

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, December 17, 2012**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:32 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**

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday asked for a moment of silence in memory of the 26 people slain, 20 of them small children, at Sandy Hook, Newtown, CT.

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:32 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 Committee Mission Statement.

Mayor Holaday introduced Dr. Jim Picone, the new interim business manager for the Newburyport School District. Dr. Picone commented on his pleasure being here.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Alex Bradley, 146 Hale Street                CONCERN:**     Past NHS Student Representative Alex Bradley commented on his education at NHS, which provided him with the tools to succeed at college.

**Pat Leavitt, NTA President                CONCERN:**     Ms. Leavitt, on behalf of the NTA, spoke to the calendar issue concerning early release days. Teachers are in favor of early release days. These days will be used to address critical issues – the new teacher evaluation process, workshops, etc.

**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  
**\$34,472.03**

**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:  
**\$283,941.91**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **Minutes**

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, December 3, 2012, as amended.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- Winter Concert – the NHS Winter Concert is being held tonight.
- Holiday Grams – The National Honor Society will be selling Holiday Grams Friday.
- Gallery Art Exhibit – The Gallery Art Exhibit will be held in room 118 Friday
- Masthead – NHS publication “Masthead” is coming out later this week

## **OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST:**

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced Mike Pirollo, Nock Educator who is requesting permission for an overnight trip to NYC for 18 cast members of his upcoming Middle School play.

### **Background information:**

18 cast members of an upcoming Middle School musical play will be attending the Broadway Classroom Theater Workshop – departure time Friday, January 11, 2013 at 5:00 AM to Saturday, January 12, 6:00 PM. The two days will be filled with activities – total cost per student is \$165 which includes all expenses with the exception of spending money, Friday lunch and dinner, and Saturday lunch. The cost of Friday night’s dinner will be \$20. This dinner will have a preplanned menu, and money for this will be collected when students board the bus on Friday morning. Chaperones are Mike Pirollo and Kristen Quinn – ratio 9 students to 1 adult.

**Fundraising** – Individual: Ad sales to the Nock Theatre Playbill – 100% of students’ individual sales go directly to their trip. Full page ad is \$100, half page is \$50, business card size is \$25. Group: Nock Musical will sponsor a 6<sup>th</sup> grade social in partnership with the Nock Student Council. All proceeds will go to the trip.

### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the overnight field trip to New York from Friday, January 11, to Saturday, January 12, 2013 for 18 cast members for the upcoming school musical, which will take place the first week of April . Chaperones are Mike Pirollo and Kristen Quinn.

### **Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** spoke in favor of this trip and stated it sounded great.

**Dr. Kerble** thanked Mr. Pirollo and Mrs. Quinn. He stated he was pleased with the amount of students that will be participating in this musical. Mr. Pirollo said there are approximately 80 students participating. The play will be taking place the first week of April.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **PRE-SCHOOL PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Kerble introduced Brown School Principal Amy Sullivan and teacher Suzanne Simon who updated the Committee on the new pre-school model implemented in 2012-2013, discussed the pre-school tuitions for 2013-2014, reviewed the lottery process and discussed the deposits refundable vs. non-refundable. Principal Sullivan recommended that, due to the fact that the tuition was increased in extended day program and a higher tuition was set for the full day program last year, she requested that the 2013-2014 tuitions not be increased. Tuitions are set for individual families based upon the following criteria:

**Typical students** pay full tuition for the program for which they are enrolled. There are 9 typical spots in each class.

Families of tuition paying students may also be eligible for the Department of Early Education and Care sliding fee/co-payment scale for either a reduced or free tuition rate. There is no way of knowing how many students at the time of registration if students accepted into the program will be eligible for free or reduced tuition.

**Special education students** receive free tuition if they have 2 or more related services on their IEPs. There is room in each class for up to 6 students on IEPs. Not all students on IEPs receive free tuition, only students with 2 or more services. Therefore, there are some special education students who pay tuition.

**Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** asked how they differentiated language based model – IEP. Principal Sullivan explained. She stated they fell \$45,000 short of projected revenue.

**Dan Koen** asked where the sliding fee got its roots. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Dan Koen** asked what was the reason for a deposit. Principal Sullivan and Dr. Kerble explained the need for a non-refundable deposit. Dan Koen suggested that it be called a “registration fee” instead of a deposit.

**Steve Cole** asked what are we going to do to narrow projections. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Steve Cole** asked if there is any time spent in sitting down with parents to figure out which program is best for them. Principal Sullivan said yes, and explained.

**Nick deKanter** asked how will they get information out to parents. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Mayor Holaday** asked if an analysis of revenue projections has been done. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Dan Koen** inquired regarding the sliding scale, and wondered if there was a flaw in this somewhere. He said perhaps we need a new scale. Principal Sullivan explained. She also explained regarding grants.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired regarding tuition and impact on building based level – she inquired if staff is responsible for doing all this. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked what we were currently doing for tuitions that we are owed. Principal Sullivan explained.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired from Dr. Kerble as to what was being done at Central Office to help with collecting overdue tuitions. Dr. Kerble explained.

**Dr. Kerble** stated that Principals of our school buildings has to be the Principal of that building, not a tax collector. This task will be taken on by the Central Office – we must make people accountable.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired if a vote was needed tonight. Principal Sullivan said she hoped for a vote.

**Mayor Holaday** said she felt the Committee needed more information regarding Special Education changes.

**Steve Cole** said he hoped Principal Sullivan could project some numbers regarding Special Ed.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve the 2013-2014 procedural changes due to the Budget Deficit as to the following:

- **Non-Refundable Deposits**
- **Lottery for new students**
- **Sliding fee available to families only if the district budget can support it. A 2<sup>nd</sup> lottery will be drawn for families requesting financial assistance once the budget is determined.**
- **Tuition collected through an on-line payment system and overseen at the central office level.**

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked Principal Sullivan to give the Committee some hard numbers regarding the procedural changes regarding special education students, so that a vote on this particular item can be voted on at the next meeting. Principal Sullivan said she will provide this information.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**COMMON CORE PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Kerble introduced Emily Russin, ELA Coach/Specialist Pre-K-3; Graceann Remmes, ELA Coach/Specialist 4-8; Judy Wojtczak, Math Coach/Specialist PreK-8. Dr. Kerble and Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik presented to the Committee information on Newburyport School's progress on transition to the Common Core. The presentation included the following:

- Common Core State Standards Initiative
- Primary Intent of the Common Core Standards
- Why Common Core State Standards?
- ELA/Literacy Key Instructional Shifts
- Math Key Instructional Shifts
- Adding Pre-K Standards to the K-12 Common Core
- Transitioning MCAS to the New Standards
- NPS Work Underway
- Looking Ahead

**Discussion:**

**ELA/Literacy Key Instructional Shifts**

**Nick deKanter** asked what was meant by close reading. Ms. Bik explained

**Mayor Holaday** asked the ELA coaches present to comment. Emily Russin stated the biggest changes are going to be at the elementary level, not the high school. She explained why this is a welcome shift.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired if the Committee could see a sampling of books. Ms. Bik said of course.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said she is interested in the roll out and training of teachers.

**Math – Key Instructional Shifts**

**Judy Wojtczak** spoke to the deep understanding of this.

**Transitioning MCAS to the New Standards**

**Mayor Holaday** inquired regarding new standards for Math and ELA

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked what does this do to the curriculum maps the teachers have been doing. Ms. Bik explained.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired if there was state support for this. Ms. Bik and Emily Russin explained.

**Mayor Holaday** asked if were sharing with other districts. Graceann Remmes explained.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To move item 11, School Committee Budget Priorities, to the agenda for the next School Committee meeting.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**2013-2014 SCHOOL CALENDAR DISCUSSION:**

**Background Information:**

Dr. Kerble has been in discussion with Pat Levitt, NTA President, in regards to the three calendar scenarios. She is discussing with her E-Board.

Dr. Kerble explained why an early vote is needed on the calendar. He polled the teachers, and spoke with Pat Levitt. The E Board wanted only Draft 1 or 2 – they would not consider draft 3. Angela Bik supports Draft 2, but will go along with the majority.

**Steve Cole** said he counted 16 vacation days – we can save a vacation day – he explained.

**Dan Koen** said his worry was snow days.

**Cheryl Sweeney** wondered if they would have contractual issues if they voted this. They will not.

**Draft #1** – Dr. Kerble stated teachers support Draft #1

**Cheryl Sweeney** said lets have conversation regarding early release days.

**Mayor Holaday** said she would like to get rid of 3 of the early release days. She will reluctantly support this calendar this year. Had not Pat Levitt spoke, she would not have supported this.

**Audrey McCarthy** stated she has said she would not support this calendar, and she will not support it – she has looked at calendars of north shore schools and no one does business like this.

**Bruce Menin** said he has tried to be as judicious as he can be regarding early release days – the impact – having kids out of school – provides some kind of meaningful enrichment things for kids to do so that teachers can have their trainings – issues – what’s happening with kids – he is ready for conversation.

**Dan Koen** said he supports Mr. Menin in his vision – will solve the issue of having students released – will help time on learning.

**Dr. Kerble** said he talked to Andi Egmont – he is very open to suggestions – realistically provide things to have some students stay in school.

**Nick deKanter** said he is having trouble with this calendar – with time being used – do not see new and fresh approach – we need creativity – half days do not provide full days of instruction – we need pilot programs.

**Dr. Kerble** said this is his 37<sup>th</sup> year – he has worked on a lot of calendars – he welcomes ideas.

**Audrey McCarthy** said this was a creative idea – eliminate some half days have full days of staff development.

**Bruce Menin** spoke to the above issues.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To accept Draft #1 of the 2013-2014 calendars.

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>Bruce Menin</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Steve Cole</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Cheryl Sweeney</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Mayor Holaday</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Nick deKanter</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Audrey McCarthy</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Dan Koen</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**4 – Yes      3 – No**

**Motion Passed**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Rosanne Nersessian, 466 Merrimac St.**

**CONCERN:** She stated she supports Audrey McCarthy.

**Judith Kennedy, 15 Kent St.**

**CONCERN:** She spoke of her concern regarding the safety of our schools in lieu of the Sandy Hook tragedy and asked what measures were being taken to improve them. Dr. Kerble explained what safety measures have been taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Steve Cole it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session regarding administrative contracts at 10:40 PM.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Bruce Menin - Yes**

**Steve Cole - Yes**

**Cheryl Sweeney – Yes**

**Mayor Holaday – Yes**

**Nick deKanter – Yes**

**Audrey McCarthy – Yes**

**Dan Koen - Yes**