

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING  
Tuesday, September 2, 2014**

**Newburyport High School  
Meeting Convened at 6:32 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 6:32 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. CONCERN:** He questioned regarding Executive Session minutes – were minutes kept? If they were, are the notes open to the public, and if so, when could he obtain them. Mayor Holaday explained why they were not open to the public. Michael Luekens read the law pertaining to Executive Session.

**BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE:**

**Mayor Donna Holaday** updated the Committee on the two building projects.

**Bresnahan School:**

Parent Nights were held last week. Two nights were devoted to parents of students and a third night was devoted to a Community Open House. Tours were held, and all who attended gave positive responses. The school is in very good shape. Buses had dry runs, arrival and dismissal procedures were gone over. Ladder trucks came. Rubber surfaces for the playgrounds are not down as yet, and the playgrounds may not be accessible to students for a few days until they are done. A public election will take place next week, with the Bresnahan School being used as a polling place. November 4 will be a professional development day. The construction fence for the Senior Center is being erected and construction will start in the near future.

**Nock/Molin Schools:**

**Mayor Holaday** said she was very pleased when she did her walk through today. The classrooms are in good shape. Installation of the Auditorium seats started today. The auditorium, gym, art rooms and robotics lab may be off limits at first. The cafeteria is in good shape. Some trouble developed when construction workers on Toppans Lane cut the fiber optic wires, which cost \$25,000 to repair. The custodians have worked extremely hard cleaning and re-cleaning the schools. Steve Bergholm has been right there on top of things. Don Skane has been incredible – he was there all night when the fiber optic wires were cut.

**Bruce Menin** inquired regarding the Skate Park. Mayor Holaday said repairs are complete. Playground equipment from the Bresnahan School will be installed.

**Nick deKanter** inquired regarding the Auditorium; when will it be ready. Mayor Holaday said next week. Mayor Holaday said they are discussing setting up an evening performance with an Open House to showcase the Auditorium and the school.

**Bruce Menin** inquired regarding the Gym. Superintendent Viccaro said it will be completed on Sunday. There will be a punch list of work to do.

**Michael Luekens** spoke about paving.

### **NEW STAFF:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** stated she has hired a little bit of everyone this year. There are a number of positions still open. Some internal moves took place. She reviewed and explained the list of new hires with the Committee.

**Bruce Menin** said he recognized some of the names of new hires, and had very high regard for them.

**Michael Luekens** inquired regarding the open positions.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked:

- ⤴ how many lunches will be held at the Bresnahan School? Superintendent Viccaro said 4, with the first being held at 10:35 AM..
- ⤴ how many classed at a time? 4
- ⤴ how many lunch room monitors? 4 or 5

**Steve Cole** inquired regarding the campus assistant position. It was explained that this has been a position for three years now; a lunch monitor, assistant kind of position. They do inventory, etc.

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** spoke regarding what were the responsibilities for the Leadership Team.

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** said there will be two faculty meeting a month; one for professional development and one to address district determined measures, develop curriculum vertically and also the mandates we need to put in place.

**Mayor Holaday** asked, with the new technology/security could someone speak to security.

Superintendent Viccaro said tech integrators will play an ongoing role throughout the year with the new technology. Teachers have been assigned as super users and will be leading professional development for staff.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired regarding Baseline Edge;

- ⤴ How does it work? Ms. Bik said beautifully, it streamlines the process. It is an intuitive software package moving away from paper. The company has been very responsive.
- ⤴ How many districts use it? Approximately 50.

**Nick deKanter** said he appreciated the spread sheet, but hope before we post it, we translate it.

**Superintendent Viccaro** said that they will come up with the right template that will work.

**Nick deKanter** said it would be nice to add pictures and testimonials from teachers.

**Michael Luekens** said he agreed with Mr. deKanter and the Superintendent – make it real for parents – spend more time articulating work with the students.

**Bruce Menin** said he appreciated seeing the training on suicide. Regarding executive function issues – is there a need to do more on this?

**Bruce Menin** inquired to what extent is Professional Development being done at the High School level regarding the NEASC report. Is anything happening regarding issues in the report? Superintendent Viccaro said we are going to have a meeting – the report was held up a bit – has not been discussed with the faculty. The school must determine if the recommendations are valid – we must give the school some time.

**Cheryl Sweeney** asked what is done for IA training. Ms. Bik said it started today.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said this was a good calendar – it is good to see a year laid out.

**Ms. Bik** said some professional development was held this summer – response was really good and positive.

**Mayor Holaday** inquired if we were still doing the concussion grant funded program. Yes

### **CURRICULUM UPDATE:**

**Assistant Superintendent Bik distributed articles** regarding rigor/writing professional development.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said 45 minutes daily – where is this – in all areas? Ms. Bik said re: math – a letter will go home next week – implementation, shifts, breakout - standards.

**Nick deKanter** said this is great stuff. Regarding math curriculum – grade 8 – how does that compare to grade 8 Algebra program currently? Ms. Bik said it will change that – everything is in place this year.

**Cheryl Sweeney** Common Core State Standards for math – re: letter – were we teaching below Common Core standards. Ms. Bik said yes, at certain grade levels.

**Cheryl Sweeney** said word on the street was that Newburyport was teaching above Common Core standards – is that true. No.

**Michael Luekens asked**

- ⤴ if all modules will be instituted this year. Ms. Bik said we are going forward except in a couple of areas.
- ⤴ Are there any potential discards re: MCAS/Common Core? Ms. Bik said she didn't think our students will be hurt. MCAS says they will be aligning to Common Core.

**Cheryl Sweeney** inquired:

- ⤴ Mandates – what are budgetary implications. Ms. Bik said not huge.
- ⤴ Level of Swasey Grant. \$1,000

**Superintendent Viccaro** said getting down our curricular process on paper is important for people to be able to understand.

**Nick deKanter** asked if we were in any way looking to gather feedback from parents.

### **FOOD SERVICE UPDATE:**

**Superintendent Viccaro** we were \$77,000 in the red last year – we have district list of what Chartwells is planning.

**Mayor Holaday** said she would like to see numbers in October.

**Steve Cole** said we will get updates in two week intervals. Comparisons will be made. He inquired regarding possible breakfast in classrooms at Bresnahan.

**Superintendent Viccaro** said this has not been decided as yet.

**Michael Luekens** said keep the Chartwell's suggestions as a baseline and track those.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Bruce Menin** said the letter is almost ready – will get draft out tonight or tomorrow morning. The purpose of the letter is to describe the purpose of the Committee – where we are – how to get in touch with us.

### **ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting to Executive Session for the purpose of possible contract negotiations at 8:08 PM.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

**Motion Passed Unanimously**