

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 1, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:08 PM**

**Room 118
Cheryl Sweeney/Mayor Donna Holaday 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 7:08 PM. Ms. Sweeney called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

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
\$12,131.44

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$183,865.86

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, September 17, 2012.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

NHS Student Advisory Council member Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- October 4 – Early Release Day
- October 8 – Columbus Day

- October 6 – Sophomore Semi-Formal
- October 6 – SAT's
- Early November – Homecoming Dance

NHS THEATRE OVERNIGHT TRIP NOV. 9-13, 2012:

NHS Theatre Department teacher Stephanie Williams presented and explained the NHS Theatre Dept. trip to San Francisco/Big Sur in conjunction with the upcoming theatre production "Hair". The trip will take place from November 9 – 13. 30 students will take part with 6 chaperones. Cost of the trip will be \$1,000. Fundraising will take place.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter asked how many students and chaperones would be going. Ms. Williams explained.

Dan Koen asked if chaperones will consist or parents of faculty. Ms. Williams explained that this is open to faculty first and then to parents.

Steve Cole asked if chaperones would be CORI'd. Ms. Williams said yes.

Bruce Menin commented on the connections and immersion to history of this trip. He said he would enjoy watching this evolve, and that he supports this endeavor.

Dr. Kerble said this was terrific and he recommended approval.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS Theatre Dept. overnight field trip to San Francisco/Big Sur from November 9 – 13.

Motion Passed Unanimously

MSBA UPDATE: OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER (OPM) TONY PRUNER:

Dr. Kerble recognized Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell, who introduced Tony Pruner, our Owners Project Manager from Heery International who presented the status of the Nock/Molin renovations project and the New Bresnahan Model School building project. He presented a brief power point presentation to review the overall scope, budget and schedule for the Committee. He explained that the Nock/Molin renovations will include the following:

- Taking out doors/windows
- Repairing roof
- Replacing all skylights
- Exterior envelope upgrade
- Energy efficient
- ADA walkway to field
- ADA compliant
- Sprinklers
- New data systems
- New bleachers

He explained the 4 phasing plans. Ms. Farrell explained safety, entrances/egresses and the budget schedule.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday stated there was a recent building committee meeting; she explained the traffic safety study; there will be an abutters meeting.

Steve Cole questioned the solar array on the roof of the Nock/Molin – will it be removed. Mr. Pruner said yes it will be removed and reinstalled – this is reimbursable.

Nick deKanter asked about contractors – is there a list? Mr. Pruner said yes, 8 firms have applied. Ms. Farrell explained.

Dan Koen asked regarding the green value of both projects. Mr. Pruner explained.

Mayor Holaday explained that we will probably reuse the boiler from the Bresnahan School.

Motions:

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

VOTED: To accept the construction plans as presented by Mr. Tony Pruner, our Owners Project Manager from Heery International, for renovations to the Nock/Molin School building.

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To accept the construction plans as presented by Mr. Tony Pruner, our Owners Project Manager from Heery International, for the construction of a new Bresnahan Model School.

Motion Passed Unanimously

VOTE TO APPROVE THE NEW CONTRACT LANGUAGE FOR TEACHER EVALUATIONS:

Ms. Sweeney explained that the teachers ratified the contract language on September 19. She stated they have been in meetings regarding this since before summer – there has been great collaboration between both parties. We are among the first districts in the Commonwealth to have a contract. We will continue to have meetings once a month to monitor this.

Dr. Kerble pointed out certain parts of the contract. He stated this is one of the best initiatives he has seen in his career – this is an important document.

Motion:

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the NTA and the School Department as presented to us.

Motion Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosanne Nersessian, 466 Merrimac Street **CONCERN:** She read a letter to the Committee to express her concerns regarding the administration of our schools, primarily the special education department. A copy of the letter was given to the Superintendent of Schools, who said he will look into the issues as stated in her letter.

Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall Drive. **CONCERN:** He encouraged the Committee to have dialogue with the community regarding major issues that come up.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS: PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING: Set date for School Committee

Retreat:

Background Information:

The Vice Chair and the Superintendent met to discuss a process for developing School Committee goals. They discussed an outline of a three hour retreat that would follow the structure below:

- Review the School Committee Rules and Regulation booklet
- Review the Norms of Interaction and Operating Principals
 - Individually make notes regarding strengths and areas of improvement
 - Share with members in two small groups
 - Develop 2-4 goals
 - Combine like goals from both groups
 - Prioritize 3-5 goals
 - Develop Key actions and benchmarks for each goal
- Prepare to share goals, actions, and benchmarks at a School Committee meeting

Ms. Sweeney stated we have completed the first part of our process. We now need to set a retreat date/setting.

Discussion:

Dan Koen inquired regarding the working meeting discussion – where are we at?

Bruce Menin said he supports the plan – he would like to see us move in this direction sooner rather than later.

Mayor Holaday said this is a good way to go.

Nick deKanter said perhaps we should propose a date.

Cheryl Sweeney asked the Committee if they thought as a group that a retreat was the way we want to go. The answer from all was yes.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- Brown and Bresnahan Back to School Night – very successful
- MCAS: plans for analysis, access to online results
- Samantha Wahlgren, Daniel Holbrook, and Victoria Swain presented to citizens recently. Teacher George Masterson wrote: “The Focus of discussion was based upon their data collected on the Frog Pond at The Mall. Students gave an account of the poor health of the pond and made recommendations on remediation of the pond to civic leaders and the Bartlett Mall Commission .
- The roll out of the new educator evaluation system: self-analysis and educator goals. The last two weeks teachers have been working on their educator plans.
- Nock Middle School Foreign Language Update. The initial proposal from the Nock Middle School – Spanish – one language; the High School Principal is concerned with this proposal – we will meet to try to move forward with the plan proposed at the beginning of the year. There is a problem with the Middle School schedule.

Committee Person, Steve Cole reported out on the following:

- Steve is on the Board of Directors for the Greater Lawrence Educational Collaborative (GLEC). He reported on an overview of the Collaborative – he will report on a quarterly basis to the Committee.
- Science Fair – Steve Cole stated they are working on a time line to include the Ad Hoc Committee recommendations. We will follow through with a schedule – not restricted to honors students – open to all. There are plans to do some videos of student science experiments. The Science Department is working hard. The date is during the first week in March, 2013. We will make sure the benchmarks are met.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed – Audrey McCarthy said they met tonight – they received an update of the MSBA, foreign language at Nock, and the school resource officer.

Superintendent’s Goals – Cheryl Sweeney said the Superintendent sent the Committee a copy of all his goals for the next round of evaluation.

Policy – Bruce Menin said they have not met.

Finance – Steve Cole said they will meet on the Friday prior to the next meeting.

Communications – Nick deKanter said they have not met, but will meet before the next meeting.

NEF – Cheryl Sweeney said they have a successful golf tournament. A Music Fest will be held Saturday at Spencer Pierce Little Farm – 11 AM to 6 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:43 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously