

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, November 3, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 6:30 PM**

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

**Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole (arrived at 6:55 PM), 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 one member absent, Steve Cole, who arrived at 6:55 PM. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Colleen McLuney, 197 High Street CONCERN: She spoke in favor of Youth Basketball being able to use the Bresnahan School gym on weekends. This will make basketball more viable. They are interested in using the gym on Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Sundays from 12:00 PM or 1:00 PM to 6:30 PM.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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.
\$36, 503.82

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

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.
\$285,836.93

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Nick deKantar it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, October 20, 2014.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

Bruce Menin requested that he be able to report on the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee regarding use of the Bresnahan School on weekends.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Bruce Menin reported that the Policy Subcommittee had met and discussed the use of the Bresnahan Gym on weekends. It is the recommendation of the Policy Subcommittee to the full School Committee they approve the following motion:

Motion:

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

VOTED: That the School Committee approve the use of the gym at the Bresnahan Elementary School on weekends. We ask them to try to schedule Sunday use after 1:00 PM and that they operate under current established policies and practices; they will be held harmless in the event that there is a change of policy recommended by the School Committee.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired how many students were in the League. Answer - 250 boys grades 1-8. 98% are Newburyport students. There are 120 girls in the program. They have played at the Bresnahan School, High School, Nock School and the Brown School.

Mayor Holaday stated that more use of the Brown School gym would be appreciated. She inquired if this was a league that provided \$25 to the maintenance fund. Answer - yes.

Bruce Menin said this was addressed at their meeting.

Nick deKanter commented on basketball at the High School.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Steve Cole arrived. 6:55 PM

NHS - OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP REQUEST:

Athletic Director Bob Clark and the NHS hockey coach were present to request School Committee approval of an overnight Hockey Team field trip to Cape Cod Hyannis Resort and Conference Center for a Cape Cod Tournament departing from Graf Rink on December 26 and returning December 27.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS Hockey Team overnight field trip to Cape Cod Hyannis Resort and Conference Center for a Cape Cod Tournament departing from Graf Rink on December 26 and returning December 27.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STRATEGIC PLANNING:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro stated she wanted to start Strategic Planning in early November.

Discussion

Mayor Holaday spoke regarding past practices.

Nick deKanter stated this is to become a living document

- year 1 - budget
- year 2 - where we are going
- year 3,4 5 - long term goals
- also include - each aspect is measurable

Bruce Menin said he is interested in model - to engage community - benchmark

Michael Luekens said the first step is to put together a project plan and determine what steps need to be followed.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired of the Superintendent

- What process did you want to follow to develop the strategic plan? - Superintendent Viccaro explained - have a planning team with a facilitator - 4 - 6 strategies.
- Did you hire a facilitator; what benefit was that? Superintendent Viccaro explained
- Did you work with the facilitator? Superintendent Viccaro explained that they were fortunate enough to have worked with the same facilitator for over 20 years.
- Would you investigate facilitators for this district? Superintendent Viccaro said yes and she would come back to the Committee with some options.

Steve Cole commented regarding building strengths.

Cheryl Sweeney ended this session by asking the Superintendent to come back to the Committee with options.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SELF-EVALUATION: STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES:

Cheryl Sweeney explained

- the development of the documents
- the four standards they addressed
- ratings
- next meeting - what their action plan might be - do you feel comfortable having a goal for each of our standards.

Nick deKanter stated they should use this as the first step to establish goals.

Superintendent Viccaro said she is struck by the variability - discuss how people work.

Bruce Menin noted the variability - culture of our governance - a number of things we really need to talk about. This was a pilot. They need conversation regarding structure. There is a lot to talk about.

Mike Luekens commented on putting goals together - use the subcommittees to do the heavy lifting - develop smart goals - then take them back to full committee.

Steve Cole spoke regarding trends and developing goals.

Mayor Holaday spoke regarding developing goals.

Nick deKanter said he liked Michael Luekens suggestion - communications ad hoc committee should get together.

Mayor Holaday suggested going through the list.

Cheryl Sweeney suggested

- Governance - Policy subcommittee
- Fiscal planning - Finance subcommittee
- Community engagement - Communications ad hoc committee
- Culture - Superintendent Evaluation

Cheryl Sweeney said district goals need to be kept in mind.

Nick deKanter said School Committee goals should come first.

Cheryl Sweeney said the next time each subcommittee meets this should be discussed.

Steve Cole said his subcommittee meets on November 13.

Bruce Menin said Policy will meet before the 17th.

Michael Luekens said his subcommittee will not meet before the 17th.

Communications ad hoc will get together.

CLOSING OF THE BROWN SCHOOL:

Mayor Holaday explained the following has happened:

- End of June - closed
- Youth Services - out of Kelley to Brown
- Census has doubled
- Architects from Salem developed RFP - evaluated Brown - community meetings - keep vibrant community building - looked at various options - lot of discussion - lot of concerns - feasibility study - put together an ad hoc committee.
- School Committee has to hold a public meeting.

Bruce Menin said he had concerns. What are the immediate needs of this school system? Before we release an asset like this we should look at space - talk about the use of the building for the school system before we let it go.

Nick deKanter said we need to take a look at opportunities.

Audrey McCarthy said administration is in separate building - free up space. Regarding Lydia's Kids - what is the status? Mayor Holaday said with everything that has been going on, it was decided to wait until Spring to address this issue.

Superintendent Viccaro said she will talk with Principals.

Mayor Holaday said there is a building in town, near the river - possible use as classroom space. Dual enrollment has doubled from 4 to 8. She spoke regarding place based education. 18 to 20 year old students would like to be out of the high school. This is an opportunity to look at things.

Cheryl Sweeney asked :

- What is the goal of the Ad hoc committee. Mayor Holaday explained.
- Who is making decisions of places. Mayor Holaday said this group.

Bruce Menin explained "use of building" - take time to discuss.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro reported on the following:

- Boys Cross Country - 4 years undefeated and Cape Ann Champions - Captains Nick Carleo and Mark Landergan. Don Hennigar Coach of the Year. Team moves on to compete for Eastern Mass and State title the next two weekends. Nick will run in NY later in the month for elite nationally ranked high school cross country runners.
- Girls Cross Country won the Kinney Division of the Cape Ann League which is the large schools. Captains are Lily Eagan and Rachel Haley. They will also be competing the next two weekends,
- Field Hockey qualified again for the tournament - won their first round game vs. Wilmington 2-0. They lost to Watertown High School the number one ranked school in

the state 4-0 last Friday afternoon. Captains are Ashley Hodge, Renee Vartabedian, Marie Cahalane, and Megan Stanton.

- Defending Division 3 State Champions Girls Soccer will play on this Wednesday at 2 PM at Cherry Hill field vs. the winner of North Reading and Greater Lawrence. Captains are Lauren Bean, Delaney Bartol, Abbie Bresnahan and Isabella Palma.

Bruce Menin commented regarding Coach Hennigar, a retired Newburyport teacher, who stays involved and dedicated to the school and children.

- **Real World Design Awards Ceremony** – I will attend with Principal Parent on Friday, Nov.7
- **School Councils - Joint meeting** Thursday Evening , November 6 at the Nock/Molin Library

School Updates:

Nock

- Camp Kiev - disappointing cancellation of event, but positive turn of events as some of the events will be brought to the school, for the students.
- Nock Buddies - a group of students who come together regularly for social activities, strengthening our middle school community by embracing individuality, and creating 1-to-1 friendships. Once a month these students get together for an after school activity that they all enjoy and encompasses students from grades 6-8. This program also will prepare MS students to engage in “Best Buddies” in the high school. An Art Club has also started that meets after school on Mondays.

Bresnahan

- On Friday Oct. 31, a K-3 Halloween Parade and Singalong was held.
- On Friday Oct. 24th, PreK and K celebrated Halloween at the annual PTO sponsored Boo Bash
- The BOKS Program is up and running for children in Grades K-3. The program is offered before school on Mondays and Wednesdays and is run by parent Kim Patrick.
- Teachers are attending a number of professional development workshops and conferences this year including Social Thinking, SRSD Writing, MKEA training. Additionally, Pam Jamison presented at the MassCUE Conference in October.
- The second *Invite a Parent to Lunch Day* will be held on Wed. Nov. 5, for PreK and K and gr. 1-3 students for the reservations we were unable to accommodate due to the overwhelming response earlier in the month.
- Veterans Day Ceremony is scheduled for Friday morning.
- Clipper the SeaDog was recently voted by the children to be our new school mascot.

Mayor Holaday stated the Bresnahan PTO will hold a walk-throughs tomorrow at the Bresnahan School for those people who were not able to attend the first walk-through.

Superintendent Viccaro said it is a busy time at the Superintendent's Office.

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik spoke regarding Newburyport University - 29 workshops. Theme assessment and technology - speaker.

Molin

- Jim Jordan anti-bullying assembly in October
- Artists from Mexico presenting to 4th graders today - Nov 3rd - about their culture and creation of their specific art form - this year it is ceramics
- Beginning Implementation of Think SRSD in two 5th grade classes - all staff to be trained in December
- Continuing to address construction related concerns
- Molin teachers offering after-school sessions for academics based on student needs in class-math or ELA

High School

- Walk throughs at the High School with Mike Parent - the costumes were a treat at Senior Dress up Day

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Education:

Cheryl Sweeney reported they have not met.

Finance:

Steve Cole reported they will meet on November 13

Policy:

Bruce Menin reported they met on October 30 and discussed basketball request, fingerprinting policy, facility use.

Mayor Holaday commented on facility use.

Curriculum

Mike Luekens said they met on October 21. They discussed Common Core Forum, Curriculum topics - inform public; areas of focus - time and effort; administrative budget, special education, technology integration, assisting with strategic plan development.

School Committee/City Council - Wednesday, November 12 at 6:15 PM

NEF Wednesday Nov. 19th at 6 PM Bresnahan Dedication Night

School Committee December 1, 6:30 - 8:00 PM - Topic Forum, Technology

NEF November 15, Live Auction Nicholson Hall - biggest fundraiser

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously