

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 15, 2014**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:32 PM**

**Room 118
Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Ms. Sweeney called for a roll call, which found one member absent, Mayor Donna Holaday. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION:

Mr. Myron Moss, on behalf of PTC, Parametric Technologies Corp. who is the 16th largest producer of software in the world presented a \$2,500 check to the Newburyport Schools. Fourteen years ago PTC selected NHS as a model school. PTC has donated between \$60,000 to \$75,000 in software, grants, and training to the High and Nock students and teachers over the years.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary Foley, 15 Oak Street **CONCERN:** She is concerned regarding the Common Core and would like more information; would like a forum, that speaks to the Common Core has been implemented, tried and tested. Parents have not been asked for opinions.

Answer: **Audrey McCarthy** stated that there will be a forum sponsored by NECCO. There will be a rally November 1st at the State House. She stated she shares the concerns regarding Common Core.

Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** _He stated he felt the response given him regarding executive sessions at the last meeting were not correct. He cited rules re: executive session minutes. He spoke regarding the NEASC report on page 36, that students were unable to score many electives.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$385,811.47

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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.
\$19,737.35

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$5,159.00

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, August 25, 2014.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Tuesday, September 2, 2014.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney introduced the NHS Girl's Lacrosse team, who recently won the State Championship. The team introduced themselves and stated their year in school. The graduated seniors stated their future plans. All those present gave these young ladies a standing ovation.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Julia Bradley reported on the following:

- ▲ Picture day was today
- ▲ Wandering Freshmen
- ▲ Frantic last-minute schedule changes
- ▲ ½ day this Thursday
- ▲ The lock down on Tuesday was handled very well by students and teachers

In the planning stages:

- Hope to have a dance in the next few weeks
- Bring back No-Talent Talent Show
- Another woman's self-defense classrooms
- Hoping to have a representative from each of the classes to receive more input from the students

OVERNIGHT TRIP REQUEST – NHS MODEL UN:

NHS Principal Michael Parent presented a request for an overnight field trip from Thursday, November 6 through Sunday, November 9 to Montreal, Canada for the Secondary Schools United Nations Symposium. He stated these symposiums are very successful and beneficial to the students.

Discussion:

Bruce Menin stated this is one of the best programs at NHS. It is terrifically managed. He endorses this.

Michael Luekens inquired

- How many students will be attending? Answer; 20 – 30
- How many country assignments? Answer: 2 countries
- Are the students split – half to one country and half to the other? Answer: Yes

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding fund raising. Principal Parent said Matt LaChapelle has started fund raising through “Go Fund Me”. The cost is \$200 less than last year per student.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To support the request for an overnight field trip from Thursday, November 6 through Sunday, November 9 to Montreal, Canada for the Secondary Schools United Nations Symposium.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

NEW ENGLAND ASSOC. OF SCHOOLS & COLLEGES (NEASC) REPORT ON NHS, APRIL, 2014:

NHS Principal Michael Parent along with teachers Tom Abrams and Brandon Sturma stated they got the report in May. The first call of duty is to write a report which must be presented by October 1. The report must cover talking points to look at and professional development.

Superintendent Susan Viccaro stated this is an opportunity to do some long-term planning.

Cheryl Sweeney asked Principal Parent what were the three top commendations:

1. Kudos on the first page
2. Alignment of curriculum
3. How we now utilize our Library Media Center

Cheryl Sweeney asked if there were any surprises. Principal Parent said no. He stated the commendations/recommendations were a contradiction, but there were no major surprises.

Michael Luekens asked if Principal Parent would be able to meet the October 1st deadline. Answer – Yes. Mr. Luekens thanked all concerned for all the work involved. He asked Principal Parent to tie the budget to recommendations from the report.

Bruce Menin stated he knew how hard everyone worked on this. He asked:

- How to prioritize the role of the School Council
- How are they going to meet the goals

Principal Parent said there is a good school culture in his building with teamwork. After the October 1st report they will address 7 recommendations and prioritize them.

Nick deKanter asked what has been presented to the students. Principal Parent said they have not presented anything as yet, and have no plans as yet for a presentation, but it will happen.

Superintendent Viccaro said other schools made a presentation to their School Councils, who went back to homerooms and talked to students.

Steve Cole inquired regarding self-study groups – did the visiting committee present their consensus? Could we find out what the rules of consensus were, if possible?

Cheryl Sweeney inquired on page 3, #6 – how can we help with this. Principal Parent said to allow schools to have the latitude to communicate with the Leadership Team/staff.

Cheryl Sweeney, on behalf of the Committee thanked Principal Parent and his team for their hard work.

OPENING OF SCHOOL:

Superintendent Viccaro: I traveled to all buildings. Technology had some problems. Students were happy, very positive. There were some bus glitches, but these have been worked out.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney said she liked the Bresnahan shirts/hats. Superintendent Viccaro this is developing leadership in the third graders. They were given blue hats and helped out with the younger students.

Superintendent Viccaro said they will have the official count on October 1st. There are 816 students

at the high school.

Bruce Menin asked at the High School, at what point do we get before we revision. Superintendent Viccaro we are there now.

EVALUATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Cheryl Sweeney stated the Committee received documents in their packets.

Bruce Menin said that the sooner we get to self-evaluation the better – work with this form and move ahead as quickly as possible.

Superintendent Viccaro asked for an explanation of the procedure. Cheryl Sweeney explained.

Nick deKanter said they should match the rubrics to the Superintendents evaluation – so we are on the same page.

Bruce Menin said this is worthwhile and he will do this in the next couple of days. Nick deKanter volunteered to help with this.

Steve Cole said we should avoid a cookie cutter approach.

Michael Luekens said they should evaluate progress from the previous year.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired as to how they wanted to proceed.

Steve Cole said a good place to start is to have Bruce Menin and Nick deKanter work on this.

Cheryl Sweeney said she will put this on the agenda for October 6.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed

Cheryl Sweeney said the Committee will begin to meet on October 6, and continue to meet on the first Monday of the month, prior to the School Committee meetings.

Finance

Steve Cole said they met on September 11. They looked at:

- FY14
- Good news - \$20,000 was returned to the Choice Account
- Special Ed tuition is in deficit
- School Lunch – meal count at Bresnahan is up 10 meals a day.
- Seating arrangements at Bresnahan – booths are not in place as yet.
- Fun Friday snacks.
- High School – meal up is up 50 meals a day.
- Budget calendar – start process
- Will meet on the second Thursday each month at 5:30 PM.

Policy

Bruce Menin said they met this afternoon. The Superintendent reported lots of requests for building use at the elementary schools. They will do some research re: use of facilities in other communities. They will review usage. They will review non-funding mandate – finger printing – will have policy at next meeting. The cost is between \$35 - \$55. The state issued a new mandate regarding discipline.

Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability

Michael Luekens said they will meet tomorrow at 6:00 PM. They will set goals for the school year.

Superintendent's Evaluation

Cheryl Sweeney said they have not met. There will be an executive session tonight to discuss the Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's contracts.

ED GERETY:

Superintendent Viccaro said Ed Gerety will be making a presentation for parents “Navigating the Parenting Years on Tuesday, September 16, at the Nock Middle School Auditorium at 7:00 PM. Admission is free.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at 10:08 PM to Executive Session for the purpose of discussion concerning the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent contracts. The Committee will not return to open session.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Steven Cole - Yes

Nick deKanter - Yes

Michael Luekens - Yes

Audrey McCarthy - Yes

Bruce Menin - Yes

Cheryl Sweeney - Yes

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote