

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, April 2, 2012**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:06 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:**

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Mayor 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.

**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:  
**\$265,125.05**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted present**

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:  
**\$6,090.88**

**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 Monday, March 19, 2012.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **USE OF FACILITIES: FULLER FIELD ON SUNDAY:**

### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the request of the Newburyport Jr. Clippers Olympics for the use of the Fuller Field on Sunday, April 15 through June 10, 2012, for the purpose of practice for the team between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **FY13 BUDGET PRESENTATION:**

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble explained that school principals presented their budgets during the last month – he thanked them and their school councils for all of the hard work that went into the preparation of the budgets.

Dr. Kerble and Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell together presented and explained the Newburyport School District FY 13 budget.

### **Discussion:**

**Nick deKanter** questioned actual budgeted figures. Dr. Kerble explained.

**Dan Koen** inquired as to how much money do we have in the bank right now. Ms. Farrell explained.

**Bruce Menin** discussed actual revenues, capturing expenses – how can we show this in the budget. Discussion ensued regarding outside funding and how to show this in the budget.

**Dan Koen** questioned pre-school/kindergarten revenue and expenses and asked for an explanation of the change. Ms. Farrell explained.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired as to what percent of the 5.35% is salaries. Ms. Farrell said she will provide figures.

**Dr. Kerble** thanked Mayor Holaday for the increase in monies from the city. He also thanked Cathy Manning for her hard work.

**Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell** explained budget reductions. Principals and Central Office will be meeting Thursday to discuss feedback. There will be a budget hearing on Tuesday, April 24 at 7:00 PM at NHS in room 118.

**Dan Koen** inquired if anyone knew what the 2% increase in salaries is.

**Cheryl Sweeney** required regarding retirements – how many are there. Ms. Farrell said three. Ms. Sweeney questioned the increase in the position at the Bresnahan School. Principal Kristina Davis explained.

**Nick deKanter** commented on the loss of the tech integrator. Dr. Kerble explained that there is a plan. Dr. Kerble gave an explanation regarding the tech integrator. Teachers need someone; colleagues are given stipends to help work with the teachers.

**Nick deKanter** stated he worried about pockets of excellence – they need to grow – he stated we need to fund a tech integrator. He also stated we need those two extra teachers at the high school.

**Bruce Menin** inquired:

- High School reductions – how many elective sections will we lose. Principal Mike Parent explained.
- What is a section? Principal Parent explained

- Are these new or current electives? Principal Parent said both.
- Mr. Menin stated he really appreciated the way we have gone through the budget process this year. He stated he felt bad that foreign language will not run.

**Dan Koen** stated he felt that the High School is taking a disproportionate hit with the budget. He asked that, if the Committee did not vote for pre-school, would we be in this position now? Ms. Farrell explained that we are in better shape.

**Mayor Holaday** commended all the principals for their budget presentations. It is encouraging to see that some of their requests are here – not all – we need to watch as we go forward in negotiations.

**Bruce Menin** stated that this is more than salaries – seven years ago \$750,000 was ripped from this school – this and other things have affected us.

**Mayor Holaday** stated the increase in the City budget was low.

**Steve Cole** spoke of foreign language – it is important that we hear from people – he wants to hear what people want.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired:

- Regarding the budget reduction personnel page and NHS 990 hours. Principal Parent stated 32% of students have reached 990 hours.
- How much closer do the added positions bring us to 990. Principal Parent said unless students elect full schedules it will not affect 990.
- Are we in jeopardy with NEASC. Principal Parent said no effect – we are not in a better position – we are short in all areas from where we were ten years ago.
- Molin – what cost savings are we realizing by keeping SPED students in district? Dr. Kerble explained.
- Is this a cost savings? Dr. Kerble said yes.
- Increasing 1.0 for 18-22 year olds – is this a cost increase. No

The Committee asked if a new budget sheet could include all other revenue sources/gate receipts – Middle School after school programs and monies taken in.

**Mayor Holaday** commented on High School electives.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired why 1 LPN at the High School. Principal Parent explained.

Discussion ensued regarding rank ordering.

**Steve Cole** restated that he wants to hear what people would like to say.

**Bruce Menin** said he would like time to think this through – he would like to hear from principals and the community.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired regarding grade 5 – she questioned size. The principal explained.

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated the budget process this year was greatly appreciated.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. CONCERN:** He made suggestions as to the budget. He stated the Committee needs to give themselves more time. Dr. Kerble said working on the budget is a long, time consuming process – he explained the process.

**Kathy Flaherty, 30 Columbus Ave. CONCERN:** She suggested the Committee get more data regarding the number of classes and sizes.

### **MSBA UPDATE:**

Assistant Superintendent Farrell presented and explained a slideshow regarding rate calculation.

#### **Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** inquired as to what kinds of things did we try to get MSBA to cover later on. Ms. Farrell explained.

**Steve Cole** asked if the razing of the Bresnahan School is included. Ms. Farrell said it is included and they will participate in it.

The kickoff at Michael's Harborside was well attended.

**Mayor Holaday** said she is working to get hard numbers/interest rates. The City Council voted to support a special election in June.

**Dr. Kerble** said he will put Ms. Farrell's list on our website.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Joint Education:** Ms. McCarthy stated they met tonight. The Budget/Finance Committee of the City Council passed \$25,000 for place based education.

**Superintendent's Goals:** Mayor Holaday stated they have asked Dr. Kerble to come up with goals.

**Policy:** Bruce Menin said they reviewed School Committee policy – this needs to be updated. They will address the Mission Statement. They are coming up with some new policies.

**Finance:** Steve Cole stated they reviewed transfers, resignations, site to site transfers, reimbursement rates, revenue and expenses, preliminary reduction list and space issues at Nock/Molin.

**Communication:** Nick deKanter said they discussed the web presence, neighborhood coffees. They will have 30-50 more coffees and will need volunteers from the Committee.

**EBC:** Nick deKanter said they elected a new director – Beth Simkins. They discussed expanding their base.

**NEF UPDATES** – There will be a meeting Wednesday evening.

Space requirements at the Nock/Molin were discussed and a suggestion was made to form a committee.

Dr. Kerble recognized NHS teacher Shawn Bleau, who received the Assets Award from the Beacon Coalition for creating a caring and positive climate.

The production "Beauty and the Beast" was recognized as a wonderful production.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

#### **Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:12 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

