

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Retreat- Organizational
Tuesday, January 7, 2014**

**Central Office Conference Room
Meeting Convened at 6:00 PM**

**70 Low St.
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Review of minutes of December 16, 2013, meeting.

Vice-chair Cheryl Sweeney questioned the absence of some details in the minutes. Bruce Menin suggested a link to the actual meeting. Suggestions regarding the use of a recorder, laptop or some other device were mentioned.

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To table the School Committee Meeting minutes of
Monday, December 16, 2013.

Motion Passed Unanimously

APPROVE DESIGNEE & ALTERNATE TO SIGN PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS:

Motion

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

VOTED: To approve Bruce Menin as the designee to sign payroll and vouchers for 2014. Alternates for 2014 will be Cheryl Sweeney and Audrey McCarthy.

Discussion: Warrants available for review Thursday-Friday prior to meetings; payrolls available for signature Tuesday-Thursday of pay week.

Motion Passed.

STANDING COMMITTEES & STRUCTURES:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro opened a discussion on the structure of the current sub-committees of the School Committee. Less is more, there needs to be substantive committees. What should the structure of meetings look like? What committees should be standing committees?

Joint Education sub-committee is a committee comprised of City Councilors and School Committee members. The Superintendent discussed policies and a review of the administrative policies that is needed to happen. Policies need to be the standards of operation. What is our standard operating procedure?

The current Carver model of the School Committee is an elegant model to limit executive functions, from School Committee to the Superintendent and site based management. The Carver model is a precision model, with certain policies and provisions that are there or not.

Bruce Menin- I am trained in the Carver model.

Nick deKanter – I like certain principles of the Carver model; it allows the superintendent to run the district and the School Committee stays out of the way. Carver does not encourage the flow of information.

Mike Luekens – Carver model is the responsibility of the School Committee. There are 53 pages of policy.

At the second meeting in February (2/25), we will look to move away from the Carver model.

Assignment of members to sub-committees:

Mayor Donna Holaday assigned the members to various Sub-Committees.

The Charge of the Policy sub-committee: To review and reconcile administrative and school committee policies.

Policy Sub-committee: Mike Luekens, Nick deKanter, Bruce Menin

Assignment: review the governance models, principles and practices of other school committees.

Finance Sub-committee: Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mike Luekens, Mayor Holaday

Joint Education Sub-committee: Cheryl Sweeney, Audrey McCarthy, Bruce Menin

Liaison to the SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council): Audrey McCarthy

General Discussions throughout the Retreat:

- Views around setting of policies, i.e., residency, Supt. Viccaro and Ms. Bik explained McKinney-Vento law, and issues around residency
- Rules & Regulations of the School Committee, should be a natural outcome.
- Students' Bill of Rights, voted to be added to the School Committee policies, April 23, 2013.
- Formation of a website taskforce
- E-mail accounts for School Committee members to use the extension "newburyport.k12.ma.us"
- Marketing and communication
- Distribution of materials prior to meetings, and sub-committee meetings
- The Superintendent updated the committee on the tile project for the Bresnahan; inquiry on the Brown School door

Motion

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM

Motion Passed.