

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 7, 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
\$20,333.34

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:
\$501,811.44

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

Minutes

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting of Monday, September 16, 2013 as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- Senior Adv. Council held a recruiting session for various clubs in the cafeteria – 24 clubs were represented

- October is breast cancer awareness month
- Dance – Saturday – “The Hype”
- Monday will be no school
- German Exchange students arrive Monday
- PSAT are upcoming

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to how long the German Exchange students will be here for. Ms. Bradley said they will be arriving on Tuesday the 15th and will leave on Wednesday the 30th.

Mayor Holaday gave accolades to the groups of students who performed at the recent NEF event.

NHS OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIPS FOR APPROVAL:

NHS Varsity Hockey Team field trip:

Motion:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve the request for the NHS Varsity Hockey Team field trip on 12/26/13 to 12/28/13 to the Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis to participate in a two day tournament.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired regarding the student cost, which the hockey boosters were, and would they help. Athletic Director Bob Clarke explained that hockey boosters were past hockey students and parents of hockey students. Mr. deKanter pointed out that years ago it was voted to have a central boosters club, not individual clubs. He asked Mr. Clarke to channel this. Mr. Clarke said he would.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding the Richie Eaton Foundation. She asked if we have received any funding this year from this foundation. Mr. Clarke said not as yet.

NHS Band trip to New York:

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve the request for the NHS Band field trip to New York City from Friday, April 4, to Sunday, April 6, to perform at the Lincoln Center.

Discussion:

Dan Koen inquired as to how many chaperones would be attending. He asked Mr. Clarke to amend the application to show 2 more chaperones. Mr. Clarke said he would.

AMENDED MOTION:

To approve the request for the NHS Band Field trip to New York City from Friday, April 4 to Sunday, April 6 to perform at the Lincoln Center with the addition of 3 more chaperones to accompany the students.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Nick deKanter gave accolades and thanks for the performances by the Band.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES:

Director of Facilities, Steve Bergholm gave updates to the Committee concerning the new Bresnahan School and the Nock/Molin School renovations.

Bresnahan School:

- Lots of progress – things are going well.
- Building B – roof complete. Building A – next week.
- Brickwork is being done – getting closed in before winter weather sets in. Windows – next week.
- Test on windows went great – good results.
- Concrete slabs – 90% complete
- Building interior walls framed up – starting in Building A
- Mechanical in Building B – working on
- Boilers – later this month
- Murphy Avenue – working on – sewer lines, drainage, new gas lines, paving sidewalk

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday stated the neighborhood has been turned upside down and they are working with neighbors.

Dan Koen inquired as to how the separation of the school and construction site was working out. Mr. Bergholm said pretty well, things have gone smoothly.

Nock/Molin School:

- Finished phase 1 – punch list addressed – working on
- Phase 2 is under way – 8 classrooms facing towards playground – will be complete by December – ahead of schedule
- New boilers – fired up – converting to hot water system in progress

Discussion:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro stated they have met once a week in smaller sessions and once a week in larger sessions.

Mayor Holaday said the students are thrilled, but there were not enough lockers and some were in the wrong place. This is being worked on. She inquired of Mr. Bergholm as to where do we go with the windows – they failed tests. Mr. Bergholm said they were being retested today.

Dan Koen commented on the change of leadership – a person left at Gilbane – a new man is on board, Wm. Greg, who has an incredible resume'. Mr. Bergholm said he is doing a good job.

Nick deKanter asked about the value of having a project manager? Mayor Holaday said this is a different process now which requires a great amount of work. Dan Koen commented on this – he stated we should make sure we get what we pay for.

Steve Cole said there are a lot of cars at night – were workers working at night? Mr. Bergholm said there is a shift from 2 PM to 10 PM to accommodate us.

COMMON CORE PRESENTATION:

Vice-Chairman Sweeney introduced Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik, K-8 ELA Coordinator Emily Russin and K-8 STEM Coordinator, Liz Kinzly, who gave an extensive outline and explanation of the Common Core, professional development plan toward full implementation, early release days schedule and the costs surrounding the implementation.

- Ms. Bik outlined Focus, Coherence, and Rigor in Instruction and Assessment; a means for adding clarity, depth, specificity, and making connections, and high expectations.
- Ms. Russin outlined English Language Arts and Literacy.
- Ms. Bik outlined High School implications regarding English, History and Science.
- Ms. Kinzly outlined High School Implications regarding Mathematics
- Ms. Kinzly outlined the Geometry Domain: Progression of fractions to ratios and proportional reasoning.

- Ms. Kinzly outlined 6th Grade: Visual Representation of Proportional Relationship.
- Ms. Kinzly outlined how these key shifts inform instruction, assessment and professional development.
- Ms. Kinzly outlined PARCC Grade 7 Assessment.
- Ms. Bik outlined and explained Collaborative Practices which included the following:
 - ✓ Alignment of Curriculum Standards
 - ✓ Vertical and Horizontal Articulation of the Curriculum
 - ✓ Researched Based Instructional Practices
 - ✓ Common Assessments and District Determined Measures (DDMs)
 - ✓ Data Dialogues
 - ✓ Data Driven Refinements to Curriculum and Instruction
 - ✓ Communication Reporting Systems
 - ✓ Educator Evaluation System Curriculum & Instruction Standards

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked how writing fits into all of this. Ms. Russin explained.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to how we were training teachers. Ms. Russin explained. Ms. Bik added that teachers are sharing, taking risks, and collaborating. Ms. Kinzly explained regarding Mathematics.

Bruce Menin asked for a definition tools. Ms. Kinzly explained.

Superintendent Viccaro explained that she wanted the Committee to know how this is put together.

Ms. Sweeney inquired where is our report card fitting into this – have we made adjustments. Ms. Bik said they are working on this – working on elementary level at this time. Middle and High Schools are different as they are graded. Work is underway.

Dan Koehn said this sounds great – got to be some issues – how are we approaching problems – re: the average student. What happens to MCAS – not gone away as yet? Ms. Kinzly explained that students like these problems – liked working as a team, problem solving together. They hate the drill.

Dan Koehn asked if there was a projected down side to this. Ms. Bik explained they are moving away from MCAS to the Common Core, but cautioned that this is a gradual transition. It will take time for the Common Core to be implemented.

Nick deKanter said this is fantastic work – he was thrilled to see it.

Steve Cole commented on vertical articulation – are they really talking about GAPS. As a School Committee we need to know what will be needed to implement Common Core. There should be more discussion as to what is needed for students. We do not want to lose teacher passion to teach.

Bruce Menin asked what does manipulative mean. Ms. Kinzly explained the Standard Base Program, based on old program. Ms. Bik explained costs – this will cost in the future.

Bruce Menin said this makes sense to him.

Ms. Russin explained GAPS.

Steve Cole said we need to address GAPS – he is very concerned.

Mayor Holaday said this has been one of the best discussions that the Committee has had. It explained the heart and soul as to what is happening. She would like more detail for the Committee, and asked for the Committee to be kept on track.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Foley
any proven record of this.

CONCERN: The Common Core is federally mandated – has there been

Gail Conway
teach to that level.

CONCERN: She has heard about GAP to grade level – teachers have to

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro updated the Committee on the following:

- Out of District Placements – Special Education – 26 students attend 13 different outside placements. She explained that if we go to hearings we are obligated to pay costs, attorney's fees; we are obligated to pay for transportation costs \$280,000 in these placements. Some summer programs – we pay for \$1,780,000. We are currently looking at our programs, assessing these, having lots of conversations with Dr. Dee. It is her personal preference to have student's in-district. It is very hard to predict these issues.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin said he agreed that this has a significant impact – we have a legal and moral obligation. 26 students is less than 1% of students using 10% of our overall budget for the year. We need to be more creative in our approach.

Nick deKanter said to him it underlies our responsibility as a community. Circuit Breaker is not fully funded.

Superintendent Viccaro stated it was her hope we can build back our relationship with parents, parent groups in a proactive way.

Steve Cole said that the Superintendent moving the way she was, funding programs to our district, is what they all want.

Dan Koen said he echoed this. Include these families in the building of these programs.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Holaday said there will be a Special Forum on November 4, at 7PM. Needles have been found in playgrounds. A sweep of parks and playgrounds has been done looking for used needles. On our website you will find what to do when you find a needle.

Superintendent Viccaro commented on the combining of the Brown/Bresnahan. There is a two year plan to bring the staffs together. Administrative models – meeting weekly – 3 models are being studied – we are tweaking these.

Superintendent Viccaro explained there is a change to the bullying policy – additional language has been received – we have to include this language in the model plan. There is no change to student information – this has to do with adults.

Cheryl Sweeney asked if this was mandated. Superintendent Viccaro said yes, this went into effect on July 1st.

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To adopt the language the state has mandated for us to adopt into our bullying policy.

Discussion:

Audrey McCarthy asked why the Committee had to vote this if it is mandated. Bruce Menin explained.

Nick deKanter made an amendment to the motion to approve the integration of the new language into our policy.

Mayor Holaday said that this concerned her greatly that we are not doing enough.

Bruce Menin withdrew the motion.

Nick deKanter withdrew the amendment.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To table this mandated language.

Motion Passed Unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously