

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, October 21, 2013**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:05 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 7:05 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.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motions**

**Warrants:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant  
**\$36,191.90**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$345,772.72**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes**

There were no minutes at this time

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR.** **CONCERN:** He spoke regarding Public Comment – he stated two sessions are needed. He is concerned regarding the fact that there have not been any discussions regarding the budget. The Committee needs to pay attention to unbudgeted costs, such as Chartwells loss deficit this year.

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: JULIA BRADLEY:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- **PSAT's** were held last Saturday
- **SAT's** will be held November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- **Play for a cure** field hockey game tonight at Amesbury Sports Park

- **NEASC** starting on the 27<sup>th</sup> – the students who are being shadowed by teachers are really excited
- **German exchange students** are enjoying their trip so far; tomorrow they will be going to Salem along with their host students
- **Senior Dress up Day** – October 31<sup>st</sup>
- **Football** – our team lost to MASCO Friday
- **NHS Theatre** – preparing the play Frankenstein for the beginning of November

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired as to how many German exchange students were here. Ms. Bradley stated she was not sure – approximately 15

**MCAS, ACCOUNTABILITY & PARCC PRESENTATION:**

Superintendent Susan Viccaro introduced Emily Russin and Liz Kinzly who together with the Superintendent updated the Committee on the 2013 MCAS results, the Accountability report from the DESE and also briefed on PARCC (The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers). Superintendent Viccaro outlined and explained the following portions of the 2013 Accountability Data:

- Accountability and Assistance Levels
- School Percentiles
- Progress and Performance Index (PPI)
- Our School’s Overall Performance
- 2013 MCAS – Student Growth Report
- What Was Tested? What Was New in 2013?
- English Language Arts 2013 – Grades 3, 4, 5

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik outlined and explained the following:

- English Language Arts 2013 – Grades 6, 7, 8, 10 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- MCAS Progress Over 4 Years 2010/2013 - % of Students Meeting the Target-English Language Arts
- English Language Arts Cohorts

Emily Russin outlined and explained the following:

- School Analysis – ELA

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked for an explanation as to what a unit is – Ms. Russin explained **Cheryl Sweeney** asked if it is self-sustaining – Ms. Russin explained that we have a literary partnership grant from the State and will purchase materials.

- School Analysis – ELA

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik outlined and explained the following:

- 2013 ELA – Grades 4, 8 & 10 - % of Advanced + Proficient Students

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked what comparative Communities are based on. Ms. Bik said student population, size of school, poverty level, ELL Special Ed. Population

- Mathematics 2013 – Grades 3, 4, 5 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- Mathematics 2013 – Grades 6, 7, 8, 10 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- MCAS Progress Over 4 Years 2010/2013 - % of Students Meeting the Target – MATH
- Mathematics Cohorts

Liz Kinzly outlined and explained the following:

- School Analysis – MATH – Bresnahan School, Molin School, Nock Middle School and the High School

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired as to what were we doing re: writing in Math – Ms. Kinzly explained Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik outlined and explained the following:

- 2013 Math – Grades 4, 8 & 10 - % of Advanced + Proficient Students

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if we were assigned aspiration Communities by the State. Ms. Bik explained that the state does not assign this – the School Committee picks these.

- Science 2013 – Grades 5, 8, 10 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- MCAS Progress Over 4 Years 2010/2013 - % of Students Meeting the Target – SCIENCE
- Science Cohorts
- School Analysis – SCIENCE
- 2013 Science – Grades 5, 8 & 10 - % of Advanced + Proficient Students

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated that Science fell down this year. Ms. Bik stated Science across the board is not good.

- What is PARCC – The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges & Careers
- Field Test Plan 2013 – 2014
- Field Test Purposes
- Student Participation
- The Massachusetts Field Test Sample
- Newburyport 2014 PARCC Field Test
- Spring 2014 Assessment Schedule

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** asked in 2014 who makes the choice between PARCC and MCAS. Ms. Bik said it is a district decision.

**Dan Koen** asked if we will lose data. Ms. Bik explained.

**Dan Koen** asked if it is like the rest of the country – trying to catch up to MCAS. Ms. Bik explained.

**Nick deKanter** said he was excited about PARCC.

**Emily Russin** said PARCC better prepares students for college.

**Nick deKanter** asked what kind of data do we need to have our students be creative thinkers/to measure this. Superintendent Viccaro said this was an excellent question and explained.

**Bruce Menin** said he can't get past the comment that grade 2/3 teachers were surprised at so much content. Ms. Bik said this is a set of expectations and the bar was set very low.

**Steve Cole** commented regarding

- Science – he liked trying to build better assessments – where does place-based education figure in that – grade 7. Ms. Bik said this is still a big part of 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum – looking at retention of experience as they move on.
- MCAS Growth Rep. PPI Grade 4 – encourage better growth number. Ms. Bik said we are starting this on trends – taking this very seriously. Dan Koen said he went to the website – this is a trend across the state.
- Importance of Math – is there a way not to hold a person back that is an exceptional student. Ms. Bik said they use document projector from grade 3.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked

- How do you measure success of actions you present to us? Ms. Bik explained.

- This is all great stuff – what happens to a child that receives a warning. Mr. Bik said the RTI team gets together, talks about this – there are structures in place at all levels.

**Mayor Holaday** asked can we at some point look at measures for these students.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked regarding the integration of our writing program – could the Committee get a presentation in the future.

**Audrey McCarthy** inquired regarding students who do have a warning – communication to the parents – do we reach out to them. Ms. Bik said that she will get back to the Committee on this question after she has spoken to each school.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Mary Foley, 15 Lunt Street**                      **CONCERN:**     She stated she felt the schools are getting way too data driven.

**Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR.**   **CONCERN:**     He stated we have an obligation to look at where careers are and what we are doing about this. How are students doing unit by unit?

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Susan Viccaro reported on the following:

- Chartwells – She met with Chartwells last week – they would like a policy developed for when students forget their lunch – what should happen.

**Motions:**

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

**VOTED:**             To defer this matter to the Finance Committee.

**Amendment to motion:**

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

**VOTED:**             To defer a sample policy to the Finance Committee to come back later with suggestions.

**Nick deKanter** suggested letting the district decide, not the Policy Committee.

**Mayor Holaday** withdrew her motion

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:**             That this policy is an administration policy, and will be completed by administration, and brought to the finance committee with other Chartwells business.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

- January School Committee retreat – this should contain discussion regarding budget development.

**Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** said January is too late; discussion on budget needs to start earlier.

**Mayor Holaday** commented on curriculum materials and supplies re: budget for Common Core.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said Finance Committee will roll out a plan for budget – this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

- NECC (Northern Essex Community College) – we are partnering with NECC – 5 students took college readiness course last year – disability program – we are working with NECC to improve college readiness and other programs.

- October 1 enrollment – she presented and explained October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment figures.  
**Discussion:**  
**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if this tied into School Choice – Superintendent Viccaro said it could. Mayor Holaday commented on the Statement of Interest.
- NEASC visit – she reminded the Committee of the upcoming NEASC visit at Newburyport High School  
**Discussion:**  
**Cheryl Sweeney** said Sunday, 2:15 – 3:00 PM the Committee will meet with NEASC.

**MASC RESOLUTIONS:**

Cheryl Sweeney explained that the MASC Resolutions need to be approved prior to the MASC/MASS Conference on November 6-9, 2013.

Bruce Menin explained that as there is not going to be a Newburyport School Committee member able to attend the conference there would not be a need to review the resolutions in detail.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve and whereby confirm the continued advocacy of the resolutions approved by the MASC Assembly of 2012, as a block.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:21 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**