

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, October 6, 2014**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 6:38 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 6:38 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR.** CONCERN: He spoke regarding the manor of conducting Executive Sessions.

**Kathy Flaherty** CONCERN: She spoke regarding the Public Meeting Law.

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- Bass Fest was highly attended, made about \$1,000; most of it going to Making Strides.
- October 11 – SAT's
- No school on October 13
- PSAT's – October 18
- Freshmen are about to hold elections for class officers
- Color Day preparations are underway already
- Next thing up for Student Council is a club fair hopefully in the next 2 to 3 weeks

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired about the chalk outside the front steps to the school – what was it for?  
Answer – It was a clever advertising for “Active Minds”, a new club.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Motions:**

**Warrants:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$343,184.04**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted present due to a conflict**

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.  
**\$9,632.91**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, September 15, 2014.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted present**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION:**

Vice Chairman Cheryl Sweeney asked Bruce Menin and Nick deKanter to report on the School Committee evaluation process.

**Bruce Menin** stated that he felt they didn't do a good job of stating their goals. He asked the Committee to look these over and get comments to him or Nick deKanter by Wednesday.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired as to where the form being used came from. Ms. Sweeney explained, and stated they wanted to keep it similar to the Superintendent's evaluation.

**REPORT ON COMMON CORE FORUM:**

Ms. Sweeney asked Audrey McCarthy to report on the Common Core Forum. Ms. McCarthy reported that she filed form 23B3 with the City Clerk. She took notes at the forum which she summarized.

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** distributed a report on common questions asked about Common Core; she then explained Common Core.

**Audrey McCarthy** asked are we currently teaching Social Studies, Science in our classes now. Ms. Bik explained.

**REPORT ON THE COALITION FOR CHAPTER 70 REFORM MEETING:**

Ms. Sweeney asked Michael Luekens to report. Mr. Luekens reported on the Chapter 70 law in which schools in Massachusetts are funded. Representatives in communities met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> – approximately 60 people (mostly officials) met in Ipswich – the Coalition presented a mission statement.

**Nick deKanter** spoke regarding the legalities of Chapter 70.

**Mayor Holaday** stated this is an important time – FY15 budget ad hoc committee has been formed – they are looking at Chapter 70.

**Bruce Menin** said we need a strong showing from Newburyport – there will be hearings all across the state.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked Mr. Luekens if they could keep up by Facebook. Mr. Luekens said he would keep up on this.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked what communities are involved. Answer – Ipswich, Topsfield, Amesbury, Hamilton, Wenham, Beverly.

**PROPOSED DISTRICT GOALS 2014-2015:**

Superintendent Susan Viccaro explained five draft goals:

- Curriculum and Assessment
- Families and Community
- Professional Culture
- Teaching all Students
- Management and Operations

**Bruce Menin** said he was pleased to see the goals - #3 is useful to define communication; teaching all students - 504 plans – he would like to see this talked about. Operations and management – he would like to see conversation take place sooner.

**Superintendent Viccaro** commented on the goals – district all the way down to teacher level.

**Ms. Bik** commented on the goals.

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated the Superintendent's Evaluation Committee will work with the Superintendent on this. They will get feedback from the School Committee. Superintendent Viccaro said she would

like feedback.

**Steve Cole** asked if there was any way to measure these things. Superintendent Viccaro said they are developing action steps now.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Viccaro updated the Committee on the following:

#### **Update on NHS Secure-In-Place:**

There was a question and answer session at the Open House. Parents would like a better flow of information.

**Mayor Holaday** stated media concerns came out – they are looking at how to get information to the media.

**Bruce Menin** said it is a difficult task to get correct information to media. He is concerned about students being led out of school – pictures taken.

**Mayor Holaday** said she was pleased with response.

**Audrey McCarthy** asked if we have control – re: actions taken. Superintendent Viccaro spoke regarding handling situations.

#### **Technology Report:**

**Mayor Holaday** said she was pleased.

**Nick deKanter** inquired regarding gathering other information. What do students have access to – this was a good beginning.

**Superintendent Viccaro** said a survey will be done.

- **Cheryl Sweeney** asked if this will be in the budget. Superintendent Viccaro said this will be given serious consideration.
- Is there a time line? Answer – No committee working on this.

**Mayor Holaday** said they are using numbers the School Building committee put together

**Mike Luekens** said he appreciated this and commented on the report.

### **MASS/MASC Joint Conference, Hyannis Nov. 5-8**

**Bruce Menin** commented on attendance

**Signs of Suicide** The school nurses put together an evidence based suicide program. Superintendent Viccaro commented on this - “We can truly make a difference.”

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked how we get information out to parents. Superintendent Viccaro said a packet will be sent to each parent.

#### **Newport Conference:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** said she has been invited, all expenses paid. She is looking forward to it. There will be 70 Superintendents attending.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Joint Ed**

Cheryl Sweeney said they met this evening. They discussed Common Core, Chapter 70 funding, School lunch program – serving more lunches per day

#### **Finance**

Steve Cole said they will be looking at school lunches. They will be meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Policy**

Bruce Menin said they have not met. They will be meeting in two weeks.

#### **Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment Accountability**

Michael Luekens said their meeting was canceled. They will be meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30 PM.

**Superintendent's Evaluation**

Has not met.

**Mayor Holaday** said a vote will be needed regarding surplus equipment, closing of the Brown School.

**Bruce Menin** said discussion is needed regarding overcrowding at the High School.

**Mayor Holaday** stated Superintendent Viccaro and she will be doing a walking challenge – cooking a healthy lunch for each other – will shift jobs for the day – this is a six week challenge.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at 8:25PM to Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining for Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent Contracts.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**Motion Passed Unanimously**