

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Business Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2013

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM**

**Room 118
Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

**Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday (arrived at 7:15 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 7:06 PM. Ms. Sweeney called for a roll call, which found all members present, except Mayor Holaday who arrived at 7:15 PM. 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
\$270,074.02

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:
\$18,200.57

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting of Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Public Hearing meeting of Monday, May 6, 2013.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting of Monday, May 6, 2013.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- MCAS – finished last week
- AP Tests – finished last two weeks
- Shoes for Water Organization – gently used shoes donated to help get clean water to developing countries
- Provident Bank Exhibition – currently 154 NHS students have paintings, drawings, photography and sculptures on display at the Storey Avenue branch of the Provident Bank – these will be on display through the month of May. All are welcome at an Artists’ Reception there on May 23rd from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.
- Scholarship Award Night – this will be help on 5/29/13 at 7:00 PM
- Vespers – will be help 5/27/13
- Seniors last day – Friday
- All students who are not seniors are working hard on their class projects

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTATION:

Lisa Zaleski, Visual & Performing Arts Department Chair discussed the opportunity for the arts becoming a graduation requirement at NHS, to bring NHS into full alignment with MassCore

Proposal to implement graduation requirement for school year 2014

For **2 semester** requirement:

- Incoming 9th graders = 2 semesters
- 10th graders = 1 semester
- 11th graders = 1 semester
- 12th graders = no requirement

For **3 semester** requirement

- Incoming 9th graders = 3 semesters
- 10th graders = 2 semesters
- 11th graders = 1 semester
- 12th graders = no requirement

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired if this was in place today, how many students would not graduate. Ms. Zaleski said very few.

Audrey McCarthy inquired in what area. Ms. Zaleski and NHS Principal Parent explained. *(Mayor Holaday arrived – 7:15PM)*

Bruce Menin asked if this would be 2 semesters out of 8. Ms. Zaleski said yes. Principal Parent explained that they would see how 2 semesters worked out and then may up the requirement at a later time. He explained what electives would count.

Audrey McCarthy said she was excited about this, and asked if it could be worked into the coming year. The answer was yes.

Dan Koen asked how many semesters would this be at first. Principal Parent said 2 semesters.

Steve Cole said it would be helpful to know how many students, who are graduating this year, are graduating with 2 or more semesters.

Angela Bik said this is the last thing we need to do to meet the Mass Core Requirement.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To endorse the two (2) semester proposal to establish the Arts as a requirement for graduation to meet the Mass Core Requirements.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NEF NAMING OPPORTUNITIES – NEW BRESNAHAN:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik explained that the NEF has put together naming opportunities for the new Bresnahan School. During the construction of the High School back in 2002, the School Committee and the NEF worked together to form a policy in the event of opportunities for sections of school buildings to be named. The School Committee Executive Limitations Policy: *School Fund Raising, Gift Solicitation, Advertising and Donations*, was updated on 11/17/08 that speaks to the process. A list of Naming Opportunities prepared by the NEF for the New Bresnahan School was reviewed.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To support the proposal by the NEF for naming opportunities for the New Bresnahan School.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter explained a vetting process.

Bruce Menin inquired who would make the final decision and explained his concerns. It was explained it would be the Superintendent.

Dan Koen echoed Mr. Menin’s concerns – he would like to have the names be approved.

Cheryl Sweeney said she would like to table this for now so things could be made clearer.

Mayor Holaday voiced her concerns and said she too would like to table this.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To table this proposal until a later date.

Motion Passed Unanimously

FY14 BUDGET RESTORATION PRIORITIES:

Priorities were discussed if additional funding were to become available for the FY14 budget. Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik explained that they did this in \$25,000 pieces – the team is recommending the following:

| Item | Cost | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Supplies | \$25,000 | \$25,000 |
| Supplies | \$25,000 | \$50,000 |
| Reading Teacher .5 | \$25,000 | \$75,000 |
| Tech Integrator .5 | \$25,000 | \$100,000 |
| Asst. Principal .5 | \$45,000 | \$145,000 |
| Reading Teacher .5 | \$25,000 | \$170,000 |

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding the following:

- The .5 Reading Teacher – which one? Ms. Bik explained.
- What happened to the Inclusion Specialist? Ms. Bik explained that they have restructured the program – BCBA positions.
- Grade 2 teacher dropped off the Priority List? Ms. Bik explained
- Stem Coordinator – Ms. Bik said it will be held off until we can bring it in with integrity.

Dan Koen inquired regarding the .5 Assistant Principal position – is someone in mind for that? Ms. Bik explained that this would bring the position to 1.0.

Steve Cole inquired if \$170,000 should become available – questioned .5 Assistant Principal. He explained he felt we should have further discussion before we add an administrative position. He was not comfortable adding this. Ms. Bik said this was not an easy call.

Bruce Menin said one of the cuts most disheartening to him was the Virtual High School. He asked if there had been any discussion at all to restore this. He appreciated the NEF stepping up. 17 electives for \$25,000 is “bang for the buck”. Ms. Bik said there had been no discussion for this. Principal Parent said he wasn’t filling all these slots, but that Virtual High School has not been robustly marketed. We need to stimulate student interest in this. Ms. Sweeney said NEF committed \$18,000 for this. Ms. Bik said we gave up Literacy money in trade off with NEF for this – we are committed.

Nick deKanter said Virtual High School is a wonderful way/opportunity for students – schools that market this have students begging for this. He said “Doesn’t it make more sense to wait and see if we have more money before we set our priorities.” Ms. Sweeney said that the Committee asked Dr. Kerble for a list – the Committee was then supposed to give their feedback.

Dan Koen said he supports the \$50,000 going to Supplies – he cannot speak to the others.

Cheryl Sweeney asked Dr. Picone what Supplies were cut. Dr. Picone explained that we cut equipment away from every cost center – general classroom supplies were limited. Teachers bring in supplies.

Steve Cole said that is why the government allows people to write off donations.

Dan Koen questioned the line item for supplies. Dr. Picone explained.

Bruce Menin said the Committee respects the work that has been done. Ms. Bik said teachers are compiling lists of what is needed, but that money is limited.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired if parents would have to make this up with their lists of supplies?

Steve Cole said people have to be reasonable.

SCHOOL COUNCILS UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik updated the Committee on the work of the School Councils. She provided a schedule for the implementation of School Councils for the 2013-2014 school year. She explained that during the Administrative meeting they discussed the School Councils – the areas we are strong in – Dr. Kerble reviewed the School Councils – we have inconsistencies in this area.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked if Ms. Bik would speak to inconsistencies. Ms. Bik explained.

Bruce Menin said he was encouraged that we are bringing consistency to this. He has spoken to Dr. Kerble as to how the Committee will know – we will be updated regularly.

Nick deKanter asked what discussion has taken place around usefulness of School Councils – what kind of discussion are the School Councils having regarding value to schools. Ms. Bik said they did not focus on this. Mr. deKanter said we need to have this discussion.

Steve Cole said the Committee can review minutes of each School Council meeting.

Nick deKanter discussed the value of the School Councils.

Dan Koen asked if we had a mechanism as to a Committee that provides a calendar of “To Do’s”. What is the mechanism?

Bruce Menin we used to have a calendar.

Dan Koen asked if the School Council on the calendar. Ms. Sweeney said no. Mr. Koen said he would like to make sure mechanisms are in place.

Cheryl Sweeney said we have uncovered areas we need to look at – getting minutes is a great idea – start there and move on.

Dr. Picone explained the process of School Councils at his old school district.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, Wm. Hall Dr.

CONCERN: He said he is a big proponent of School

Councils. “Have you ever elected a parent to a School Council? Have you ever been notified of meetings? Have teachers been elected to School Councils?” He feels Councils should be the eyes and ears. He explained the tasks of School Councils. He said the Committee should list requirements as to what they want from these Councils as these are very valuable groups of people. He also asked what is line item by line item.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION (2013-2014) & REPORT OUTS:

Cheryl Sweeney engaged the Committee in a discussion on the effectiveness of Subcommittees, and took recommendations from them on 2013-2014 Subcommittees – whether to keep or add Subcommittees.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter said some areas where we need to take active participation and be involved in were Finance, Policy, Communications – other areas that Ad Hoc serves us better are Curriculum. We need Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Committees to advise the Superintendent. We do not have a great number of committees – these give School Committee members the opportunity to participate. There is a lot more we can do. The structure serves us well.

Bruce Menin said he agreed that curriculum lends itself to Ad Hoc. We should have a Curriculum Committee with occasional Ad Hoc to look at particular ideas. He explained things that a Curriculum Committee could do. He supports establishing this.

Angela Bik said she agreed – she explained past procedure.

Mayor Holaday asked each chair to explain each Sub Committee – what has transpired – put report together for the next meeting – how effective each is.

Cheryl Sweeney said they should be keeping minutes and agendas.

Audrey McCarthy said at the beginning of last year they were doing this – she explained Joint Ed.

Cheryl Sweeney said they currently have a Superintendent Goals Committee – how does the Committee feel about keeping this? Nick deKanter said he has a great deal of confidence now. Mayor Holaday said she felt it was really helpful when they shifted gears into evaluation and suggested they keep it. Cheryl Sweeney said she found it to be helpful.

Steve Cole said we have a strategic five year plan – invest in this plan – articulate further.

Bruce Menin said this is a good idea – he supports it.

Steve Cole said they have been long-term planning – so we can move forward.

Cheryl Sweeney said this is all in place now – stay in place. Teacher Evaluation Committee – should we keep – add two more – long term planning, curriculum achievement and assessment.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To establish two new additional Standing Committees – Long Term Planning and Curriculum Achievement & Assessment.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday said she is concerned – how is work going to get done. We need assessment on present committees.

Bruce Menin said we should be organizing our work – not just creating new committees

Steve Cole said it is useful getting people to attend – helpful information – a lot will evolve as we are ready for it.

Motion Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed – Audrey McCarthy, chair

Not met

Policy – Bruce Menin, chair

Not met

Finance – Steve Cole, chair

Not met – will meet tomorrow at 8:00 AM

Communications – Nick deKanter, chair

They met today – discussed:

- Redesign of district website
- Community volunteer to do template
- Issues with Daily News – lack of coverage – do weekly press releases
- Status process – Superintendent Search
- Getting one or two students to write for News
- School Committee calendar for next year
- Restorative Justice

Building Committee – Dan Koen

The met on the 16th – discussed:

- Nock Molin projects update – Bresnahan update
- Things to add back into project
- Holding project manager, architect to task
- Groundbreaking 7th June – 9:30 – Bresnahan
- Abutters meeting – 7 PM – Bresnahan

Superintendent Search – Cheryl Sweeney

They visited Dover, NH today – Thursday will visit Durham, CT

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent reported on the following:

- She distributed an overview of School District – Greater Newburyport Area Realtors presentation
- CDT 2013 Peace Prize Awards
 - Winners:
 - Bresnahan School
Alexander Downey (Gr. 3, Eileen Whitney’s class)
Lila Gridley, (Gr. 3, Joan Sheehan’s class)
 - Molin School
Matthew Quinn, Grade 4
Hannah, Kiara & Lena Ashe (triplets), Grade 5
 - Nock Middle School

Andrea Samuelson, Grade 7

Spencer Reap, Grade 8

High School

Justin Johnson, Senior (grade 12)

Brianna Salah, Sophomore (grade 10)

- Friday, May 24 – Green Scholars
- Wednesday – GOMI Environmental Club River Valley Charter School – 6:30 – 7-8 Movie Discussion – High School Auditorium

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously