

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:02 PM**

**Room 118  
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

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

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Holaday announced the City Council vote to begin work on “Restore Stadium”.

**FY15 BUDGET PRESENTATION:**

Superintendent Susan Viccaro stated this is an exciting time to be in Newburyport. There are a few new things in the budget – this is a level funded budget. She presented the FY15 budget which consisted of the following:

System-Wide	\$3,843,144
Bresnahan School	\$4,289,965
Molin School	\$1,650,055
Middle School	\$2,736,691
High School	\$5,623,142
Maintenance	\$1,824,473
Special Education	\$7,600,748
Benefits	\$ 515,588

**Total**                                 **\$ 28,083,806**

**Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** asked High School Principal Mike Parent for core classes/class size. Principal Parent said in the high 20's, mid 20's, low 20's and mid teens. This is dictated by registration. This is not out of range as to what we have now. Labs will need balancing – try to keep these numbers at 24.

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated they plan to do the registration at NHS earlier next year, so we can have accurate numbers at budget time.

**Bruce Menin** questioned technology. Superintendent Viccaro explained.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Steve Cole, & Hallisey DR.**

**CONCERN:** He read a letter re: cutting the school psychologist

position, as follows:

As a parent and someone who has 25 years of experience working with adolescents and at-risk youth in out of district placements, I have a lot of concern about losing the school district psychologists position in the FY15 budget.

Part of my experience included being Harbor Schools and Family Services public school liaison with Amesbury, Triton, Pentucket, Whittier, Haverhill and Newburyport school districts.

Providing appropriate and effective services to students with social/emotional/mental health and behavioral issues helps keep these students in the school district, and moving forward with their lives.

Addressing these issues is the most effective way to keep schools safe, especially today.

Currently, educators and support staff provide services for a number of students through our school

district's therapeutic programs. Knowledgeable planning, programming, supervision and development are vital to help staff work with these students. The school district psychologist position has provided continuity throughout the district for these programs, through listening, acknowledging staff concerns and then working with staff to find solutions.

Over the last year and a half, we have had much change in special education and pupil services. It is important to provide continuity, as many programs are relatively new, or have changed. Some may be finalizing mission statements and entrance criteria, for example.

It requires a certain level of expertise and experience from a school district psychologist to help implement these programs so that they may fully serve our students.

Tonight, I ask the School Committee to consider what our school district needs, to ensure consistency in the programs we currently offer. And, with the reduction of the school district psychologist's position, what are we losing and how will we compensate for it?

**Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR.** **CONCERN:** He stated transparency is not clear at meetings. The High School is in serious neglect; they have lost electives, need more. AP Chemistry, AP Psychology classes are non-existent. The Engineering Program is not off the ground.

**Discussion:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** explained the reason for the new custodian at the Bresnahan School.

**Anthony Lorenzo, Hawthorne Rd.** **CONCERN:** Addressed the concern regarding the School Psychologist position. He is dissatisfied with the budget process. We need to give kids opportunities.

**Audrey McCarthy** inquired if we have a Psychologist now. Yes

**Michael Luekens** inquired as to what we are losing with cutting a district wide Psychologist.

Superintendent Viccaro explained. She stated we are not losing anything; probably gaining as staff is well trained.

**Bruce Menin** stated that when you cut something, we very rarely get it back.

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated we have a solid foundation in place to handle things.

**Bruce Menin** stated we should begin earlier, have conversations regarding the budget process. He supports this budget.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the FY15 Budget of \$28,083,806 as proposed by our Leadership Team.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:44 PM

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Tuesday, April 29, 2014**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:45 PM**

**Room 118  
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Holaday call the Regular Meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motions:**

**Warrants:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$445,421.40**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted Present**

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

**VOTED:** To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.  
**\$101,133.60**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes:**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, March 31, 2014.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted present**

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- ⤴ School is back from break. The seniors have only a few weeks left of school.
- ⤴ NHS Theater presents Chicago, starting May 9<sup>th</sup>.
- ⤴ Provident Bank Art Show currently on display at the Story Avenue branch of the bank.
- ⤴ This Wednesday is the N.A.H.S. Induction ceremony.
- ⤴ Thursday is an early release day.
- ⤴ May 3rd, students take the SATs
- ⤴ May 5<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of the AP tests

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR**

**CONCERN:**

He stated he was dismayed by the vote on the budget deficiencies that needed to be fixed – dismayed by agenda for this meeting – didn't

do a good job.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Viccaro gave a technology update to the Committee. ITC consultants came, toured the buildings, formulating surveys to go out to students and staff – “What do you have”. On May 19 a large committee will meet to look at the website itself; will award a contract to a vendor to go out in the Spring for a new website for our district website.

She stated she is in process of getting a preliminary report from a consultant. We will have a very bright future.

#### **Discussion:**

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** said it is nice to have new outlooks from someone who is looking at things with a different lens.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if there were any surprises. The Superintendent will give us more options.

**Nick deKanter** said he was thrilled with this direction.

**Nick deKanter** was volunteered by the Committee to be on this committee.

**Bruce Menin** inquired if this survey will access what kids have available to them. Yes

**Superintendent Viccaro** said that Policies and Procedures around this will have to be updated.

The **NHS Environmental Club** was recognized for excellence.

**Real World Design Challenge** tied for third place.

Extraordinary relief applied for Circuit Breaker awarded \$117,942.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Policy:**

**Bruce Menin** stated they have not met

#### **Fin Con:**

**Steve Cole** stated they have not met

#### **Joint Ed**

**Cheryl Sweeney** said they will meet the first Monday in May

#### **Curriculum**

**Michael Luekens** said they will meet on May 20 at 5:30

**Cheryl Sweeney** said she discussed with the mayor creating a Curriculum Committee – Michael Luekens will serve as chair.

### **ADJOURNMENT – EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

#### **Motion**

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Michael Luekens it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session at 8:06 PM for the purpose of potential litigation. The Committee will not be returning to Regular Session.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**