

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, June 17, 2013**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:15 PM**

**Room 118  
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

**Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole, Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday (left at 7:18 PM), Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen**

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble introduced NHS English Teacher Deb Szabo. Ms. Szabo introduced students who participated in *Poetry Slam*. The team of students made it to the semi-finals. Students performed their skit for the community and audience, and received a round of applause.

**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.

**READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:**

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School District Mission Statement.

Mayor Holaday thanked Dr. Kerble for his years of service to the Newburyport School District. She also stated that for reasons of safety for the children the Brown School Playground had been removed, and apologized for not being more proactive in alerting people beforehand. She stated they will move forward on this – there will be a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 7PM regarding the playground. Mayor Holaday left the meeting at 7:18 PM on city business.

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 Audrey McCarthy it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant  
**\$70,636.37**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$263,599.38**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**Minutes**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, May 20, 2013 as amended.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Public Hearing meeting of Monday, June 3, 2013 as amended.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

### **NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- Thanked Dr. Kerble and wished him well.
- Step Up Day
- Sophomore Presentations begin Thursday
- Finals begin Thursday

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – PART 1:**

Superintendent Marc Kerble reported on the following:

- He thanked his wife for her cooperation and understanding over the past three years.
- He thanked all the people who he has had the pleasure of working with including the following:
  - ✓ Recording Secretary Judith Kennedy
  - ✓ School Committee
  - ✓ Supporting media
  - ✓ Community – for their support of the schools
  - ✓ His Administrative Assistant Cathy Manning
  - ✓ Central Office Staff
  - ✓ Angela Bik
  - ✓ Principals and staff of schools
  - ✓ Students and all of their achievements
  - ✓ Special Education

### **MEDICATION POLICY & PROTOCOL UPDATE:**

Dr. Kerble introduced Cathy Riccio, School Nurse Leader, who spoke about revisions to the Medication Policy & Protocol.

**Discussion:**

**Steve Cole** inquired regarding adrenalin EPI pens. Ms. Riccio explained.

**Dan Koen** inquired regarding dispensing policy and medication errors. Ms. Riccio explained.

**Dan Koen** inquired regarding possible wrong medication given out to students. Ms. Riccio explained. Mr. Koen stated he wanted to see if the School Committee can help in any way.

**Dr. Kerble** thanked Ms. Riccio and the nurses – he stated they see thousands of students in a year, and they do a great job. They address student safety in a positive way.

### **RUPERT A. NOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:**

Dr. Kerble introduced Beth Raucci, R.A.N. Middle School Principal, who, he stated has spent her first year bringing a lot of spirit to the school. Principal Raucci has worked on the following Program Objectives:

- Implementing the five steps of the MMSEE
- Data collection, analysis and dissemination
- Aligned daily instruction design
- Building strong community relationships
- Instruction models to meet student needs

**Discussion:**

**Bruce Menin** inquired if building relationships with outside counseling agencies is happening. It was reported that this is happening quietly.

**Bruce Menin** stated he is a strong proponent of place based education.

**Steve Cole** said these programs really help students – they save lives and are very useful. He asked Principal Raucci to comment of data collection – 3 areas. Principal Raucci explained and stated they are spending a lot of time on this.

**Nick deKanter** commented on anecdotal information, middle school athletic fields. He has noticed people talking about trust that they have in the Middle School, and has noted that people want students to transfer into the Middle School.

**Dan Koen** stated Principal Raucci brings great leadership to Newburyport and he is happy and grateful that she is here.

**PREVENTION SPECIALISTS:**

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik introduced Cathy Riccio, School Nurse Leader, and Prevention Specialists Deborah Eggers, Jay Murphy and Amy Heath. Ms. Bik outlined and explained the Guidance from the DESE on anti-bullying curriculum expectations. She read the addendum to our Bullying Intervention Plan:

- The Newburyport Public Schools has developed a comprehensive anti-bullying curriculum most appropriate for each school and grade in which they are implemented. The curriculum incorporates bullying prevention, conflict resolution and asset building. Collaborative decisions were made about the curricula taking into account students’ developmental stages, school culture, community contexts, and district goals.

Deborah Eggers spoke regarding the Brown/Bresnahan procedures.

**Discussion**

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired regarding the following:

- What is the success of the bullying box? Ms. Eggers explained.
- What is the turnaround time? Ms. Eggers said 24 hours.
- Responsive classroom training. Ms. Eggers explained
- What is the plan for this? Ms. Bik explained – 60 staff members have been trained.

Jay Murphy spoke regarding the Molin/Middle School procedures.

**Discussion**

**Bruce Menin** stated that the stuff that has been done here is being carried home and talked about.

Amy Heath spoke regarding the High School procedures.

**Discussion**

**Cathy Riccio** stated it is an honor to sit among these people.

**Audrey McCarthy** inquired regarding the anonymous tip line – where does it go to. Ms. Heath explained **Steve Cole** stated a bi-product of bullying is emotional abuse and inquired as to how this was gauged. Mr. Murphy said they listen and tune in. Ms. Eggers said their responsibility is to be aware. Ms. Heath said they know their students well – they speak to them.

**Nick deKanter** inquired as to where do they see hazing falling into this. Ms. Heath said this is treated in the same way. Mr. Murphy said the kids that have come forward are heroes – things are in place because of them.

**Bruce Menin** said he is pleased with what we are trying to do with wellness and prevention although he worries about the marginal kids – we need to look for these kids.

**Amy Heath** stated the 5 core values will be painted around the school.

**Audrey McCarthy** stated she thought it was great they are working together – Middle School kids need to know support is here for them at the High School level.

**Bruce Menin** said peer support is enormous.

Ms. Bik thanked the group for their presentation.

#### **FY14 SCHOOL LUNCH:**

Steve Cole explained that a lunch price of \$.25 for both student and adult meals beginning in September 2013 was recommended. The lunch price increase is expected to generate approximately \$27,000 which will help lessen the expected shortfall in the FY 14 school lunch revolving account. The last school lunch price adjustment was approved in 2010. Comparing the adjusted Newburyport School Lunch prices to three local districts including Amesbury, Triton Regional, and Haverhill shows that our prices are very close to the average of the three school districts. He distributed and explained historical charts and figures showing a decrease in the purchase of school lunches and the projected figures that the increase might bring.

##### Current 2012-2013 School Year Full Meal Prices

Elementary Lunch (Grades K-3) - \$2.50

Secondary Lunch (Grades 4-8) - \$2.75

High School Breakfast (Grades 9-12) - \$1.50

High School Lunch (Grades 9-12) - \$2.75

Milk purchased separately - \$.60

Reduced Breakfast - \$.30, Reduced Lunch - \$.40

#### **Discussion**

**Dan Koen** inquired regarding a Type A meal – questioned why reduction.

**Bruce Menin** inquired regarding free meals – why the reduction?

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if breakfasts were reimbursable meals – Yes.

**Dan Koen** commented that they were overloaded with data – this situation was disastrous.

**Audrey McCarthy** questioned the times of lunches.

**Steve Cole** explained initiatives.

**Nick deKanter** said he did not see a plan to get the usage level back up.

**Cheryl Sweeney** questioned why so many students who qualify for free lunch do not take advantage of this.

**Dan Koen** questioned the following:

- Projections - \$42,000 shortfall went to \$82,000 – he said he does not have confidence in Chartwells
- Time
- Differentiation between schools
- How do students pay for lunch – prepaid cash

- Increase – we have a product that people have stopped buying – raising prices at this point will not be a good idea, but he realizes we may need to do it.

**Bruce Menin** said \$64,000 would look a lot more worthwhile to him if Chartwells assumed more than \$15,000.

**Cheryl Sweeney** wondered if other school districts were facing the same situation. She asked when Chartwells contract was due to be signed, and wondered if there was another ballgame in town.

**Audrey McCarthy** stated when the rumor hit the streets about the possible increase in the price of school lunch, families told her that they would be packing their children’s lunches. She stated a lot of the food on the school lunch that were purchased went into the trash.

**Dr. Kerble** said at this point other school districts are facing the same thing.

**Nick deKanter** said this is not so much a price issue as it is a value issue. There is only so much we can do. If the state has our hands tied, how can we untie them?

**Dr. Kerble** said they could look at what other companies offer – or offer your own food service.

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To raise the price of the Newburyport School District lunches by \$.25.

**Discussion:**

**Dan Koen** stated this is economics 101 – we are just going to amplify our deficit.

**Bruce Menin** said he does not want to do this, but he will do it. He said he thinks we are going to see a new product next year.

**Cheryl Sweeney** spoke about what a \$.25 raise would bring us.

**Audrey McCarthy** said when Chartwells was here they alluded to the fact that they were out of ideas.

**Dan Koen** pointed out the fact that Chartwells is doing the projecting – their action plans do not impress him - \$.25 will lead to a 10 to 15 percent drop off.

**Dr. Kerble** said this is something to think about.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked to move the question.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Bruce Menin** - Yes

**Steve Cole** - Yes

**Cheryl Sweeney** - No

**Nick deKanter** - Yes

**Audrey McCarthy** - No

**Dan Koen** - No

**Mayor Holaday** absent for vote

**3 – Yes      3 – No**

**Motion Failed**

**NEF NAMING RIGHTS POLICY:**

Dr. Kerble recommended that the Committee vote to support the NEF Policy regarding the naming of school facilities as presented.

**Discussion:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated that it is policy that the Superintendent has the final say.

**Nick deKanter** said he does not read it that way.

**Dr. Kerble** said we have our own policy.

**Bruce Menin** asked what is on the table.

**Cheryl Sweeney** explained the issue.

**Angela Bik** said everyone seemed to be on the same page.

**Nick deKanter** inquired as to what they were being asked.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said this was because this came before them a month ago with naming rights, and the Committee asked for further clarification.

**Nick deKanter** said this document does not present clarity – NEF policy should be aligned to our donation policy.

**Dr. Kerble** said this is another agency policy – we have our own policy – this is to understand the NEF policy – the Superintendent should be working with the NEF.

**Dan Koen** said this is someone else’s policy – he believes we are covered and he is OK with it.

**Motion**

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Steve Cole it was

**VOTED:** To support the NEF Policy Regarding the Naming of School Facilities as presented.

**Discussion:**

**Nick deKanter** said he saw the whole discussion moot.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Bruce Menin** - Yes

**Steve Cole** - Yes

**Cheryl Sweeney** - Yes

**Nick deKanter** - No

**Audrey McCarthy** - No

**Dan Koen** - Yes

**Mayor Holaday** absent for vote

4 – Yes      2 – No

**Motion Passed**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Gail Conway, 27 Marlboro Street**

**CONCERN:** She spoke regarding agenda item 7 –

Medication Policy & Protocol Update. Will we get protocol updates? Her child fell and broke her arm – she was not notified by the nurse. There are a lot of reasons why children go to the nurse.

**GLEC BOARD APPOINTMENT:**

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To reappoint Steve Cole to the Board at GLEC through the end of December 2013.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday** absent for vote

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT PART II:**

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- He met with the new Superintendent – will SKYPE with her again– she will be under a new three year contract.
- He thanked Dominique Deare
- This was a learning experience - it ends well.
- He wants the new Superintendent to be successful – her career here will be dependent upon 7 people – don't hold her to the new evaluation system, as it is impossible to meet all the new goals in the first year – give her two years – set her reasonable goals.
- Use your strengths to aid the new Superintendent to grow.

**Bruce Menin** gave his thanks to Dr. Kerble – he stated he appreciated his friendship.

**Dan Koen** spoke of his admiration for Dr. Kerble.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked for comments from the Committee regarding the summer schedule.

**Dan Koen** said he is not looking forward to an aggressive summer schedule.

**Bruce Menin** said they should meet whenever the new Superintendent needs them – he does want a retreat.

**Steve Cole** said he agreed – if new funds become available they will need to meet.

**Nick deKanter** said they should have one retreat – and maybe a couple of monthly meetings.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said she would talk to the new Superintendent.

**POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:**

**Bruce Menin** spoke regarding the Brown School Playground. He stated there were elements at the playground that needed to go – however, the manner in which the playground went has roiled the community. The saddest moment for him was this weekend when children wanted to go over to the playground to write their memories and the playground was locked. He was extraordinarily disappointed – this was an affront to the community.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn to Executive Session for purposes of contract negotiations at 10:35 PM.  
The Committee will not be returning to Regular Session.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Bruce Menin** - Yes
- Steve Cole** - Yes
- Cheryl Sweeney** - Yes
- Nick deKanter** - Yes
- Audrey McCarthy** - Yes
- Dan Koen** - Yes
- Mayor Holaday** absent for vote

**Motion Passed**