

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, March 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.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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

VOTED: To approve receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$127,682.11

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.
\$6,566.04

Motion Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall Terrace

CONCERN: He addressed the following:

- ⤴ Tonight's agenda was not on line
- ⤴ Budget – nothing is being done
- ⤴ 30 out of district students – are parents being surveyed to try to bring them back

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

No report this evening

BUDGET UPDATE:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro explained that she is wrapping up meetings. She and Nancy Lysik have spent many hours reviewing budget items.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked for the Committee to be brought up to date on what has been happening. Superintendent Viccaro explained that over the past several months she has been meeting with building Principals, looking at staffing, enrollment projections, and other budget items. They are moving forward, working as a team.

Bruce Menin said he is glad to see the Superintendent continuing to involve staff/leadership/PTO.

MATH CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Superintendent Viccaro thanked Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik and PreK-8 STEM Coordinator Elizabeth Kinzly for putting this presentation together. Ms. Bik and Ms. Kinzly presented the School Committee with a mathematics curriculum update. They discussed the goals and objectives, the steps being taken and the challenges being faced by educators as they work to put the CCSS math guidelines into practice. The new curriculum is geared to a more collaborative style of education. It included the following:

Goals

Increase

- ⤴ Student interest and engagement in math
- ⤴ rigor across all grade levels
- ⤴ student achievement
- ⤴ differentiation of instruction
- ⤴ math capacity, pedagogy, and content knowledge of teachers

Enhance Intervention, remediation, and enrichment

Develop and implement common assessments that measure student growth

Vertical alignment to the Common Core

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked for further explanation of differentiation of instruction. Ms. Kinzly explained.

Cheryl Sweeney asked what is done for students who “don't get it”. Ms. Bik explained.

Mayor Holaday asked what were we doing currently if this is not working with some students. Ms. Bik explained there are after school programs, extra help and use of flex time.

Alignment to the CCSS

Unpack the Common Core State Standards

Identify curriculum and instruction gaps

Realign curriculum maps

Articulate vertical math curriculum

Research high quality instructional resources

Identify budgetary implications

PreK-5

Teacher PLC's work collaboratively on curriculum alignment during release days

Teacher Resources

- ⤴ Investigations
- ⤴ Model Curriculum Units
- ⤴ Web sites and technology
- ⤴ Teacher created materials

Interim formative assessments

- ⤴ Data conversations are ongoing
- ⤴ Instructional adjustments

Discussion:

Bruce Menin re: handout two, ques. 13 – is that a vocabulary issue that hasn't been quite grasped. Ms. Kinzly explained.

Middle School

Middle School math teachers work collaboratively on curriculum alignment during release days.

MS math classes are intentionally heterogeneously grouped with the exception of 8th grade Honors Algebra I course.

- ▲ 6th & 7th grade math instruction focuses on foundational pre-algebra concepts and skills.
- ▲ 8th grade units focus on algebra and geometry concepts and skills in context for all students.

Teacher Resources

- ▲ Connected Mathematics & skill development
- ▲ MA Model Curriculum Units

Future teacher resources needed

Discussion:

A question was asked re: are we surveying classrooms to see what technology students have.

High School

High School math department members work collaboratively on curriculum alignment during release days

Countless course sequences that include:

- ▲ Concepts & skills
- ▲ College prep
- ▲ Honors
- ▲ Advanced Placement

“Sequences” vs. “Tracks”

Calculus Position Statement

Placements

Challenges

Vertical Articulation of mastery skills and concepts for each grade and course

Mathematics Resources

Honors placement procedures & policies

Transition of state mandated MCAS & PARCC tests

Common Assessments & District Determined Measures (DDM's)

Additional Resources

Common Core State Standards:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/candi/commoncore/>

High School Program of Study:

<http://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/high/files/studentssupport/programofstudies.pdf>

NCTM & MAA Calculus Position Paper:

<http://www.nctm.org/about/content.aspx?id=32351>

Discussion:

Nick deKanter asked what are we doing for the third grader who is ready for one step further. Ms. Kinzly explained.

Cheryl Sweeney re: the Iowa Test for 8th grade – is this a good determiner tool. Ms. Bik said yes, and explained.

Michael Luekens asked if transitioning into the new curriculum was frustrating teachers. Ms. Bik explained that some are having difficulties with the changes, but because adopted programs are no longer driving the process and the standards are, it has given them more freedom and creativity in determining needed resources to teach the curriculum.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- ⤴ A letter sent home to parents recently explaining that the Newburyport Public Schools has been selected by the Mass. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education to participate in the field test for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, or PARCC. The development of this next-generation computer-based assessment is a multi-state project aligned to the Common Core and Mass. State Learning Standards. PARCC is designed to provide us with a better measure of student growth, achievement, and readiness for the next grade level and, at the high school, for college and career. She explained that this letter was to try to provide parents with general information.
- ⤴ Superintendent's Advisory Council – the first meeting was held – approximately 50 people attended – the focus was on common goals.

Discussion

Nick deKanter inquired if any students attended the first meeting. Superintendent Viccaro said one student attended.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed:

Cheryl Sweeney reported the following was discussed:

- ⤴ updating the City Council on the calendar
- ⤴ leadership model at Bresnahan
- ⤴ School building project
- ⤴ Tours of new building
- ⤴ Sent the City Council the Superintendent's entry plan
- ⤴ Asked the City Council to present us with the % of the City budget that is the School budget.

Mayor Holaday explained that she would like to present the City budget process prior to the next meeting on March 17.

Bruce Menin said a general meeting that covers explaining this would be helpful.

Steve Cole asked where Building/Grounds funding comes from. Mayor Holaday explained.

Policy:

Bruce Menin said they will meet on the 17th at 5:30.

Finance:

Steve Cole said they are working on a date.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Steve Cole it was

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

Motion Passed Unanimously