

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, April 23, 2013**

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

**Room 118
Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday (arrived at 8:16 PM, Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:03 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:

Ms. Sweeney read the Newburyport School District Mission Statement.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

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
\$128,331.10

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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:
\$262,068.46

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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 Monday, April 1, 2013.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- April 25th – National Honor Society Induction
- April 26th – Women’s’ Self Defense Class - \$5.00 donation (to charity) 6 – 7:30 PM – Gym
- April 26th – NHS Theatre Production – “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown”
- May 1st – Walk to School Day
- May 2nd – Early Release Day
- May 2nd – Poetry at Salem State
- May 4th – SAT Testing
- May 4th – Junior Prom

NEWBURYPORT YOUTH BILL OF RIGHTS:

Bruce Menin introduced Cyrus Woodman and three other members of the Newburyport Youth Council who explained in depth the Newburyport Youth Bill of Rights and how it was developed.

Discussion:

Dr. Kerble congratulated the four committee members for their leadership and stated that he supported this Youth Bill of Rights.

Audrey McCarthy asked if the majority of this came about to show if Newburyport is a caring community is it not a caring community. Mr. Woodman said it is a delicate mix of both. They are inspired by being the fifth city in the United States to have an endorsement by a City Council – the City Council endorsed this in March.

Cheryl Sweeney asked if this has been rolled out to students and focus groups. Mr. Woodman said yes, and they will have a forum within the next month – the date will be on line. He also stated that they have over 200 signatures of support from students.

Dan Koen stated he thinks this is fantastic – the focus on this is important.

Bruce Menin said this is a terrific presentation – it is clear and articulate.

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To adopt the Newburyport Youth Bill of Rights and to reflect this in the School Committee Policy Manual.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

FY14 BUDGET COST CENTERS PRESENTATION: SPECIAL EDUCATION; SCHOOLS & GROUNDS:

Dr. Jim Picone reviewed the FY14 budgets for Special Education and Schools & Grounds

Special Education:

Dr. Picone stated that this presentation was prepared by Interim Director Cindy Joyce. He introduced Dr. Barbara Dee, Director of Pupil Services, who was present to answer questions. Dr. Dee stated how pleased she was to be in Newburyport and was looking forward to working with everyone. Dr. Picone outlined and explained the Special Education FY14 budget.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated they were hit hard this year by not anticipating tuitions – how have we addressed this. Dr. Kerble said if there is a maybe it will be in the budget. Dr. Picone said that last year it was budget for the actual amount – this year we have added \$150,000 contingency in the budget.

Bruce Menin commented on the change in the number of SPED aides and teachers – it is significant – how does that make our services look. Dr. Kerble stated that we always appreciate staff – we had a lot of support for students, multiple aides in the classrooms – we addressed how to have a continuum of services – full inclusion – disperse students – make this more cost effective. We are trying to prevent students from going out of district – we need to describe our programs. We have put together a description booklet.

Cheryl Sweeney agreed with putting documented teachers with students. She asked for an explanation of district wide descriptions. Dr. Kerble explained.

Nick deKanter asked

- How many students we are servicing in Special Ed. Dr. Kerble said we are servicing 15.3% as of two weeks ago.
- 19 out of district students – this year and next year? Dr. Kerble said this number is to the best of our ability.

Dan Koen inquired regarding program descriptions – will it reduce the number of our out of district students? Dr. Kerble said it will.

Audrey McCarthy said at the beginning of the school year there was a delay in Special Ed services – is that being made up during the school year or during the summer, and will that have a budget impact. Dr. Dee said they are making this up now not during the summer.

Cheryl Sweeney commented on the driving force to reduce costs and keep students in district. Dr. Dee said it will take some time. To bring back students we have to show that we have programs.

Cheryl Sweeney asked if that is included in the draft. Dr. Dee said we want to do this carefully and slowly. They have met with staff and they have looked at the draft.

Cheryl Sweeney asked if there will be feedback from parents. Dr. Dee explained.

Bruce Menin inquired regarding the number of students receiving services – he asked if the figures of students on 504's could be included. Dr. Dee said she will include them.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding 504's – is there a cost associated with this – how much. She formally requested the number of 504's and cost – we need a broader view.

Dan Koen stated this is a great draft of program descriptions – what funds are allocated to the different types of students – which costs us the most – could we have a description of a typical student. Dr. Kerble it would be a students with more intense need – more one on one service. Dr. Dee said this is difficult because all students are different.

Steve Cole said there are over 2,300 students in the district – 15% on IEPs – this means over 200 students receive services – he looks forward to getting the exact number.

Dr. Kerble said Dawn Clay keeps them updated. The number of referrals is down – parents are working with teachers.

Cheryl Sweeney commented on the RTI process. Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik commented on and explained the RTI (Response to Intervention) process.

Mayor Holaday arrived at the meeting – 8:16 PM.

Schools & Grounds:

Dr. Picone introduced Steve Bergholm, Director of Facilities who was present to answer questions. Dr. Picone outlined and explained the Schools & Grounds FY14 budget.

Discussion:

Steve Bergholm explained the new position that is being added and explained the cost savings.

Dan Koen inquired regarding

- LED lights – these are expensive – does the cost come out of maintenance/supplies? Mr. Bergholm explained that this comes out of a grant.
- Sprinkler/fire alarm maintenance – what does that come out of? Mr. Bergholm explained.

Cheryl Sweeney asked Dr. Kerble to explain Mr. Bergholm new position/title. Dr. Kerble explained – included in this is the fact that Mr. Bergholm is the liaison for the building project.

Nick deKanter commented that we appreciate Mr. Bergholm's appearance at budget meetings because he always comes with good news. Just look around the schools – state of all is top notch – he thanked Mr. Bergholm.

Bruce Menin said he is always astounded and thanked Mr. Bergholm for the job he does.

Dan Koen stated that Mr. Bergholm is also chair to the Building Committee – it is a tribute to him.

Steve Cole inquired as to

- How does Mr. Bergholm keep people trained up – is money reflect for this? Mr. Bergholm explained that most vendors give free training.
- He wished Mr. Bergholm the best.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired from Dr. Picone if the front pages in the budget book, dated March 25 are still accurate. Dr. Picone said yes, but the Committee will be getting an update, because we have to reduce figures to meet what the city can afford.

Bruce Menin asked if Dr. Picone could give them a ballpark figure. Dr. Picone said over one million dollars.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosanne Nersessian, 466 Merrimac St. **CONCERN:** She stated she would like to get a better understanding on how we can reduce 14 aides and have only 2 teachers hired. She inquired regarding therapeutic programs, ABA, School Psychologist – she would like to see ratios.

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall Terr. **CONCERN:** He stated he has sincere concern with the budget. He stated he was concerned that at these budget presentations they could not see the screen clearly and hard copies should be passed out. He commented on the Youth Bill of Rights – get comments from students and invite them to come to a public discussion session.

Kim Spinney, 15 Phillips DR **CONCERN:** She hoped the Committee could give comparative costs for students in programs and out of district.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Building Committee:

Dan Koen said technology has been built in design of new schools – he explained the process – a consultant will be at the building committee meeting tomorrow evening. Mayor Holaday said tomorrow’s meeting will address the Bresnahan wiring – there is a tremendous amount of work to do in this area. Ms. Bik explained further – she explained regarding white boards/technology. Bruce Menin asked if people would be allowed to comment at tomorrow’s meeting. Dr. Kerble gave the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting and said it agenda was a full one. Dan Koen said there was a need for speed regarding deciding on the wiring at Bresnahan.

Communications

Nick deKanter gave the agenda for Public Comment at the next four School Committee meetings.

- Building new culture – Bresnahan
- 2nd meeting May – foreign language – Middle School
- June 1st meeting – restorative justice – drugs/alcohol
- June – 2nd meeting – science instruction

Finance

Steve Cole said they met last week – discussed various mandatory costs.

Superintendent Search

Cheryl Sweeney said they are on target – on time. Interviews will conclude tomorrow evening. She will have information for the Committee at the next School Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously