

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, October 20, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 8:05 PM**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 8:05 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$53,481.84

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$448,227.86

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Mike Luekens it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, October 6, 2014.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- October 28 - Parent Teacher conferences
- October 25 - Sophomore Semi-Formal
- October 31 - NHS Halloween Dance put on by NHS Theater
- Still working on a date for the Club Fair
- First college applications being sent out

- Women's Self-Defense Class, aiming for 2nd or 3rd week of November

DISTRICT GOALS 2014-2015:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the District Goals 2014-2015 as proposed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT AND ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACTS:

Cheryl Sweeney reported that accordance had been reached regarding the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent's contracts.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the Superintendent of Schools contract.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney stated that the Superintendent of Schools had a three year contract. Under the terms of the new contract that has been extended one year, three more sick days have been added, a 2% raise has been granted and her Rotary dues will be paid by the district.

Bruce Menin stated that he is glad that they were able to extend this contract.

Roll Call Vote:

Nick deKanter - Yes
Mayor Holaday - Yes
Michael Luekens - Yes
Audrey McCarthy - Yes
Bruce Menin - Yes
Cheryl Sweeney - Yes
Steven Cole - Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Mike Luekens it was

VOTED: To approve the Assistant Superintendent of Schools contract

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney stated that the Assistant Superintendent will receive a 2% raise.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Holaday - Yes
Michael Luekens - Yes
Audrey McCarthy - Yes
Bruce Menin - Yes
Cheryl Sweeney - Yes

Steven Cole - Yes
Nick deKanter - Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro reported on the following:

- The roll-out of the new district website has been delayed due to the principals being busy with building projects. We will have a meeting on-line with the web site folks.
- Leadership Team met - discussed policy and procedures
- Meeting this week - re: playground at Molin/skatepark
- Chartwells has a new district manager
- We had a third negotiation session with teachers around District Determined Measures.
- Newport Conference/Institute - presentations were 30 minutes in length - it was a very positive experience.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired regarding the School Building Projects. Superintendent Viccaro reported that they are in the close-out phase at Bresnahan. There will be a neighborhood meeting tomorrow evening. Technology is rolling out. At the Nock/Molin things are rolling along. Some computers are still being installed. Punch list items are being addressed.

Mayor Holaday said there has been substantial completion. The building was turned over to them last week.

Bruce Menin commented on the ventilator problems, which are being adjusted.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Education:

Cheryl Sweeney reported they have not met.

Finance:

Steve Cole reported they met on October 9. They discussed the status of the FY14 Revolving Accounts:

Athletic	- \$54,000
Kindergarten	- \$68,000
School Lunch	- \$2,400
Pals Program	- \$147,000
Transportation	- \$16,000 deficit (covered by overage FY15)
Student Club Fees	- \$18,000 (High School Adv. stipends)
Maintenance	- \$16,000

Also discussed were:

- Food Service Account - up about 60 meals a day
- Transportation totals - 83 less riders
- Enrollment - up 50 students
- Choice - down from 85 to 50 students

Policy:

Bruce Menin reported they met today. They discussed the following:

- New elementary gym facility
- Fingerprinting - State mandates - some flexibility with parent volunteers - day trips - fingerprints already on file - funding for hardship people

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the fingerprinting policy, as mandated without funding by the state and proposed by the administration. It is contingent on the Superintendent discussing with the PTO's possible ways to address cost in hardship situations, and whether prior fingerprinting can be used by volunteers to meet the policy requirements.

Discussion:

Mike Luekens said he had some concerns re: volunteer/chaperones fingerprinting cost. This is discouraging to some parents.

Superintendent Viccaro said this is one more safeguard for her. This is relaxed right now because of a backlog. She will speak with the PTO Board re: hardship of some parents.

Bruce Menin said this is an issue of venues - the state uses one vendor to do this. The policy has not been thought through.

Steve Cole said re: cost - can we budget this for next year - for volunteers

Nick deKanter said fingerprinting is long due.

Audrey McCarthy commented on the hardship policy.

Mike Luekens inquired as to what was the rational policy to have the School Committee finger printed.

Motion Passed

Mike Luekens voted NO

Curriculum

Mike Luekens said they will be meeting tomorrow at 5:30 PM.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Cheryl Sweeney stated that she and the Mayor are on the Committee - they will set up the first meeting.

Mayor Holaday stated that the Joint School Committee/City Council meeting will be Wednesday, November 12, at 7PM in the High School Library. The meeting will be preceded by a light dinner at 6:15 in the Clipper Café, which will be provided by the Mayor.

Bresnahan School Dedication The NEF is sponsoring a dedication night at the Bresnahan School on Wednesday, November 19, at 6 PM. This is to honor the generosity of all the donations made to enhance the building.

Nick deKanter recognized retired teacher, who is still a very active person for the district - Dr. John Halloran. He also recognized Angela Bik for her great speech.

Audrey McCarthy reported that former School Committee member, Dan Koen, and his family, won America's Funniest Video contest with a Christmas video of his daughter's ugly car present on Christmas day. It is a \$10,000 prize.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously