

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, September 17, 2012**

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

**Room 118
Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chair Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and called for a roll call, which found 6 members present; Mayor Donna Holaday was absent. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Sweeney called for a moment of silence to honor Mayor Holaday's mother who passed away recently.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor 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
\$8,224.40

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday 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:
\$271,788.03

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes

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

VOTED: To remove the Monday, July 30, 2012 from the table.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired as to what the next step would be regarding the Superintendent's evaluation. Ms. Sweeney stated that this evaluation is for the 2011-12, they will be forming a committee to meet with the Superintendent monthly.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, July 30, 2012.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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 Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Marc Kerble, read a letter to the Committee from the past NHS Student Advisory Council member Alex Bradley.

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

- School has started
- On Thursday there will be a half-day of school
- The first home football game was held – Newburyport Clippers won
- Freshmen are settling in

NEW MA MODEL SYSTEM FOR EDUCATOR EVALUATION:

Background Information:

On June 28, 2011, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted new regulations for the evaluation of all Massachusetts educators. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) is committed to supporting effective Educator Evaluation implementation. ESE developed the Model System for evaluating administrators and teachers that districts can choose to adopt, adapt, or revise. ESE released the first six parts of Model System in January, 2012 and is using federal Race to the Top grant funds to develop training materials, resources, and networks designed to support districts in implementing the new regulations. ESE is also developing (part seven) guidelines and resources for determining educator impact on student learning, growth, and (part 8) achievement and incorporating student and parent feedback in evaluations. Districts participating in Race to the Top will have additional resources to help support implementation. As additional guidance and tools materials become available, they will be widely disseminated and ESE is developing a comprehensive strategy and web-based resources to do so.

NTA President, Patricia Levitt presented a Power Point presentation to inform the School Committee about the MA Model System for Educator Evaluation. Dr. Kerble explained all the long hard work that this has involved – he applauded Ms. Levitt for her diligence in this matter. Lisa Furlong was present also to help Ms. Levitt answer questions.

Discussion:

Steve Cole asked for an explanation of the one year, two year cycle; formative assessments, and multiple sources of evidence. Ms. Levitt and Ms. Furlong explained.

Bruce Menin stated that this whole procedure could not have happened unless we had interest based bargaining. This went extra-ordinarily well.

Dan Koen stated he hopes we are going to have more time to discuss this issue. Bruce Menin stated we planned on making use of time that already existed. Dr. Kerble explained the shift of patterns of time that will be used. Cheryl Sweeney stated this is why administrators/teachers worked so hard to develop the 50% issue – early release – planned topics. The plan fits in nicely with our Mission Statement. The first year we will roll it out to the best of our ability. Dr. Kerble said administrative meetings will now be held after school, and all meetings will be coordinated.

Nick deKanter stated that we are getting some real powerful stuff here. He has tremendous admiration for everyone who has worked on this.

Cheryl Sweeney said this is not a finished process; we will have monthly meetings to see how the process is going; progress will be reported back to the School Committee.

Dan Koen said he was worried about this.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RULES & REGULATIONS:

Cheryl Sweeney stated that the School Committee Rules & Regulations remain the same this school year, with the exception that there is a new School Committee member – Audrey McCarthy, and there is a new Assistant Superintendent – Angela Bik.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve School Committee Rules and Regulations for the 2012-2013 school year.

Discussion:

Dan Koen questioned “good reason” on page 4.

Bruce Menin stated the Policy sub-committee can look at things to make changes if needed.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- Open of School – We are off to a great start; there is an issue with transportation that is being worked out.
- Middle School Foreign Language update:
The Principal is taking a look at how to implement this. The schedule is problematic. She would like to implement just Spanish this year, because we have not as yet hired a German teacher. This is still in the proposal stage. Assistant Superintendent Bik stated the Principal is looking at quality; she is putting together a proposal. The Spanish teacher is working with 7th and 8th grades – introducing world language. Nick deKanter inquired if the teacher has defined what curriculum she will be using. Ms. Bik said she could not answer that at this time – they are working with flip classrooms.
- New Educator Evaluation system – update
 - Focus of principals
 - Administrative structure
 - Use of X2 program
- Bucket filling season at Brown and Bresnahan – “filling in bucket with kindness”
- Special Education update

- Interim Special Education Director – doing a great job

MSBA REPORT:

Dr. Kerble said that there will be a School Building Committee meeting tomorrow night. Thursday – group committee meetings – looking at schematic plans for the Nock.

Dan Koen – CM at Risk – he explained the process – we received a reimbursement point for this.

Dr. Kerble stated Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell has invited the project manager to come to a School Committee meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance - Steve Cole said the following was discussed at their recent meeting last Friday:

- Deficits/new hires/classroom aides/business office. They are working hard on transportation issues, collecting tuition, out of district placement. School Choice has gone up. They are tracking issues.

Joint Ed. - they have not met

Communications – Nick deKanter said they met this afternoon. Public conversation was discussed – more structure/moderator/topics – put a calendar out – creating a physical/digital bucket as to what we should cover in public conversation – scheduling an open mike night.

NEF – Cheryl Sweeney stated they had a recent retreat – Dr. Kerble, Ms. Sweeney and Ms. Bik attended – they had a “think tank” as to how to bring the NEF alive again.

Policy – Bruce Menin said they have not met. He stated he has had time to think about the Mission Statement. He looked at historically how the statement came together. This was presented at first by the administration, now it is put together by the Committee. He stated it would be nice if every school, like the High School, put together a Mission Statement. We encourage schools to come together to have dialogue later in the year to develop our Mission Statement to align it with the schools statements, to reflect the individuality of the schools. Nick deKanter said we are not in a time-frame to have the schools develop mission statements now.

Cheryl Sweeney said she has two papers regarding the Mission Statement in front of her at this time. Which one is to be used? Dan Koen said they should have a recommendation from the Policy Committee.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 9:02 PM, for the purpose of contract negotiations.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote