

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 18, 2013**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:05 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:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 District Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

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
\$7,826.92

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$292,561.21

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted Present

Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 26, 2013, as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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, March 4, 2013, as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- MCAS test have been postponed until Monday
- Good Friday
- Leukemia fundraiser raised \$200
- Athletic tryouts – today

Dr. Kerble announced and congratulated Ms. Bradley for her second place finish at the recent Science Fair.

NHS VARIETY SOFTBALL OVERNIGHT TRIP APPROVAL:

Motion

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS Varsity Softball overnight trip to Newport, R.I. on March 29 for the purpose of scrimmaging two Rhode Island teams.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday asked if there was a cost to students.

Dan Koen suggested having a line item on the application for a field trip pertaining to the cost per student.

Bruce Menin said there is usually someone in attendance at a School Committee meeting to answer questions.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Cheryl Sweeney mentioned coupon books being sold as a fundraiser for the trip. There is no cost to students for this trip.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced the Boys’ Track Div. State Champions. This NHS team has won the championship for the third year in a row. The young men introduced themselves and received the Committees congratulations and a standing ovation.

NHS THEATRE DEPT. OVERNIGHT TRIP:

Motion

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS Theatre Dept. overnight trip to Boston, Thursday March 21st through Saturday, March 23rd, with one overnight on March 22nd to compete in the METG State Finals in Boston.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS UPDATE:

Dr. Kerble introduced **Steve Bergholm**, Director of Facilities who updated the Committee on the Bresnahan and Nock/Molin projects. Mr. Bergholm reported on the following:

Bresnahan School:

Today the SBC chose CT Construction out of Waltham as the lowest qualified bidder.

The Bresnahan School is being modeled after a Fairhaven model school building. Fairhaven is in the process of building their second model school using CTA. CTA also built Beverly High School.

Pre-construction meeting held 3/12/13 – CTA and sub-contractors – procedures & expectations.

Mayor issued notice to proceed on 3/14/13 – mobilization to start this week-surveyors on site today - we will soon see trailers on site – we are on our way
Currently on schedule – substantial completion of building 6/30/14 followed by demolition of existing building and site work. Final completion 10/17/14.
The bidding came in three million under budget – this will allow us to do both alternatives.
MSBA will take back their share.
The building committee is looking at ways to spend our portion.
Groundbreaking will be at the end of April.

Discussion:

Steve Cole inquired regarding

- Fairhaven - will our school be similar? Mr. Bergholm said our school will be a little bigger.
- Research questions – low bid – Mr. Bergholm explained.
- Under budget at Fairhaven? Mr. Bergholm said he did not know. Things are going well there.

Dan Koen inquired if our OPM has worked with CTA. Mr. Bergholm said yes.

Dan Koen said that things are working well so far.

Mayor Holaday explained that she has had several meetings with neighbors regarding their concerns. It is good to have CTA on board. She will set up another meeting and probably will have monthly meetings with the neighbors.

Steve Bergholm said neighbors have expressed concerns – these have been addressed.

Mayor Holaday said a group spoke to the building committee regarding safe routes to school – side paths will be opened up again – safe walking is being addressed. Some site work will have to be addressed.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to who is working with teachers regarding packing, etc. What should be kept – brought with them, etc. Mr. Bergholm said at the Nock/Molin Principals are working with teachers. Classes will be moving to temporary classrooms for the last two months – in September they will be in their new classrooms.

Nock/Molin:

Construction trailers are on site in the playground area – they are working on pre-construction.

Construction of temporary classrooms in the Library began today and in the woodshop area. On the first of April the move to temporary classrooms will happen. Construction will begin for Phase 1 areas during the April vacation – demolition, abatement.

Mr. Bergholm distributed a map of the school. At the end of summer all renovation will be done. Gilbane is working to maximum price for us – the last of the bids will be coming in during the next couple of weeks and are very favorable. We are pleased we will be able to add the extras. A parent information night will be held next Thursday at 7 PM. Groundbreaking will be April 9 at 9 AM outside the auditorium.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired if all workers get CORI'd. Mr. Bergholm said yes – applications are being filled out in the Superintendent's office as workers are brought on board.

Nick deKanter asked if workers will have ID's. Mr. Bergholm said they will have stickers on their individual hard hats.

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik asked a school map question – wiring closet – Mr. Bergholm explained.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE:

Dr. Kerble announced that Dr. Barbara Dee has been hired as Director of Special Education beginning April 1st. She has been working for the Department of Education. She is a warm person who understands law, builds relationships with staff and community. There will be a transition period – working with present staff. They will be working on the Special Education budget. He thanked members of the Search Committee.

Program Updates – looking at Special Education – we believe in inclusion – students need specific programs – extra help – supportive help as well.

Angela Bik, Dr. Picone and Dr. Kerble are meeting with Principals – looking at transitions of students as they move from school to school.

This past Friday was one of the best professional days that Dr. Kerble has seen. Dr. Allen Bloom spoke regarding “What is Special Education” – its goals, write objectives, needs of students, sense of uniformity. He left a booklet – this will become a bible for staff.

Discussion:

Steve Cole asked if there will be specific suggestions from Cindy Joyce – when will that occur? Program descriptions – when will they be done? Dr. Kerble said Cindy will help finish – explain to parents – have a meeting.

Steve Cole inquired if, after they have worked together, will the Committee hear from Dr. Dee – to see how she is looking at things and her recommendations.

Bruce Menin said this is his thinking as well – recommendations from Dr. Dee will be useful for the budget.

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION (DESE):

Asst. Supt. Angela Bik informed the Committee of the DESE Regulations and changes to the Bullying Intervention Plan. She recently talked with a member of DESE re: plan and an update to language – to see where we are – this was a good exercise. A short addendum has been added in the next to last page. Ms. Bik explained that we have an anti-bullying plan in place but it is not considered a comprehensive anti-bullying curriculum.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter asked for an explanation of the term prevention specialist. Ms. Bik explained – they gather data – liaisons at district level.

Cheryl Sweeney – not a professional prevention specialist – Ms. Bik and she have discussed this – is rigorous training is required for this? Ms. Bik said yes.

Mayor Holaday said a lot of effort has been put forth – do we have data? – can someone come to speak to the Committee. Ms. Bik said we could do this.

Dan Koen spoke regarding the addendum – the statement at the end – it bothers him – has our plan been approved? Ms. Bik said yes.

Steve Cole said we need to make sure these things are in place. The Committee needs to be closely involved in this.

Ms. Bik said there is a plan – comprehensive curriculum is the problem.

Nick deKanter asked if we should adopt a comprehensive plan.

Steve Cole asked if we are ready for an incident. Dr. Kerble said we are ready. Ms. Bik said we are moving down the road towards a curriculum. The cost would be \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Nick deKanter said what we are doing is better than a comprehensive plan. He sees this as strength.

Audrey McCarthy asked for an example of a serious event. Ms. Bik explained her conversation with the state.

Dr. Kerble said we take this seriously.

Bruce Menin said the first plan was rejected – we have an interesting history.

Cheryl Sweeney said this is significant to all of us – she is uncomfortable with the addendum – asked concerning costs. Ms. Bik said \$25,000 to implement – another \$20,000 to train – additional costs as well. She restated that we do have a plan.

Cheryl Sweeney said she takes exception to the statement.

Steve Cole said that if we can spend \$18,000 to \$20,000 on a Superintendent search – we can put some money into this.

Cheryl Sweeney thanked Angela for all her work.

Mayor Holaday said when we have a specialist – can we have the curriculum broken out for us at each grade level.

Dr. Kerble said let us retool – let us come back – Ms. Bik can talk about programs – invite Andi Egmont.

Cheryl Sweeney said they voted on this – it has been updated twice – do we need to take another vote in the future after the statement is updated.

Dan Koen said it is pretty clear – we voted once – changed – voted on it again.

Nick deKanter said it is important to take another vote.

Cheryl Sweeney asked Ms. Bik to bring back changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Judith Kennedy, 15 Kent St. **CONCERN:** She spoke regarding the need for student programs regarding bullying.

Mark Rossen, 20 Fair Street. **CONCERN:** He said he believes in training teachers – it is most important – it is the School Committees role to make motions and vote. We need strong ideas, motions.

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall Terr. **CONCERN:** You have to ask the questions on each and every issue – he wants to see where the Committee is on the issues.

NEW FY14 BUDGET MEETINGS SCHEDULE:

Dr. Picone spoke regarding the FY14 Budget Hearings Schedule. He said they are working diligently on budget issues. He thanked Dr. Kerble and Ms. Bik for all their work.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney said she would like to hear at Committee level re: changes in Special Education.

Dr. Kerble explained regarding the hearing in Boston tomorrow – Cindy Joyce and a number of teachers from the district will be attending – this will affect the budget. He gave examples. He stated he believes in inclusion.

Nick deKanter said we need answers to questions – what has changed. Dr. Kerble said a change in administration has its effects – these things take time.

Dan Koen questioned the Special Education budget. Dr. Picone said Special Education changes daily.

Dan Koen asked if we have safety valves built in. He stated we need to respect situations as they arise. Dr. Picone said this happens in every district – things change – and this affects the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- **Amount of referrals** – SPED parent referrals – he sent a note to parents – referrals have decreased in the last two months.
- **STEM Forum** – March 13 – terrific – this showcased work done in district
- **Math Fair** – great participation
- **Science Fair** – great participation – pretty good projects
- **Teacher Negotiations** – interest based bargaining – pleased with attitude
- **School fundraising, Gift Solicitation, Advertising and Donations – SC Executive Limitations Policy** – conversation with Cindy Johnson – naming of new rooms at Bresnahan Nock/Molin – work with NEF
- **FYI – Retirement of Facilities – SC Executive Limitations Policy** – bring to the Committees attention.
- **NHS Student Recognitions:**
 - 6th Congressional District High School Art Awards Winners: Rachel Wallace Honorable Mention for “Moray” ; Arianna Fiorenza, Best of Schools for “High Tea”
 - The following students were chosen to exhibit their work at local colleges: Will Clayton at NH Institute of Art; Sawyer Updike, Olivia Reap & Jillian Conway at Endicott College
 - Two juniors selected to compete in Art Allstate this spring: Katie Fitzgerald & Gabrielle Cole
 - NHS Science Fair: First Place – Lauren Healey, Green Roofs, a solution for the future; Second Place – Julia Bradley & Gwenna Emerson, What’s this calcium doing in my drinking water? Third Place – Mary “Obrien & Caterina DiBiase, Five Second Rule
 - Nbpt. Theatre will be one of 14 schools competing in the Finals of the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild
 - Helena Ainsworth recently won the Smith College Poetry Prize (\$500) very prestigious award selected from thousands of entries throughout New England
 - Cyrus Woodman – working with students 2:30 – 4:00; 6:30 – 8:00
 - Laura Sundstrum – Clothes for Hope
 - Drama Team – in state finals
 - NEF – Friday night poker tournament

Nick deKanter recognized volunteers/achievement – Newburyport Boys Basketball Association grade 3-8 – 4 travel teams – 3 made it to the finals

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Superintendent Search Committee

Cheryl Sweeney gave timeline on schedule – moving forward

Finance

Steve Cole said they have not met

Communication

Nick deKanter said they met – discussed managing communication around Public Forum – budget purposes – Saturday budget workshop

Joint Ed

Audrey McCarthy said they have not met

Policy

Bruce Menin said they have not met

Mayor Holaday said Cindy Johnson is getting the list regarding naming ready to go

Negotiations

Cheryl Sweeney said they are meeting – things are going well

Dan Koen said this is an interesting process

Bruce Menin said they are identifying concerns – collegiality

Teacher Evaluation Committee

Meeting Thursday 3-5 here – just an update

ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:13 PM for the purpose of administrative contracts. Committee will not be returning to regular session.