

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, July 1, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:35 PM**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Minutes:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of
Monday, June 2, 2014

Motion Passed

Michael Luekens absent for vote

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Wool, 16 Withington St. **CONCERN:** She stated she hopes the School Committee allows the transportation system would allow Choice students to pay to ride the bus.

Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** Re: PARCC – final decision – we have exceeded the deadline of June 30.

RETREAT DATES:

Vice-Chair Cheryl Sweeney asked Superintendent Viccaro for suggestions for a retreat date.

Superintendent Viccaro suggested the first week in August (4-8). A date of Monday, August 4 from 8:30 AM to 4 PM was decided upon.

Cheryl Sweeney asked the Committee if they felt it would be productive in one full day or should they do two days.

Mayor Holaday suggested having an evening with the City Council.

Cheryl Sweeney asked the Committee to forward suggestions for agenda items to her.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

Cheryl Sweeney commented on the Superintendents Evaluation Sub-Committee – 23 elements out of 42 – public ally done – must be done before we come back in the fall.

Superintendent Viccaro suggested August 18 as the first meeting.

Cheryl Sweeney stated the first day of school is September 3.

Bruce Menin commented that we usually shift that meeting to Tuesday the 2nd

Nick deKanter asked what the Committee needed to cover. Superintendent's evaluation – Aug 25

Bruce Menin suggested a meeting at the end of July, or August – building projects

Cheryl Sweeney said the Superintendent will report on building projects at the retreat.

August 4 – retreat
August 25 – Superintendent's evaluations
Sept. 2, Tuesday

SUB COMMITTEE CALENDAR:

Joint Ed meets monthly

Communications

Policy - 3rd

Finance – Tuesday or Thursday

Curr. Inst/Accountability – check with Michael Luekens

Superintendent Viccaro re: her evaluation – set a time – Cheryl Sweeney said OK

Superintendent Viccaro said she will set a calendar – she will check with City Hall and then get back to the Committee.

Cheryl Sweeney said they meet twice a month

PARCC vs MCAS:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adopt PARCC for the testing measure of choice for the coming school year.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter thanked people for coming. He stated he is in favor of Common Core; in favor of PARCC as a district being in a leadership position. He was in favor of PARCC when he came here tonight, but he will not be in favor of it if it jeopardizes teacher evaluation. His vote tonight will be no.

Audrey McCarthy stated she came tonight to vote no – for all reasons – she does not feel we should vote for something that is so up in the air. She will vote no.

Mayor Holaday stated she has a lot of information – high stakes testing – she has read pro and con websites. She likes being on the cutting edge – is excited re: Common Core, but will not be supporting this.

Steve Cole said this was appropriate for a Public Hearing. Teachers were not polled. We try to retain our best students. Private/parochial schools are not struggling with this – we may lose students to them. He will not be supporting PARCC.

Bruce Menin said he is conflicted on this. He is comfortable with Common Core. He doesn't feel MCAS is accessing things – he liked what he heard re: PARCC – it accesses skills – can we PARCC without parking. He is dismayed that the state has not addressed SPED. While he supports PARCC, and Common Core, he will not support PARCC and will vote for MCAS.

Cheryl Sweeney said she agrees with everything said here tonight. On-line testing, high level skills are here now. She is discouraged we do not have accommodations for Special Needs students. Not fair to our teachers – re: evaluation. We will support MCAS for another year.

Roll Call Vote

Bruce Menin - NO
Steve Cole - NO
Cheryl Sweeney - NO
Mayor Holaday - NO
Nick deKanter - NO
Audrey McCarthy - NO
Michael Luekens - Absent for vote

Motion failed

Newburyport will stay with MCAS for another year.

Superintendent Viccaro said information is still coming out – she will keep the Committee informed.
Nick deKanter said the Department of Education did not make it easy for us.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

None have met.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro stated there has been a lot of moving in the last couple of days. The Superintendent's Office is now located in front of the Nock/Molin School. The phones are not up and running as yet.

Superintendent Viccaro read an e-mail to the Committee re: the Ocean Drifters which our high school students made and deployed in the ocean. The Drifters have been most successful. Our students did very, very well.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:13 PM

Motion Passed

Michael Luekens absent for vote