

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, August 20, 2012**

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

**Room 118
Vice-Chairman 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:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 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
\$18,412.88

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$44,321.42

Motion Passed Unanimously

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:
\$284,484.76

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted Present

Minutes

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

VOTED: To table the minutes of Monday, July 30, 2012 until the next school committee meeting to give Nick deKanter time to finish the report of Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble's evaluation.

APPROVAL OF MODEL UN TRIP FOR NHS STUDENTS:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the Model UN trip on November 8 through November 11, 2012 at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

Discussion

Bruce Menin stated he strongly supports this trip.

Dan Koen inquired if this has been done before. Yes it has.

Motion Passed Unanimously

USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST:

Ms. Sweeney stated that Loco Sports, Inc. is requesting the use of the Newburyport High School gymnasium on Sunday, November 4, 2012, for the purpose of the All Women's Half Marathon. Loco Sports would like to use the building for preparation beginning at 6:00 AM. All festivities should be ended at approximately 2:00 PM. She explained that this must be approved by the Committee as this is prior to the 1:00 PM Sunday School Committee policy.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired if there were any issues from this Marathon last year. Dr. Kerble said there were no issues.

Dan Koen inquired if we were renting to them; are they non-profit, are we feeding a private enterprise? Dr. Kerble said they were a for profit company.

Mayor Holaday stated the City Council has to approve the use of the city streets. This type of activity brings people into Newburyport who go to local restaurants and benefit local businesses.

Bruce Menin inquired if Loco brings in support for the city in terms of safety, etc.

Nick deKanter said last year we had a better knowledge of the flow of the facility use. The application is not as complete this year.

Dr. Kerble said there is a lot of set up time involved in this activity.

Steve Cole said at the July 21st event at the high school cars were parked on the lawn of the school, in front of fire hydrants. Cars should not be parked in places they shouldn't; they should park in designated areas.

Bruce Menin said he will support this motion, but he does not want to see alcohol signs from companies who support this race.

Audrey McCarthy said if we have a policy on the use of athletic fields – with this policy in place and the concerns involved, why are we considering this?

Dan Koen stated with people coming into Newburyport, he feels it is good for the community. He inquired as to what were the rates. Dr. Kerble said he will provide this information to the Committee. He said we need to take a hard look at who uses our property.

Nick deKanter asked if we knew if any brewery is sponsoring this race. Are we getting enough money for this. Dr. Kerble said perhaps we need to reassess our policy.

Audrey McCarthy said she wants to consider the public.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To table this until the Committee gets more information regarding parking, no alcohol posting, signage, getting someone from this organization to attend a meeting to answer questions.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble introduced new principals Tara Rossi and Beth Raucci to the Committee.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired from Ms. Rossi and Ms. Raucci as to what brought them to Newburyport. Both spoke and explained.

Nick deKanter inquired from Ms. Rossi and Ms. Raucci as to how do they see the two schools interchanging cultures. Both spoke and explained.

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- Dr. Kerble commented on his School Committee evaluation. He explained that his work ethic has always been to work hard, and do the best you can. He is committed to doing the best he can. His goal is to be proficient in all categories. He invited the members of the Committee to opening day of school.
- Foreign Language update: With recent funds that have been secured the Middle School has been given the opportunity to “hit the ball off the tee” regarding foreign language. The 7th grade will have 30 sessions of foreign language, the 8th grade will have 60 sessions of foreign language, and an on-line virtual learning component has been added.

Discussion:

Dan Koen commented on the availability of technology to students – it is an important component. We also need to know who is being left behind if they do not have the technology to access this.

Bruce Menin said we should take the initiative early in the year to find out who does not have this technology.

Angela Bik said this question can be added to X2.

Steve Cole said on-line accessibility is important for students to be able to access this program. It is important for SPED students. Will foreign language be able to interchange with teams.

Nick deKanter asked for a breakdown of sessions:

6th grade – 20 sessions over a trimester

7th grade – 30 sessions over a half year

8th grade – 60 sessions over a full year

He stated he is worried about the continuity for 6th and 7th grade students – we do not want to lose students.

- 990 Update: NHS Principal Mike Parent submitted a letter to DESE to accept a plan for new hours as part of an action plan. They have accepted this plan. It is as follows:
 1. In the last 10 years, teachers have given students various forms of assessments to measure student progress over a given year. Traditional midterms and finals are two forms of assessments. Portfolios, expositions, argumentative research papers, presentations, and productions are additional forms of assessments.
 2. Traditionally, during a time period called midterms and finals, students’ length of day is shortened and student assessments were taken within a large block of time. As a result, the time on learning was shortened. Teachers spent 1-2 weeks to review concept and skills already tested in the past.
 3. The Administration and department chairs are asking teachers to look at assessments differently. Teachers are asked to consider various forms of assessments. Teachers will still have the option to give traditional midterms and finals. However, the large block of time will be changed to shorter durations.
 4. The length of day during assessment periods (such as the weeks for traditional midterms and finals) will not be reduced. As a result, time on learning for the school year will increase. The aggregate change of hours will help the high school reach approximately 995 hours. This should satisfy the corrective action plan cited in the Civil Rights Program Review.
- Curriculum work this summer: Turnover is still going on – Dr. Kerble will get this information to the Committee when available. He went over the content of curriculum maps.

Angela Bik – She received new information today regarding Science standards. We will know in the Spring regarding standards from the State. Teachers are working hard this summer. Regarding lab work – science labs are not mapped separately. Lab work is embedded in curriculum maps.

The new system is a collaborative process – we are working with teachers.

Discussion:

Steve Cole said he wants to know and follow maps as they are updated. He wants to see a return on our investment. A trickle down evaluation system is not timely enough for me.

Dr. Kerble said we observe our teachers right from the get-go; he has faith in our teachers and how they will perform.

Bruce Menin asked for an explanation of the process. Ms. Bik explained.

Bruce Menin asked if the old maps were still posted. Ms. Bik said yes and when the new maps are available they will be updated and then they can see what changes have been affected.

Nick deKanter asked who has access to what. Ms. Bik explained.

Nick deKanter asked if there is any state aid for standards work. Ms. Bik explained.

Dr. Kerble: Department heads will be present at the second meeting in September to answer questions regarding curriculum mapping.

- **Student Safety:** Beacon Coalition meeting (action plan to address HS YRBS), anonymous tip line, DA roundtable discussion with area superintendents.
- **Building Assets among leadership:** 24 hour Retreat at the Essex Inn Conference and Retreat Center, sponsored by the Beacon Coalition.
- **New Teacher Evaluation Contract Language:** A new draft has been finished after great cooperation.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin said he was impressed with the teachers and what they brought to the table.

Cheryl Sweeney said there was a tremendous amount of trust built. She reviewed the process that had taken place.

Dr. Kerble said he is going to have a standing committee in place.

- **School Calendar:** some language needs to be added re: kindergarten

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION:

Ms. Sweeney explained the background information regarding the School Committee self-evaluation. It is a three part process:

1. Planning the evaluation through a coordinated effort of the chair, vice-chair and the membership. In addition, it is helpful to ask for input from the Superintendent who can be a knowledgeable and constructive critic of school committee operations.
2. Completing the evaluation within a timeframe that allows the committee to integrate the process with other strategic planning, goal setting, budgeting, or other critical policymaking activity.
3. Processing the data and using time to study the information, the meaning of the information and the plan for improving school committee operations.

The areas of the School Committee Self-Evaluation are as follows:

Governance
Operations
Member Relations
Committee/Superintendent Relations
Strategic Planning and Fiscal Management
Community Relations
Conduct of Meetings

Each category was reviewed by the Committee and each member commented on various aspects and ratings of different areas. Ms. Sweeney asked Committee members to e-mail her their individual assessments and she will compile a report from them.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

NEW MISSION STATEMENT:

Bruce Menin gave background information regarding the Mission Statement. He submitted a first draft from the Policy Committee for discussion and updating. It is as follows:

**Proposed Mission Statement for the
Newburyport Public Schools**

Newburyport Public Schools prepare students to live successfully and meaningfully in the community and the world. We teach them to collaborate, to think creatively and critically, and to communicate effectively.

Our schools are safe and inclusive settings, academically rigorous, with high standards for comprehensive curricula, and high expectations for student and staff behavior, growth and performance. We actively promote the health and wellness of all of our students.

We engage the entire community in the education process.

Committee members commented on the draft, and made suggestions for revisions. Mr. Menin asked members to send him any further suggestions.

MSBA REPORT:

This was postponed until the next meeting.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications: Nick deKanter reported that a dozen topics came before the committee for discussion. A survey "What's on your Mind" will be done. A calendar with a list of approaches that need to be done during the year will be done.

Policy: Bruce Menin said that a new policy for the recommended MASC policy language for student health services and emergency plans is before the committee for adoption.

Motion:

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To adopt the recommended MASC Policy language for Student Health Services and Emergency Plans – August 20, 2012.

The Newburyport School Committee consistent with the principle of Executive Limitations established through our Policies and Practices, require that the Superintendent establish and implement the following policies:

'Student Health Services and Requirements,' M.G.L.
71:53;54;54A;54B;55;55B;56;57;69:8A

'Emergency Plans,' M.G.L. 69:8A Section 363 of Chapter 159 of the Acts of 2000.

That these policies be adopted and implemented by September 1, 2012; and that the Superintendent utilize language for each of these provided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees prior to having the District and the School Committee review and modify as needed their existing policies, to ensure full and active compliance with all state regulations covering Student Health Services and Emergency Plans.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:59 PM. The Committee will not be returning to regular session.

Motion Passed Unanimously