

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, December 3, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:08 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**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble announced the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence and introduced the winner Henry Jacqz, his parents, and High School principal Mike Parent. He congratulated Henry and spoke of his many accomplishments. The young man received a standing ovation from those present.

ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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.

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 Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant
\$257,226.38

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:
\$70,546.74

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, November 19, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Background information:

Coach Paul Yameen and the NHS Ice Hockey team is requesting permission for an overnight trip to Cape Cod on December 26 & 27 to attend a hockey tournament. They will be staying at the Cape Cod Hyannis Resort and Conference Center. The cost is \$100 per player.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the request for an overnight trip for the NHS Ice Hockey team on December 26 & 27 to attend a hockey tournament.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired as to how it was decided who was going on the overnight trip. Mr. Yameen said that just the Varsity Team would be going. The Boosters will be assisting financially if needed.

Principal Parent stated that there are 57 students in the hockey program, and that this was coach Yameen's tenth year. This is a Division 2 team, but they were invited by Division 1 to play in this tournament.

Dan Koen stated he hoped to see a freshman team in the future. Coach Yameen commented on the team participation and his record. He stated he loves his job.

Motion Passed unanimously

NHS SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2012-2014 PRESENTATION:

NHS Principal Mike Parent introduced members of the NHS School Council. Principal Parent and members of his Council presented the 2012-2014 NHS School Improvement Plan to the Committee. Principal Parent stated that many hours, research and discussion went into the development of this plan. The Plan included School Culture, Scheduling Process, Academics Offered, and Curriculum/Evaluation.

Discussion:

School Culture:

Bruce Menin asked how did they see Restorative Justice played out. Principal Parent said this will be a case by case basis.

Nick deKanter inquired regarding web site development and what did they expect from these groups. Principal Parent explained that they are getting parents to help them – this is a community outreach project.

Scheduling Process:

Audrey McCarthy inquired regarding the Waiver Process – do you still have to go to department heads? Principal Parent said he did not think so.

Dan Koen inquired regarding the X2 process and parent notification. Principal Parent explained.

Nick deKanter inquired regarding the X2 portal usage by parents. What are we doing to get the message out? Principal Parent explained how this is a shared responsibility between parents and the school.

Academics Offered:

Bruce Menin inquired regarding the 3 FTE's – what would this affect. Principal Parent explained that this is a student directed schedule, and these would be used where needed.

Bruce Menin stated that he encouraged Principal Parent to have conversations with Salem State regarding partnerships.

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding on-line courses/dual enrollment. Principal Parent said everything is on the table.

Curriculum/Evaluation:

The question was asked regarding coaches – how many are there. Principal Parent explained there are two trained over the summer to work with department heads – in wellness and the arts. They hope to have a science one.

Bruce Menin asked for comments from the Council members present. Comments were:

- There is a lot of balance
- They are pleased with it over all
- The benchmarks are data driven
- This was a consensus report

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS School Improvement Plan 2012-2014.

Motion Passed Unanimously

PRE-SCHOOL NEW MODEL UPDATE:

Postponed until the December 17th meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble reported on the following:

- He commented on the life-coaching that Coach Paul Yameen gives his students. He is a terrific person.
- Playing fields – This is being worked on as we speak. Several suggestions have been put forth – Pipe Stave Hill field, refurbishing the field behind the Middle School. We will know more regarding costs later.
- SPED update – Dr. Jim Picone will join us Wednesday – do a profit/loss projection – move SPED forward in a positive way – there will be major changes in the month of December.
- Connections to Northern Essex Community College (NECC) – Dr. Kerble and Principal Parent met with Ellen Grondin regarding the transition of 18-22 year olds at NECCO.
- Place Based Education – Dr. Kerble will resurrect the committee – we will look at what we want for our students.
- HAIR – Dr. Kerble attended the Saturday performance – it was wonderful. He was pleased to see so many students participating.

Bruce Menin commented on the wonderful art work which was on display in the School Committee meeting room.

2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE:

Background Information:

We recently became aware that the MCAS long composition test is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The current approved 2012-2013 calendar has Monday, March 18, as a full staff development day with no school for students. Administrators and teachers would like to have Monday 3/18 as a day to acclimate students to the long composition the next day. Superintendent Kerble is recommending that we change the full staff development day to Friday, March 15, in order to better serve our students and staff.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the change of the full staff development day from Monday, March 18, 2013, to Friday, March 15, 2013, on the 2012-2013 school calendar.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired as to why the need for this. Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik explained that this was to prepare the students for test taking.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Vice-Chairman Sweeney stated that the School Calendar will be amended to reflect this change.

FIRST READING: SCHOOL CALENDARS 2013-2014 & 2014-2015:

Superintendent Kerble explained the purpose of this agenda item is to review a 2-year plan for school calendars, 2013-2014 & 2014-2015.

Background Information:

Due to the two construction projects over the next two years, we should look at planning out 2 years of school calendars. In 2013-2014, if school were to begin prior to Labor Day, it would allow for an earlier in June 2014 end. Then by starting the 2014-2015 school year after Labor Day, it would allow for 11 weeks of summer vacation and additional construction time without students present. At the new Bresnahan site there is concern that exterior work, i.e., driveways may not be done until Labor Day. I am presenting several drafts for 2013-2014, and one draft for 2014-2015.

The prior to Labor Day start will need to be negotiated with NTA as the contract states in Article VIII – Period of Employment:

Effective with the 2006-2007 contract year, if the first Monday in September falls on the 5th, 6th, or 7th, the Superintendent shall have the option of starting the work year one week before Labor Day. In the event that the Superintendent exercises this option, all provisions of the Agreement to take effect on that September 1 shall take effect with the first workday. Teachers shall be notified by February 28 of the calendar for the next school year. In the event that the Superintendent exercises this option, no work or school will be scheduled on the Friday immediately preceding Labor Day.

In September of 2013, Labor Day is Monday, September 2.

Discussion:

Audrey McCarthy commented on having to vote on this proposal at the next meeting. She had concerns regarding the calendar – she spoke regarding how many full weeks of school there were in these proposals.

Mayor Holaday stated that the fallout from parents last year was horrific – they wanted change in early release days.

Steve Cole inquired regarding the School Building Sub-Committee – will they be working on fees or fines for contractors for late construction?

Bruce Menin stated that regarding early release days – he felt it would be imprudent to discuss this before contract negotiations.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired from Dr. Kerble if he has had conversations with administrators and teachers regarding early release days. Dr. Kerble said he will have conversations with them.

Dan Koen inquired if they normally vote this early – can we vote on start and end date – is this an option? Dr. Kerble explained.

Dan Koen recommended they vote.

Steve Cole stated that the best thing is to think about the continuity of education for the children.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to why the expediency of a vote.

Mayor Holaday stated she was having a meeting tomorrow with MSBA and will ask that question.

Dr. Kerble said we may need to vote on a calendar.

Dan Koen said he felt that they need more time for discussion.

Cheryl Sweeney said we will garner as much information within the next two weeks as possible.

Audrey McCarthy said this is an opportunity to be creative.

Dr. Kerble said he welcomed any suggestions and/or discussion.

Cheryl Sweeney suggested they form a very short ad hoc or full meeting devoted to this.

Mayor Holaday said a lot depends on MSBA.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rosanne Nersessian, 466 Merrimac St. **CONCERN:** She thanked Dr. Kerble for the attention to Special Education commitment. Regarding X2 – she said there is no consistency between the schools in its use – it would be great if we had one consistent system. She thanked the Committee for their great discussion on the calendar.

Nick deKanter asked for a point of privilege in order to sing Happy Birthday to a member of the audience – Dr. Ralph Orlando. This was done.

MSBA UPDATE:

Dan Koen reported on the following:

- Gilbane is still in contract negotiations
- The selection committee is still vetting GC's and subs for Bresnahan

Mayor Holaday said MSBA will be here tomorrow. The next school building meeting will be on the 19th.

Dan Koen said he will inquire as to fines, etc.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Education – Audrey McCarthy said they met tonight. They discussed the MSBA update, stadium fundraising, and baseball fields. The next meeting will be in January.

Superintendent's Goals – Mayor Holaday said they will meet in January.

Policy – Bruce Menin said they are working on rules changes – he asked the Committee to send request to him.

Finance – Steve Cole said they will be meeting tomorrow at 7:30 AM.

Communications – Nick deKanter said they have not met. He reminded people that at the next School Committee meeting on the 17th Public Conversation will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Public Conversation will be regarding budget priorities. The Communications sub-committee will take place at 5:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session regarding administrative contracts at 9:12 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

Motion Passed Unanimously