

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, August 19, 2013**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:30 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/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 District Mission Statement.

Mayor Holaday recognized and welcomed Superintendent Susan Viccaro to her first School Committee meeting. Superintendent Viccaro thanked those present for her warm welcome and spoke of her first few days at Newburyport and her anticipation for her future here.

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

**UPDATE ON THE NOCK/MOLIN RENOVATION PROJECT:**

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney introduced Director of Facilities Steve Bergholm, and OPM Tony Pruner. Project Manager Tony Pruner gave an update on the Nock/Molin Renovation Project. He stated that this project would be ready for students to go back to school next week. Contractors are working full time finishing details.

**Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** spoke of the inspections that have taken place to date. They met today; the building has been certified by the fire alarm company. There will be a meeting Wednesday regarding air cleansers. Mayor Holaday stated that the building is beautiful and people are going to be very pleased when they see it.

**Bruce Menin** inquired regarding schedule/cost – where do we stand. Mr. Pruner said they are on schedule and on budget.

**Bruce Menin** asked what a change order is. Mr. Pruner explained that this refers to changes as requested; he said that to date there have only been 2 change orders this summer.

**Mayor Holaday** explained they have been advocating with Mass School Building and have been granted \$425,000 which will be put toward the technology budget at Nock/Molin.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**Steve Cole** asked for a moment of silence for former teacher Ted Kyrios who recently passed away. Mr. Cole gave Mr. Kyrios' history and spoke of his accolades. All those in attendance observed a moment of silence for Mr. Kyrios.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Richard Doyle, retired NHS Teacher**      **CONCERN:**    Mr. Doyle spoke in favor of retaining the name of Francis T. Bresnahan for the new school which is being built.

**Joan Sheehan, 66 Longfellow DR., Nbpt.**      **CONCERN:**    Ms. Sheehan spoke in favor of retaining the name of Francis T. Bresnahan for the new school which is being built.

**Mary Anne Clancy, representing the family of F.T. Bresnahan**      **CONCERN:**    Ms. Clancy (daughter of F.T. Bresnahan) spoke for the family regarding retaining the name of Francis T. Bresnahan for the new school which is being built.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S RECOMMENDATION FOR NAMING OF THE PRE K-3 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**

Vice-Chairman Sweeney gave the history of the Bresnahan School.

Superintendent Viccaro stated she has received numerous communications regarding this issue. She has gained insight into the character and career of Francis T. Bresnahan. She recommended that the School Committee name the PreK-3 elementary school the Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School.

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:**            To support the recommendation by Superintendent Viccaro of the name of the PreK-3 elementary school as the Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School.

**Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** stated she has received overwhelming support in favor of keeping the name of Francis T. Bresnahan for the new PreK-3 elementary school.

**Bruce Menin** stated he has received an avalanche of e-mails regarding this issue. He stated that this is what the School Committee had requested from the community; they wanted the community to know how they got to this issue.

**Mayor Holaday** explained that this issue was raised by Mass School Building.

**Bruce Menin** stated that this was not an issue brought up by the School Committee.

**Audrey McCarthy** stated she has received numerous e-mails; she has canvassed neighborhoods, researched school building projects. We are bringing together two schools. She stated she will not support anything that does not honor both men, George Brown and Francis T. Bresnahan; she would like a name to encompass both names for the new school.

**Nick deKanter** said this is about the future, not the past. He would like to remember both names/men.

**Steve Cole** spoke about Francis T. Bresnahan; about meshing of two schools. He stated he was not sure about this. He was honored by the service of Francis T. Bresnahan and the man.

**Dan Koen** stated the public has made their voice clear – there is no reason to change the name.

**Bruce Menin** said the community will be well served by honoring Ms. McCarthy’s suggestion to honor both names – Bresnahan/Brown. The School Committee has to vote to decommission schools. It would be a symbolic value to bring Brown name over as well as the Bresnahan name. He gave the history of George Brown.

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated this is a very difficult decision for them to make – there has been overwhelming response – feelings run very deep – they need to do the best job that they can do for the children of Newburyport. She would like to keep the name Francis T. Bresnahan.

**Bruce Menin** said they agreed that they would get feedback from the community and they have. What he learned was very important.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Bruce Menin**            **No**

Steve Cole	Yes
Cheryl Sweeney	Yes
Mayor Holaday	Yes
Nick deKanter	No
Audrey McCarthy	No
Dan Koen	Yes

Yes – 4      No – 3      **Motion Passed**

**Nick deKanter** requested that the School Committee seek public input as to how they can honor George W. Brown and the culture of this school.

**Cheryl Sweeney** requested the Superintendent to seek public input regarding this.

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated she will have this information at a further date.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

There were no warrants

**Motions:**

**Minutes**

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Steve Cole it was

**VOTED:**      To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting of Monday, June 17, 2013.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

**VOTED:**      To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting of Monday, July 1, 2013 as amended.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

Ms. Sweeney explained that at the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting the vote for the new Superintendent's contract had not been voted for in open session. This needed to be rectified in open session.

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

**VOTED:**      To approve the Superintendent's contract for the school year 2013-2014.

**Roll Call Vote:**

<b>Bruce Menin</b>	- Yes
<b>Steve Cole</b>	- Yes
<b>Cheryl Sweeney</b>	- Yes
<b>Mayor Holaday</b>	- Yes
<b>Nick deKanter</b>	- Yes
<b>Audrey McCarthy</b>	- Yes
<b>Dan Koen</b>	- Yes

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**SET SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Motion**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Dan Koen it was

**VOTED:** To approve the 2013-2014 School Committee meeting schedule as submitted.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** raised the topic of Common Core – he would like discussion with the community – not a presentation – they have already had a presentation.

**Mayor Holaday** said she agreed – they have had the presentation now they need discussion.

**Cheryl Sweeney** would like to introduce the new Superintendent to the community during Public Conversation at the next meeting August 26. She inquired from Nick deKanter if the subcommittee has had discussion regarding public conversation. Mr. deKanter said yes.

**Audrey McCarthy** questioned the January 2<sup>nd</sup> date on the calendar.

**Motion**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Dan Koen it was

**VOTED:** To amend the motion to approve the 2013-2014 School Committee meeting schedule to strike January 2; January 6 should read “January 6 – Inauguration Day, Organizational Meeting – City Hall

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn meeting at 8:50 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**