue is harder to predict. We may have to reallocate some things – we may have some cuts. Principals will present what they need. We must look at things a little bit differently. Assistant Superintendent Farrell said we have budget booklet for members – this is a preliminary budget. There is work to be done here. She reviewed and explained it.

Discussion:

Dan Koen inquired regarding the pre-K deficit – Ms. Farrell explained.

Mayor Holaday said it is hard to start early – Circuit Breaker only came in today – health care costs enter into it. We are doing better this year – we are in better shape – have a good starting place. We must march through all budgets – find where we can consolidate or cut.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired if they would receive a new page 1 by Wednesday night. Ms. Farrell explained.

Bruce Menin thanked Assistant Superintendent Farrell. He had the following concerns:

- Choice tuition – what did we budget – where are we. Ms. Farrell explained.
- Projection made – explain further. Ms. Farrell explained.
- Upward or downward adjustment - Ms. Farrell explained.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dominique Deare, Warren Street

CONCERN: She spoke of budget presentations.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:43 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously