

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 19, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:14 PM**

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

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

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced the cast from the upcoming NHS musical, "Hair", opening on November 30. The cast sang a musical number from the play "*Where Do I Go*".

Dr. Kerble also introduced the boys' Cross Country team and their coach Don Hennigar. He acknowledged the team who recently won the Eastern MA Div. State Championship. Coach Hennigar has been named Coach of the Year.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee 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 Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant
\$41,228.02

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$352,734.08

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes

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, November 5, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT:

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

- Wednesday - Color Day
- Homecoming Dance
- Wednesday Evening - Dessert Auction at City Hall to benefit the Senior Class
- Thursday – Annual Football game between Newburyport and Amesbury

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble reported on the following:

- School Principals recently attended a meeting in Northfield.
- Concussion Update – testing for cognitive abilities – all of our athletes, including those who were involved in fall sports, will be tested in December. The Beverly trainer will meet with our trainer.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday commented that she was glad to see this brought back. This is important, and cannot be eliminated. A student was hurt and there was no cognitive ability testing results to compare his current tests to. This is a 20 minute test. She inquired if this information will go out to parents. Dr. Kerble said yes.

- School improvement plans will be presented to the Committee in upcoming meetings.
- WIN update at Molin (What I Need Intervention Program) is 3 days a week. This takes place during the last half hour of school day. He thanked Principal Rossi.

SPRING 2012 MCAS PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Dr. Kerble and Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik presented the results of the spring 2012 MCAS testing to the Committee. They presented the findings and actions taken last year and then presented actions implemented for this year. Dr. Kerble explained the English Language Arts, Math and Science Cohorts, and Ms. Bik explained the Plan of Actions.

Discussion:

Dan Koen commented on the 4th grade disconnect – he asked the question “What happens in this grade, as there is a tremendous drop-off”. Dr. Kerble explained and commented that the test itself is different.

Dan Koen inquired status wise – Ms. Bik explained we are at level 2 – AYP is changing. Math Coach Judy Wojtczak spoke regarding the Grade 3, 4 math tests.

Dan Koen inquired if other districts have a similar trend in the 4th grade. Ms. Bik said there is some dip, but not as severe as our district.

Mayor Holaday said she was encouraged to hear last year that Bresnahan was beginning to partner. Do we have concerns about implementation of Common Core? We need information on this. Ms. Bik explained. Cheryl Sweeney said we are planning on presenting information on this at a future date.

Mayor Holaday said there are a number of students who fell in the Needs Improvement and asked for some discussion on this. Ms. Bik and Ms. Wojtczak commented on this.

Nick deKanter commented on grade 3, 4 math – he suggested we dig in to this and unpack this. What are the unintended consequences – hour plus 10 – what are we cutting – what is being affected. Ms. Bik explained different places - she explained transition times and spoke to unintended consequences.

Steve Cole inquired regarding the following:

- English Language Arts – Needs Improvement 7/12 – what are we doing for those kids – there are approximately 12 kids over six grades.
- Math fluency – what are we doing grade to grade to support that. Ms. Wojtczak explained.
- Are there any fun things kids can do – Ms. Wojtczak explained time is needed.

- Science – assessment driving instruction

Bruce Menin said given all the plans we have, what can we do differently to support parents? Ms. Wojtczak and Ms. Bik explained.

Bruce Menin suggested we do a video.

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding the cost of Reflex Math curriculum. Ms. Wojtczak said \$2,600 per site. Mayor Holaday inquired if NEF could supplement this. Ms. Sweeney said perhaps.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding the number of students Non-SPED, in warning, or needs improvement – have we some process in place to deal with these students. Dr. Kerble said students have been identified – teachers are aware. Ms. Bik said some things are in place.

Nick deKanter asked how do parents know what to do – where do they go for help, direction? Ms. Bik and Ms. Wojtczak explained.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** He commented that the Committee needs to follow up on topics that are important to them. They need to ask questions – assessments need to be done on a regular basis – they need to follow up with the public and not let information get put on the back burner. They need to prioritize what is important to them.

Rosanne Nersessian, 466 Merrimac St. **CONCERN:** She commented that students need structure – the current schedule does not support this – there is a limitation to what our kids can handle. She asked how do we get in touch with people – how long before you can expect a reply. Why was the retreat cancelled again? She does not understand what the interactive notebook is. Regarding documenting what our programs are – inclusion – we do not have a therapeutic program – inclusion is not appropriate for everyone.

MSBA UPDATE:

Dan Koen reported on the following:

Bresnahan – the design development cost summary is done – add alternates done – weather canopies, etc. Prequalification process – 7 or 8 general contractors applied – 70 sub-bidders. He reported on the structural plan approval process.

Nock/Molin – Negotiations underway with Gilbane contractors – CMS at Risk Company – selection committee had ranking system – they were #1.

Mayor Holaday spoke to the approved issues.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired if the canopies at Bresnahan were in or out. Mayor Holaday explained – the side one will be there – front may be in.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications - Nick deKanter reported the sub-committee met and discussed the following:

- The public conversation that was discussed today.
- Budget – we would like the December 17th Public Conversation to be held at 6:30 – 7:30 PM and have the School Committee meeting start at 7:30 PM. We should publicize, post this, notify parents and media. He asked the Committee to approve this.
Ms. Sweeney asked for a show of hands for approval of this – It was approved.
- Discussion of educational technology – December 3rd – ½ hour discussion.
- Retreat
- Discussion to have the ability to have meetings ½ hour later

Superintendent Goals – Mayor Holaday said they met with the Superintendent on the 8th – he was asked to give them bullet points – we will meet again on the 29th at 10:00 AM.

Ms. Sweeney said the Retreat has been re-scheduled for Wednesday evening, November 28th, 6:00 to 9:00 PM in the High School Library.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:14 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously