

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

**Retreat- Organizational
Thursday, January 9, 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:

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
\$299,463.60

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$27,721.62

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

The superintendent read from Robert's Rules of Order the information on minutes to clarify the questions on detail from the 1/7/14 discussion. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the minutes moving forward will include a link to the website to view the full meeting. Also, if anyone has questions, they may contact the Superintendent and/or any School Committee member.

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

VOTED: To accept the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, December 16, 2013, as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STRUCTURAL CONTENT OF AGENDAS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The Committee discussed the structure of the agendas for each meeting. They would like to see a standardized format to include, but not limited to: new business, old business, superintendent's report, SPED report, Curriculum report and budget. There was discussion around the formation of an agenda ad hoc committee to improve the structure and content of the school committee meetings. Also, do we want to form a curriculum ad hoc committee, in order to place a continuous focus on curriculum? We would like to hear what is happening from every school, principals,

Roll call votes will be changed to alphabetical order and reversed at each roll call vote.

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To defer decisions on a curriculum ad hoc committee until the agenda ad hoc committee has met to determine what our agenda will look like moving forward.

Motion Passed Unanimously

The Committee engaged in a discussion around sub committees and ad hoc committees.

- Should there be a Student Achievement Sub-Committee?
- Possible Ad Hoc Committees: Agenda Ad Hoc to review roll call vote order; old business; new business; Superintendent report; SPED report; Curriculum; Budget, all to improve the structure and content of the School Committee meetings.
- Curriculum needs to be a continuous focus.
- The committee would like to hear from the principals about what is happening in each school; descriptors, the four areas.
- Committee discussed “student voice”.

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To defer decisions on a curriculum committee until the agenda ad hoc committee meets.

S. Cole	Yes
Mayor Holaday	Yes
N. deKanter	Yes
M. Luekens	Yes
A. McCarthy	Yes
C. Sweeney	Yes
B. Menin	No

Motion Passed

Administrative Structure – New Bresnahan

Supt. Viccaro reviewed the roll out of the administrative structure for the new Bresnahan school.

Budget

The committee would like to see a 5 year look back at the budget.

Other Discussions

- Inclusion consulting
- Revolving funds,
- Grant writer,
- School choice, e
- Exchange students
- Summer school, options available
 - Northern Essex
 - Remedial enrichment
 - Salem State

Meeting Adjourned, 9:05 PM