

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, May 5, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:07 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 7:07 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 took over chairmanship of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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

VOTED: To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$110,344.57

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$36,181.09

Motion Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR **CONCERN:** He addressed concerns at the High School; 36 teachers lost in the past, cuts to programs, there will be electives lost this year. The High School needs additional staff.

FY15 BUDGET DEBRIEF:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro updated the Committee on changes we need to make next year. They will be moving the course selection process up; administrators will prioritize what is needed for FY16 so we can begin planning for the future.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter stated we need to do a better job of planning and presenting re: spending; we need dialogue not just a presentation from school administrators.

Mayor Holaday stated the School Committee and City Councilors need to do a joint workshop to develop a 2,3,4 year plans, Strategic Plan; pick a few – work on them – accomplish goals – talk about strategies.

Bruce Menin stated we need to get data to help us make informed decisions, create dialogue and engage people in the process.

Michael Luekens stated what do we want our schools to look like “down the road”. We need to develop long-term strategy to do this – make sure we have public input.

Steve Cole stated the following:

▲ We didn't do a good job developing priorities this year.

- ⤴ New charter calls for joint meeting
- ⤴ Some School Committee members should be at the table with Leadership Team.
- ⤴ Meets to discuss budget
- ⤴ Need to discuss fees – fee structure
- ⤴ Need discussion re: health and safety of student
- ⤴ Look at costs – leave of absence, SPED out of district placements

Cheryl Sweeney stated the following:

- ⤴ She spoke about how Superintendent developed the budget this year
- ⤴ We are still treading water
- ⤴ We need a long-term strategic plan
- ⤴ Have Finance Sub-committee meet more often during budget time
- ⤴ Think we are on the right track

Bruce Menin said that as a result of the public meeting the budget changed. He is glad the Virtual High School is back in the budget. A .8 FTE is available at the High School. He said that if data is provided earlier he can make better decisions.

DISTRICT DETERMINED MEASURES (DDMs) UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik stated:

- ⤴ DDM's have been developed – we are in process of reviewing
- ⤴ Explained process
- ⤴ Distributed 3 actual assessments for the Committee to peruse – strong assessments – Pre-K Math Assessment, Gr. 2-4 commercial assessments, High School Performing Arts assessments

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney questioned

- ⤴ Next year – requirements. Ms. Bik said 2 per grade level
- ⤴ Asked for explanation re: commercial DDM's. Ms. Bik explained
- ⤴ Asked for explanation re: growth. Ms. Bik explained
- ⤴ Is there any cost attached to any of this. Ms. Bik stated some cost for commercial ones, Professional Development
- ⤴ Post Assessment end of year – what is sent to next year's teachers. Ms. Bik explained

Michael Luekens questioned update assessment, re: how engaged teachers are. Ms. Bik explained

MATH – MODEL CURRICULUM UNITS:

Ms. Bik stated that all year long we have been moving along on meeting standards. We have developed a pilot program re: “Engage New York”. There will be some budget attachments with this. Pacing is an issue. Superintendent Viccaro explained policies.

SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE VOTE REQUESTS:

Motions:

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve the Plug Load Production Plan.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve the Resolution on Energy Star Equipment and Appliance Purchasing.

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To approve the Green Cleaning Policy – MACHPS OM.P3.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve the Anti-Idling Policy.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- ⤴ Marc Landergan – letter regarding his winning with his Robot Arm – Scholarship
- ⤴ Olivia Shea – receiving a College of Art Scholarship
- ⤴ Jacob Fisher - \$4,500 Scholarship
- ⤴ Morrill Family dedication – Library. They also donated an additional \$6,000.

Steve Cole interjected that Marc Landergan is off to Los Angeles for a competition.

Mayor Holaday reported on the following:

- ⤴ Last Thursday was the first ad hoc Special Ed Committee that Sen. Ives put together – very worthwhile.
- ⤴ Essay Writing Contest – 1-8 Literary Festival passed out awards to students
- ⤴ Transfer City \$250,000 to Superintendent for FY14 deficit
- ⤴ City Budget – to City Council next week - Monday

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed:

Cheryl Sweeney said they met this evening. They reviewed:

- ⤴ FY15 Budget
- ⤴ School Lunch Program deficit
- ⤴ Growing trend – overcrowding at High Schools

Discussion:

Bruce Menin said there is crunching at the Middle School as well.

Fin Com:

Steve Cole said they have not met. They need to discuss lunch fees

Policy:

Bruce Menin said they have not met.

Curriculum:

Michael Luekens said they will be meeting on May 20 at 5:30 PM.

Mayor Holaday

- ⤴ stated the terrazzo floor at the Bresnahan School looks beautiful.
- ⤴ The Superintendents evaluation should begin with discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Michael Luekens it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:44 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously