

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, January 5, 2015**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:44 PM**

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

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM. A roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Bradley, past Student Representative **CONCERN:** He stated he was present to support the motion on athletic fields.

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** He had the following concerns:

- Interactions with community have not been defined
- emails not correct
- Budget - Whittier Group - Nbpt. School Committee members should serve on that committee
- Longer school day
- School Revenue Task Force
- Decision making

Bruce Menin introduced Boy Scout Alex Teressi, who is in attendance working on his Merit badge.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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

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

\$31,009.11

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

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

\$359,887.35

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

There were no minutes to approve at this time

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Julia Bradley, NHS Student Representative reported on the following:

- We returned back from winter break today. Very sleepy, started to clean out the cobwebs.
- Regular decision applications are being sent in; most have heard back from early decisions.
- The rush of scholarship forms have begun, stress level goes up to 11.
- Poetry Soup is this Wednesday
- Half-day Thursday of next week
- A dance is in the works

VOTE TO APPROVE HAMILTON-WENHAM WITHDRAWAL FROM CREST COLLABORATIVE:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To support the decision by Hamilton-Wenham to withdraw from CREST Collaborative.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired as to what is the cost now. Steve Cole said that one is leaving and one is coming in, so it is a wash. He also stated that the Collaborative is doing much better now.

Michael Luekens asked if the Committee has to approve new members. NO

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

VOTE ON FIELDS:

Mayor Holaday gave background on and introduced Lise Reid, Director of Parks Dept. Ms. Reid spoke regarding the playing field situation. She presented a full presentation on athletic fields.

Discussion:

Steve Cole had several points of interest to inquire about:

- Outfield dimensions - what are they? 310

- Safety nets to prevent foul balls
- dug outs
- plumbing/drinking water
- Fuller Field - parking
- World War Stadium - turf
- Woodman Park - diamond

Ms. Reed addressed Mr. Coles concerns.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve construction and renovation of athletic fields of schools, on the Newburyport Public School grounds.

In accordance with the Newburyport City Charter, Article 4, Section 4-5, item 3, the School Committee holds superintendency over all school facilities and grounds. Traditionally, this means no building or installation is undertaken without a presentation and affirmative vote of the School Committee prior to the beginning of any work. The City has secured funding through the Community Preservation Act and donations to renovate the World War Memorial High School Stadium. The City has secured partial funding through a debt exclusion ballot question to renovate the Nock/Molin field to install a baseball field and renovate and upgrade the track at the Fuller Field.

The School Committee, contingent on a full presentation of all proposed changes to current facilities and grounds relative to the three initiatives - the debt exclusion to cover improving playing fields at Nock/Molin and Fuller Field, and the grant of CPA funds for the work at the High School - moves to approve such work in accordance with their responsibility under Article 4, Section 4-5, Item 3 of the Newburyport City Charter.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated that after approval Policy subcommittee needs to create a policy for this.

Michael Luekens said that the minutes should reflect that a full presentation on fields preceded this motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously

DRAFT 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDARS:

Superintendent Viccaro spoke regarding the drafts of the 2015-2016 calendars, recommending draft #2.

Discussion:

Michael Luekens inquired why the Superintendent recommend Draft #2 over Draft #3. Superintendent Viccaro said so that parents could have the calendars as soon as possible. Teachers would be required to approve Draft #3. Draft #2 will not require a teacher vote.

Audrey McCarthy commented on Draft #2 - 20 full weeks of school - others have more. 38.5 hours of Professional Development.

Mayor Holaday said she wished they could make a little bit of compromise with the early release days in the months when there is a school vacation week.

Discussion ensued regarding early release days.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve Draft #2 of the Newburyport Public School Calendar for the School Year 2015-2016, moving the December 3rd early release day to December 23rd.

6 Yes Votes

Steve Cole voted NO

Motion Passed

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Superintendent Viccaro commented on the hiring of a facilitator.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired if travel was included. Superintendent Viccaro said 3 days hotel fee and airfare are needed.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the Cambrian Group as the facilitator for Strategic Planning.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- Data from the Library Media Center at the High School regarding usage of devices
- NHS - made the AP Honor Roll from College Board
- Wednesday - Pre-school - K information night
- Thursday - Dr. Chen will be back in district

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Education

Cheryl Sweeney reported they met today. They discussed:

- Financial lunch program is in the black

- Overall budget
- Fin. State SPED Program
- Legal bills up
- Tuition rate down
- Brown School - Reuse Task Force
- Engage New York - curriculum program
- Comparison City Council/School Committee agenda items

Finance

Steve Cole reported they will meet on January 15

Policy

Nick deKanter said they have not met

Curriculum, Instruction Assessment & Accountability

Michael Luekens reported they met on December 16. They discussed the School Committee Calendar.

Due Diligence

Bruce Menin said they will meet Thursday at 7:00 PM at the Library in the Nock School. They will discuss google docs.

MOTION TO ADJOURN/ EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting to Executive Session at 9:40 PM to discuss strategy on respect to collective bargaining or litigation. The Committee will not return to Open Session.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed Unanimously