

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 3, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:06 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:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2014 AGENDA:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the February 3, 2014 agenda.

Discussion:

Steve Cole asked, if the Committee are being asked to approve the future agendas, that they be provided the agendas in advance so they can peruse them in advance.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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:
\$19,451.84

Motion Passed Unanimously

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.
\$350,357.77

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, January 6, 2014

Motion Passed Unanimously

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 Tuesday, January 7, 2014 as amended

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Michael Luekens it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Thursday, January 9, 2014.

Motion Passed Unanimously

REMEMBRANCE OF ROGER GAGNON, FORMER NEWBURYPORT EDUCATOR:

Steve Cole gave a brief history of Roger Gagnon, long time educator in the Newburyport schools, who passed away recently. A moment of silence was held in memory of Mr. Gagnon.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- ⤴ Poetry Soup will be held this Wednesday
- ⤴ There will be a half-day this Thursday
- ⤴ Seniors will be hosting an all school dance on the 8th
- ⤴ No-Talent Talent Show is progressing
- ⤴ Mid-terms passed without too much drama
- ⤴ On Thursday an anti-drug presentation will be held at NHS featuring Chris Herren, a one time basketball star who became addicted to drugs.
- ⤴ NHS Science Fair will be held on the 13th at 4:30 PM
- ⤴ Singing Valentines will be held on the 14th
- ⤴ Winter break is coming up!

BUDGET:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro updated the committee on the following budget items:

- ⤴ Chapter 70 – Circuit Breaker money
- ⤴ Placement Out of District
- ⤴ Leave of Absence Cost – additional costs may be in the works
- ⤴ Anticipated tuition has decreased
- ⤴ Circuit Breaker – over what we anticipated
- ⤴ Choice – under what we anticipated
- ⤴ Food Service update
- ⤴ The deficit is just under \$500,000

Steve Cole reported that Special Education has added costs – it is up to about \$630,000 or so Cheryl Sweeney referred to the School lunches – how many more are being purchased. Superintendent Vicarro explained numbers are up slightly – the projected deficit may be less.

BUILDING PROJECTS UPDATE (NEW BRESNAHAN & NOCK/MOLIN):

Steve Bergholm & Tony Pruner updated the committee on the building projects at the new Bresnahan and the renovation at Nock/Molin.

Nock/Molin:

Mr. Pruner explained that they are making good progress. Work is 62-63% complete. Phase 1,2 is finished. They are working on phase 3A. He spoke of phase 4 (final phase).

Bresnahan School:

Tony Pruner reported that the Bresnahan project is going very well. They are approximately 70% complete. Most of the work is going on inside. Some work is going on outside. The project is on schedule and on budget. A technology package is being put together and will go out to bid. The equipment package will go out to bid.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding the windows. Mr. Pruner spoke of issues with the windows. New windows, which are tempered glass, are due on Friday the 31st.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding the technology package. Mr. Pruner explained.

Mayor Holaday asked Mr. Pruner to speak to HVAC issues. Mr. Pruner explained they are noisier than they should be and measures are being taken. Mayor Holaday and Superintendent Vicarro spoke regarding this issue.

Bruce Menin asked how extensively the Auditorium would be wired. Mr. Pruner explained.

High School:

Steve Bergholm explained regarding the exterior woodwork project at NHS. A CPA \$250,000 grant was requested - \$150,000 was received. This amount will get us through phase 1.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired if Mr. Bergholm will be applying of a CPA grant for phase 2. Mr. Bergholm said yes, they will apply for \$100,000, which will bring them through phase 2.

SCHOOL CALENDAR, 2-Year, 2014-2015; 2015-2016:

Superintendent Viccaro explained that in the proposed calendars Early Release Days are being maintained.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired if a calendar is approved were they closing discussion re: alternative programs for early release days.

Response: No.

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Michael Luekens it was

VOTED: To approve the 2014/15 Calendar and draft 2 of the 2015/16 Calendar.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter said he would feel more comfortable if they had an agenda item regarding early release days – alternative programs for early release days.

Mayor Holaday said she cannot condone early release days during vacation months. She would like to see no release days in February and April. She stated she cannot support this calendar.

Steve Cole said that in September there is a full day and early release day in the same month.

Superintendent Viccaro stated that the first week of school is critical – she explained further.

Audrey McCarthy stated she has issues with February/April – what are the hours of early release.

Assistant Superintendent Bik said two hours 45 minutes. She spoke to Thursday early release in November.

Nick deKanter said there is no such thing as a perfect calendar – he applauds going out two years, but have we really taken a look at this. We are tied down to a lot of traditions – lets take a little bit longer on the second calendar – he would like to approve the 2014-2015 calendar and table the 2015-2016 calendar.

Michael Luekens said he would withdraw his second to the motion.

Bruce Menin said he would amend the motion to approve the 2014-2015 Calendar and table the 2015-2016 Calendar. **Michael Luekens** said he seconded the amendment.

Roll Call Vote:

Steven Cole, Member	Yes
Nick deKanter, Member	Yes
Mayor Holaday, Chair	NO
Michael Luekens, Member	Yes
Audrey McCarthy, Member	Yes
Bruce Menin, Member	Yes
Cheryl Sweeney, Vice-Chair	Yes

6 Yes 1 No Motion Passed

LEADERSHIP MODEL FOR NEW BRESNAHAN:

Superintendent Viccaro stated that after her arrival to the Newburyport School system she began working with Principals Kristina Davis & Amy Sullivan and Assistant Principal Karina Mascia regarding the leadership model of the new Bresnahan School. A lot of work has gone on. She introduced the three women who presented a power point presentation to the Committee in regards to the leadership model. Each of the three gave extensive explanations of the shared responsibilities for the new Bresnahan School they will preform and ongoing areas of continued focus.

SUPERINTENDENT'S ENTRY PLAN:

Superintendent Viccaro presented her entry plan to the Committee. This covered strengths and gaps in Management & Operations, Family & Community Engagement, Professional Culture, Governance and Fiscal Management.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday said the plan was very precise.

Cheryl Sweeney explained they have begun the Superintendent evaluation process. A date will be set in the future for a workshop.

Steve Cole said this was a good presentation. He felt it would be helpful to have a little more time to ask questions.

Nick deKanter said they all need to be challenged by this document.

Michael Luekens said the document contained good insights.

RE-ELECTION OF WHITTIER VOCATIONAL TECH SCHOOL COMMITTEE REP:

Superintendent Viccaro addressed the Committee regarding the appointment of Brett Murphy to another 3-year term to serve as one of two Newburyport representatives to the Whittier Regional Vocational Tech High School in Haverhill, MA. Mr. Murphy was initially appointed to the Whittier School Committee on March 2, 2008, and his term was voted to an additional 3-year term on March 1, 2011. Mr. Murphy has sent a letter to Mayor Holaday asking for the Committee's support to be reappointed to serve on the Whittier School Committee for an additional 3-year term.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the appointment of Brett Murphy to an additional 3-year term to the Whittier Regional Vocational-Tech High School, School Committee as one of the two Newburyport representatives.

Roll Call Vote:

Nick deKanter, Member	Yes
Mayor Holaday, Chair	Yes
Michael Luekens, Member	Yes
Audrey McCarthy, Member	Yes
Bruce Menin, Member	Yes
Cheryl Sweeney, Vice-Chair	Yes
Steven Cole, Member	Yes

7 – Yes Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Passed

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM and to go into Executive Session regarding possible litigation. The Committee will not be returning to open regular meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Holaday, Chair	Yes
Michael Luekens, Member	Yes
Audrey McCarthy, Member	Yes
Bruce Menin, Member	Yes
Cheryl Sweeney, Vice-Chair	Yes
Steven Cole, Member	Yes
Nick deKanter, Member	Yes

7 Yes Motion Passed Unanimously