

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, September 19 2011**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:03 PM**

**Room 118  
Bruce Menin Presided**

**Present:** Steve Cole (arrived at 7:08) , Cheryl Sweeney, Bruce Menin,  
Stephanie Weaver, Nick deKanter, Dan Koen

**Absent:** Mayor Donna Holaday

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

Vice-Chairman Bruce Menin called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:**

Bruce Menin 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 Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$4,090.83**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$43,065.36**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Dan Koen it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$272,159.40**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**Minutes**

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee meeting minutes of Tuesday, September 6, 2011 as amended.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT:**

School Committee Student Advisor Alex Haley reported on recent activities at Newburyport High School.

- Students have settled in nicely at NHS. Changes in scheduling have been received positively.
- Spirit Council – The Spirit Council will be holding a Club Fair on October 6 – booths for individual clubs will be set up for interested students to secure information and sign up.
- NHS Theater Department – The Theater Department will be presenting the “Witch of Blackbird Pond”.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT CHAIRS:**

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced the five new NHS Department Chairs. He commented on the past Department Heads and said their fine work was appreciated. He welcomed the new Department Heads and commented on their energy, and enthusiasm. The new Department Heads came forward and were recognized. Michael Nesson thanked the Superintendent for the opportunity to serve and said they were all looking forward to working with the students.

**New Department Chairs**

Susan Stone, Mathematics

Jared Maul, Foreign Language

Michael Nesson, Guidance

Robert Yeomans, Science

Brandon Sturma, Social Studies

**Past Department Chairs**

Mark Littlefield

Jill Archie

Christine Palmer

Ken Cole

Peter Hill

**SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:**

**Gifts** - Superintendent Dr. Kerble introduced Myron Moss who presented a \$2,500 check to the School Department on behalf of Parametric Technology Corporation. The money will be used for materials for the technology and engineering class at the Middle School. Mr. Moss said that this is a ten year celebration of Parametric Technology Corporation with the Newburyport School Department and that Executive Vice President Barry Cohen is the benefactor behind this gift.

Superintendent Dr. Kerble introduced Lynn Walker who presented a \$7,946.59 check from the Reunion Band and others who raised money for the Middle School music program.

**Motion:**

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Cheryl Sweeney it was

**VOTED:** To accept the \$2,500 check from Parametric Technology Corporation to benefit the technology and engineering class at the Middle School, and to accept the \$7,946.59 check from the Reunion Band and others to benefit the Middle School music program.

**Discussion:**

**Nick deKanter** said this will benefit the Music Program across the board as the Middle School program is a feeder program for the High School.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Steve Cole – Yes

Cheryl Sweeney – Yes

Bruce Menin – Yes

Stephanie Weaver – Yes

Nick deKanter – Yes

Dan Koen - Yes

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**RTI Process** - The update on the training for principals regarding the RTI process will be presented at the next meeting.

**Naming of Lower Field** – Superintendent Dr. Kerble stated he has recently put together a committee to look into naming of the Lower Field. He wants the process to be up front and as honest as possible. It has been recommended that the field be named after Bill Pettingell who has served as Baseball Coach for the past 40 years. It has been decided to ask the community for input and nominations.

**Discussion:**

**Steve Cole** said the idea is to recognize as many people as possible. They are looking at ways to possibly buy a plaque to recognize other people involved in coaching.

**Bruce Menin** said they needed to have a process that was open and transparent and decided to request nominations.

**Nick deKanter** said that it might be possible to have a special wall in the stadium for commemoration to coaches.

**MSBA UPDATES:**

Superintendent Dr. Kerble said that last week they had a meeting with MSBA. Tom Ellis from Heery was in attendance. MSBA gave a verbal vote of approval for Heery with a letter of approval on the way. On Thursday at 1 PM there will be a site visit at Bresnahan. MSBA has invited the 5 model school architects to visit Bresnahan. They are

1. East Fairhaven ES – Design Enrollment 475 – HMFH Architects
2. Ft. Banks ES – Design Enrollment 650 – DiNiso Design
3. Northeast Academy ES – Design Enrollment 450 – JCJ Architecture and Interiors
4. Bournedale ES – Design Enrollment 650 – Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.
5. Chickering ES – Design Enrollment 700 – Flansburgh Associates

We are working on the scheduling of site visitations to these schools as well as to understand the schedule requirements of MSBA for this phase. Our initial understanding is that design selection should be made by October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in order to make the March 2012 MSBA Board meeting and to schedule a Spring Debt Exclusion.

Visitation Committee – site visits Sept 29, October 3, 4

Architectural responses October 6 – responses are how they can design a school to meet our educational requirements.

October 11, 12 – public interviews with architects at City Hall

October 14 – Public Forum

October 17 – all paperwork due to MSBA

October 2 – Community meeting – 6 to 8 PM at City Hall (Sunday)

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** commented that once we went through our selection process for OPM all paperwork was submitted – this is so MSBA can make sure we are doing what we are supposed to do – the school comes with the architect – regarding the design of the school there is a lot you can do to the outside of the school. The site visit committee is not established as yet.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked where the 5 site visit schools were located – (East Fairhaven, East Fairhaven, MA – Ft. Banks, Winthrop, MA – Northeast Academy, Groton, CT – Bournedale, Bourne, MA – Chickering, Dover, MA)

**Superintendent Dr. Kerble** commented that Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell presented to the MSBA Board and she did a super job. Cathy Manning has done a yeoman's job, Steve Bergholm has been on top of everything.

**Steve Cole** said he was concerned – regarding the interior layout – does this have to be decided by October 14. Superintendent Dr. Kerble said no.

**Superintendent Dr. Kerble** said two teachers will be accompanying them on the site visits.

**Bruce Menin** said MSBA was showing them a 1-3 school – then drop a sheet down over the image to show us what pre-K – 3 would look like.

**Dan Koen** asked if Deirdre said that all the schools were pre-K. **Nick deKanter** said the only one he is not sure of is the Connecticut school.

**Dan Koen** commented that we have received a verbal on the OPM and the confirmation is on the way – when do they start working? **Superintendent Dr. Kerble** said he is unsure – but if he understands correctly Heery has already started to do some work.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment at this time.

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:**

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik reported on the Building and Implementing Data Teams:

#### **Objectives:**

- Use data to improve student learning
- Build a systematic process for collecting, analyzing, and communicating student data results to inform instruction
- Expand teacher leadership

#### **Structure:**

- Grades K-8
  - Focus content areas literacy and math
  - 1 teacher representative per grade level and a special education representative

	Literacy	Math
Brown	3 teachers	3 teachers
Bresnahan	4 teachers	4 teachers
Molin	3 teachers	3 teachers
Nock	4 teachers	4 teachers

- High School
  - All content area focus
  - Content area teacher representative and a special education representative

Eng/His	1 teacher
STEM	1 teacher
Wellness	1 teacher
Arts	1 teacher
FL	1 teacher
Sped	1 teacher

- The data teams will be comprised 34 teachers, 3 curriculum coaches and 1 data coordinator.
- Teachers will receive a \$1,000 stipend for 40 hours beyond the school day
- The data teams will meet twice a month for 2 hours after school during Jan., Feb., March, April, May, and once in June.

- Professional Development
  - The teacher teams will participate in 6 days of professional development, 4 in the fall/winter and 2 in the summer of 2012
  - Administrators will participate in 1 full day of professional development on October 12
  - Professional development will be provided by TERC, Using Data group

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** inquired if the Thursday early release days develop data – **Assistant Superintendent Bik** explained.

**Dan Koen** asked if X2 offers any data, and commented that as a parent he likes X2 – **Assistant Superintendent Bik** explained

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired in the new evaluation system if collecting data is a big piece. **Assistant Superintendent Bik** said this is one of the most important things we will do – it is a really important component.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if we know what the state is going to require – **Assistant Superintendent Bik** said this is not finalized as yet.

**Bruce Menin** said this is a very exciting time.

**PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING SUPT.'S GOALS FOR PURPOSES OF EVALUATION:**

Bruce Menin said he met with the Superintendent to discuss how we would wrap our arms around this process. Once all materials are compiled he will put together a rough set of categories – he will ask for input from the Committee – discuss this with the Superintendent – and then produce a rough draft for the Committee.

**Discussion:**

**Stephanie Weaver** asked why this is different from what we did last year and said that whatever the Committee can do to help with process they will do, so as to help Dr. Kerble get his goals.

**Stephanie Weaver** said the thought process worked well last year.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked how the process worked for the Superintendent. **Superintendent Dr. Kerble** said he just wants it to be observable and measurable. We are in a better place. Be clear. The sooner the better and if you think there is a direction he needs to be going to please express that.

**Nick deKanter** said that he thinks categories that Bruce Menin is proposing will be similar.

**Cheryl Sweeney** commented that all major categories will remain the same. **Bruce Menin** said he does not see any huge changes.

**Bruce Menin** said the difference is we did not have buildings that were coming on line.

**Steve Cole** said the simple thing is related to communications – we need to evaluate what we think was effective.

**DRAFT OF PROPOSED SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION TOOL:**

Bruce Menin said he is proposing a different metric for scoring. All is on the table for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding suggested changes.

Bruce Menin said he will edit #5.

**CALENDAR OF TOPIC AGENDA ITEMS:**

Superintendent Dr. Kerble presented the School Committee Tentative Agenda Items Calendar.

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired as to how we got this calendar? **Superintendent Dr. Kerble** said he looked at past calendars – consulted with staff and put together this tentative calendar.

Discussion ensued regarding agenda items.

## **REPORT OUT FROM SUB-COMMITTEES:**

### **Finance:**

**Steve Cole** said at their recent meeting the following items was discussed:

- The importance of having monthly meetings
- Enrollments
- Grants
- Adjustments, schedules, programs, expenses, etc.
- Budget initiatives
- 990 hours at the High School
- Next meeting – October 7 at 8:30

**Cheryl Sweeney** commented that Steve Cole said we need to take a look at trends, outside resources for funding and a connection with city budget.

### **Communications:**

**Nick deKanter** reported on the activities of the communication sub-committee

- They will be meeting every two weeks
- They discussed the huge forthcoming communication about school building projects with the community
- They participated in a meeting with the school building committee
- They met with Port Media regarding the Building Projects
- The web site is ready – a couple of things need to be “tweaked”

**Stephanie Weaver** said that Mr. deKanter has been spending every second of his time putting the new web-site together – he has done a wonderful job.

**Nick deKanter** added that the sub-committee has

- Reviewed the calendar
- Reviewed the district web-site
- Discussed the transmission on cable of School Committee meetings

## **ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

### **Motion**

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Steve Cole it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:46 PM for the purpose of Contract Negotiations.  
The Committee will be returning to Regular Session.

### **Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**The Committee returned to Regular Session at 8:59 PM.**

### **Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction contract as negotiated by the Superintendent of Schools.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

Steve Cole – Yes

Cheryl Sweeney – Yes

Bruce Menin – Yes

Stephanie Weaver – Yes

Nick deKanter – Yes

Dan Koen – Yes

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**MEETING ASSESSMENT:**

NEF – Third annual NEF Open – Monday, September 26 at Ipswich

Light House Auction – upcoming – Thanks were extended to NEF

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**