

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, June 2, 2014**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 7:16 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:**

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:16 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 took over chairmanship of the meeting.

**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:  
**\$41,746.10**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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.  
**\$302,888.90**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the Public Conversation minutes of Monday, April 7, 2014 as amended.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Michael Luekens it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, April 7, 2014.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the Public Hearing minutes of Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Regular Meeting minutes of Tuesday, April 29, 2014.

### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, May 5, 2014 as amended.

### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Meeting minutes of Monday, May 19, 2014.

### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

### **NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- ⤴ Seniors graduated on Sunday, June 1
- ⤴ Thursday is a half day; students running for class office will give speeches to their respective classes; elections are on Friday.
- ⤴ Friday is Step Up Day, as well as Book Awards. After that, the students will be attending Field Day, sponsored by the Student Council.
- ⤴ June 4<sup>th</sup> – Junior/Freshman classes are having a hypnotist show for the entire school.
- ⤴ June 7<sup>th</sup> – SAT's
- ⤴ June 13<sup>th</sup> – last day of classes.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR**      **CONCERN:**      Commented on agenda items, School Improvement; lunch program, PARCC, web site.

### **REQUEST FOR FACILITY USE ON SUNDAY MORNING:**

Representative Arlan Chaffea from Loco Sports presented the Committee with a request for usage of the Newburyport High School gym for a large All Woman's road race, a half marathon on Sunday, September 14 from 5:30 AM to 1 PM.

#### **Discussion:**

**Mayor Holaday** questioned certain aspects of the request; how many people, cost to participate, front lawn usage, etc.

**Nick deKanter** expressed his support of the request.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Audrey McCarthy and seconded by Mike Luekens it was

**VOTED:** To table the request for two weeks.

### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

### **CHARTWELL'S (FOOD SERVICE) CONTRACT:**

Superintendent Susan Viccaro explained the contract discussion and explained that fees have not gone up.

#### **Discussion:**

**Nick deKanter** asked if this was separate from any discussion re: cost of meals.

**Bruce Menin** asked Steve Cole to explain the contract. Mr. Cole explained that he was not comfortable discussing this at this point of the discussion.

**Bruce Menin** inquired as to what was the general thrust as to why they were discussing this.

**Cheryl Sweeney** stated that at the Financial sub-committee meeting it was discussed at length – this is a one year extension of the contract.

**Steve Cole** explained there was a loss this year – projection \$74,000 – last year \$98,000. He said there has been some growth.

**Nick deKanter** asked for an explanation re:

- ⤴ loss, costs, transfers - Steve Cole explained
- ⤴ How much are we subsidizing the lunch program? – Steve Cole explained.

**Bruce Menin** said we are not costing out school lunches as to what they are actually costing.

**Mike Luekens** said you can have a good product, but if it is not priced appropriately.

**Teresa Minnucci** from Chartwell's explained why there is a deficit.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired

- ⤴ for an explanation as to why there is a deficit – Ms. Minnucci explained.
- ⤴ For an explanation of revenues and expenses – Ms. Minnucci explained.
- ⤴ If Chartwell's was able to complete a survey at the Nock/Molin – Teresa explained they were going to do that this Wednesday.

**Angela Bik** explained re: healthy snacks – put on survey – question parents, staff. A survey of parents will be done in the Fall.

**Nick deKanter** asked if the Superintendent was recommending this. Yes, and Cheryl Sweeney said Fin. Com. Was recommending this as well.

#### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To support the recommendation of Superintendent Viccaro to support the Chartwell's contract.

#### **Discussion:**

**Steve Cole** asked if this is for one year to June, 2015.

**Mayor Holaday** stated she wanted monthly accountings.

**Bruce Menin** said the system would like to see the Program succeed; continue to be creative. He stated the Committee needs to know early next school year whether they were “making or breaking.”

**Steve Cole** asked what were directs – anything not a payroll or food cost.

The motion and second were rescinded – there was no vote.

#### **Lunch Price Increase**

**Cheryl Sweeney** explained why a vote was needed for a \$.25 increase.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mike Luekens and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

**VOTED:** To support the \$.25 lunch increase for 2014/15.

#### **Discussion:**

**Mike Luekens** asked

- ⤴ If this brought us to a break even scenario – No.
- ⤴ What would the price increase have to be to break even - \$.50.
- ⤴ Three other districts would be higher.

**Bruce Menin** said this is a painful conversation raising fees – this is a make or break year.

**Cheryl Sweeney** \$2.75 - \$3.50 at the High School – explain the two tier pricing – an explanation was given.

**Mayor Holaday** suggested \$.50 at the elementary level and \$.25 at the Middle/High Schools.

**Steve Cole** said he felt \$.25 across the board was fair – he did not want to see the larger increase put on

the backs of the elementary school.

**Nick deKanter** asked what percent of the population is free or reduced – 10%.

**Cheryl Sweeney** called the motion.

### **Motion Passed Unanimously**

#### **SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE:**

Tony Pruner explained the progress of the two school building projects:

##### **Bresnahan:**

Great progress is being made on all floors. They have finished seeding; curbing is being done; the playground will be installed in July. They will be relocating property.

##### **Nock/Molin:**

This is 80% done. They are entering into the “Summer Slam” phase. The NEF has made a substantial donation for upgrades to the Auditorium. Because of the new upgrades to the Auditorium, this will not be quite finished when school opens.

##### **Discussion:**

**Steve Cole** inquired:

- ⤴ As to how much is left to be done. Mr. Pruner stated the last 10% is knock-down.
- ⤴ On the first day of school will things look clean? Yes

**Mayor Holaday** stated some landscaping will be done when the Senior Center is being done. She also stated they will be organizing surplus materials.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired re: furniture.

**Mayor Holaday** commented on the name of the Bresnahan School, and how are we honoring the Brown/Kelley names – this is important.

**Tony Pruner** said surplus materials will be on sale on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> - we should consider having an open house on those dates.

**Mayor Holaday** commented on the million dollars – for fields – and the procedure for same.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired as to when teachers could get in to the new building to set up classrooms. On or about August 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Steve Cole** inquired if there were any recommendations re: setting up classrooms. Superintendent Viccaro explained that everything is going to be “brand new”, and they want it to look brand new. Staff are recommended to bring only the essentials. This is also a “green” building – no coffee makers, etc. will be allowed.

**Bruce Menin** commented that is powerful that students will finally be attending classes in a new building, and not in attached trailers.

**Mayor Holaday** explained the repairs that will be done to the skate park – when this is being done the skate part will be temporary moved to the tennis court.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if the Nock/Molin was behind schedule and where should they be. Mr. Pruner said they were actually right where they want to be.

**Cheryl Sweeney** commented on the Auditorium not being ready for the opening of school and asked why. Mr. Pruner explained that this is occurring because of the change orders from the donation of the NEF. This donation will greatly improve the Auditorium.

**Bruce Menin** inquired re: the new sound system for the Auditorium – will it be for school use or better. Mr. Pruner explained that it will be a wonderful sound system.

**Nick deKanter** commented on the level of acoustics/lighting – this will bring us to a much higher level.

#### **PARCC & MCAS DISCUSSION:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** explained that she has a deadline to meet on this, but wants to wait to make a

recommendation so she can garner more information.

**Mayor Holaday** stated this was an important decision for our school district – we need information sooner.

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated we are in a bind at this point – it is frustrating.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked if we could get an idea as to what other school districts are doing.

**Bruce Menin** wondered what unfunded mandates will be to the school systems down the road.

**Mike Luekens** said he is interested in information for real costs or opportunity costs.

**Nick deKanter** wondered where the general assessments are going.

### **STIPEND SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated there is not a lot of job descriptions for stipends. The stipend list will go out on Friday of this week. Advisors will be asked to keep track as to how often clubs meet, and keep a log of time. There will be some flexibility in stipends. There is a specific amount to spend.

**Assistant Superintendent Bik** said this will bring some parity.

**Cheryl Sweeney** questioned job descriptions.

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

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- ⤴ The Newburyport Saving Bank made a donation to the Brown School of \$405.
- ⤴ Bresnahan School Council is making it possible to have a photo of each teacher and a bio on their doors.
- ⤴ The Bresnahan Memorial Day Ceremony was very moving.
- ⤴ First grade Tall Tales – Thursday and Friday
- ⤴ Third grade classes will be doing walking tours this week.
- ⤴ Molin fifth graders will be offered Orchestra, Band, General Music
- ⤴ Molin outdoor concert – Maudsley
- ⤴ Middle School received Silver Medal
- ⤴ Drifter Project – monitoring Red Tide
- ⤴ High School – senior week, culminating in Graduation – she thanked the Class Advisors for all their work.
- ⤴ Lacrosse teams are in the finals
- ⤴ MCAS Science testing underway
- ⤴ High School – early stages – staff/student schedules
- ⤴ Website update – things are moving along – we had a phone conference this week – getting feedback

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **Joint Ed:**

**Cheryl Sweeney** said they met this evening. The City Council is interested in getting revenues for our schools – next step – meet with City Council

#### **Finance:**

**Steve Cole** said they met last week – they discussed the school lunch \$.25 increase

#### **Policy:**

**Bruce Menin** said they met last week. They are merging various levels of policy. Two new policies – the Superintendent has received from the State

- ⤴ framework – bullying
- ⤴ school discipline – new approach

The Superintendent will meet with her administrative team – then present us with their recommendation – then we will draft a policy. We are looking at what our roles are – how the

community perceives us.

**Curriculum:**

**Michael Luekens** said they met on May 20 – discussed topics/goals for Committee to take up next year; helping define curriculum/goals. They discussed PARCC/MCAS. Goal for next meeting – discuss expectations/goals for next year.

**Cheryl Sweeney** reminded the Committee re: Workshop tomorrow – 5:30 – Superintendents Conference Room – re: Superintendent's goals.

The summer schedule was discussed.

**Cheryl Sweeney** discussed the summer retreat.

**Bruce Menin** said he chaperoned the Senior Mystery Ride last evening. It was a wonderfully organized event and went off well.

**Mayor Holaday** reminded the Committee of the City Council Meeting tomorrow evening at 7:15 PM – they will be reviewing the School Budget.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**