

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2015**

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

**Room 118
Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM. A roll call was taken. Steve Cole was absent for Roll Call, (arrived moments later). All those present stood for for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions:

Warrants:

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.
\$6,446.04

Motion Passed Unanimously

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.
\$182,477.13

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 24, 2015.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

SUNDAY USE OF FACILITIES REQUEST - SPRING FEVER 5K:

Scott Daigle from the Newburyport PTO spoke requesting the use of the Bresnahan School prior to 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 3, 2015, for the Spring Fever 5K road race and Fun Run.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired if refreshments would be served in the parking lot. Mr. Daigle said yes.

Mayor Holaday spoke regarding this and said she will determine later where the best place for refreshments can be served.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the request from the Newburyport PTO for the use of the Bresnahan School prior to 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 3, 2015 for the Spring Fever 5K road race and Fun Run.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NEWBURYPORT'S' COMMISSION FOR DIVERSITY AND TOLERANCE:

Donna Scott spoke from the Commission for Diversity and Tolerance regarding the "Newburyport Says No to Prejudice", a Community Forum, (We are not Powerless), which will be held on April 7, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the Nock Middle School. There will be two panels. Bruce Menin spoke regarding this and asked for support.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired as to what was the nature of support required by the Committee. Mr. Menin explained that they simply would like the endorsement of the Committee showing their support.

Motions:

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

VOTED: To endorse the Community Forum which will be presented by the Commission for Diversity and Tolerance "Newburyport Says No to Prejudice - We are not Powerless" on April 7, 2015, at 7:00 PM at the Nock Middle School.

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To publicize this event in any way possible.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday asked that all materials concerning this come to the city side.

Motion Passed Unanimously

WHITTIER VO-TECH SUPERINTENDENT AND REPRESENTATIVES:

Whittier Regional Vo-Tech Superintendent William DeRosa, along with the Newburyport Vo-Tech School Committee rep., Brett Murphy - Current Term: April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017, the Business Manager and the Principal, appeared before the Committee and gave an overview of Whittier Vo-Tech School, its programs, and accomplishments. They spoke about the graduation

rate dropout rate, areas of study, co-op program, Advisory Board, Newburyport enrollment and improvements to their facility.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday thanked Superintendent DeRosa for his seven years of service and stated that she is sorry that Superintendent DeRosa is retiring at the end of this year. He has provided a quality technical education.

Nick deKanter stated he truly believes that Whittier provides gems of education and asked what more can we do to publicize Whittier to our 8th graders. **Superintendent DeRosa** explained.

Audrey McCarthy inquired regarding:

- The amount of students at Whittier? Answer 1,356.
- How many from outside district? Answer 30
- How many apply and don't get in? Answer - from Newburyport 70% to 80%
- Regarding any stumbling block -interview - reasons? Answer - there is not one area. It is balanced across all five areas. Years ago it was mainly attendance.
- Person working with students - can we be doing more? Superintendent deRosa said they would be willing to come to the Middle School to put on presentations for both 7th and 8th grade students.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired:

- What is Newburyport's contribution? Answer \$336,873.
- How many students from Newburyport? Answer 18
- Is this average? Mayor Holaday explained. Superintendent DeRosa explained and stated that Newbury doubled their enrollment.
- Did that make their per pupil cost rise? Answer - Yes
- How many applicants this year? Answer - 14
- When notified? Answer - April 1

Audrey McCarthy asked:

- If there was a second chance for students to apply? Superintendent DeRosa explained - mid 9th grade.
- Not before end of eighth grade? Answer - yes - if improvement - we follow up.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired:

- How many licenses? Answer - 20 areas. Superintendent DeRosa explained.
- Graduation rate? Answer - 96%

Steve Cole spoke regarding:

- Nursing Program
- More clinical experience in nursing program. Superintendent DeRosa said they have a great placement rate.
- In the 70's we had over 100 students at Whittier - demographics have changed.

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To appoint F. Nelson Burns as a Newburyport representative to the

Whittier Regional Vo-Technical School District.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Whittier Superintendent dDRosa thanked the Committee and the Mayor for their support.

MOLIN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION:

Principal Tara Rossi, along with members of the Molin School Council presented the Molin School Improvement Plan to the Committee. It included the following:

Curriculum and Assessment

Benchmarks:

Teachers will collaborate as members of a professional learning community throughout the year to continue to implement the MMSEE by focusing on developing and implementing DDM's, using student data, and managing all components through the Baseline Edge data system.

Implement new program with fidelity:

- Eureka Math
- Think SRSD

Implementation, integration and alignment of Next Generation Science Standards

Families and Community

Benchmarks:

Launch new district and school websites with social media connections, electronic forms, and easier navigation.

Increase outreach to community and stakeholders

Provide parents/guardians with a comprehensive overview of grades 4-5 curriculum throughout the school year.

Professional Culture

Benchmarks:

Increase opportunities for students to develop their civic understanding and appreciation of community contributions.

Develop district-wide core ethical values for the 2015-2016 School Year.

Principal Rossi explained "Ditch the Switch" program started by students to collect these cans, and put the money towards playground equipment.

Teaching All Students

Benchmarks:

Increase learning opportunities for all learners.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked what does SRSD stand for - Self Regulated Strategy Development

Bruce Menin inquired regarding STEM.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired regarding gathering data and facts - what is instructional change.

Principal Rossi explained tickets - day to day guided reading groups.

Steve Cole inquired regarding STEM - vertical alignment:

- Do you do any type of Science Fair at Molin? Answer - Yes - explained. March 17 - Museum of Science Presentation.
- Arts - Answer - 2 full time art teachers, orchestra new, munchkins in Wizard of Oz, April 30 - State Night for 4th graders.

Michael Luekens inquired regarding budget - what specific things should we think about to move the Improvement Plan along. Answer - .5 adjustment counselor - need full time. Need new teacher for 5th grade.

Cheryl Sweeney asked what the average class size was. Answer 25

Audrey McCarthy inquired regarding

- Science materials. Principal Rossi explained.
- Biggest need for next year. Adjustment Counselor, language based program, interventionist,
- Fifth grade position - new position? Answer Yes

Bruce Menin asked Council members to speak.

- Member - very eye opening for her. Tara is great to work with.
- Member - great opportunity

Cheryl Sweeney stated it was a great success at Math Night - important to do this.

TRANSPORTATION FEES:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro spoke of fees, ridership which is down and that she recommended no change.

Cheryl Sweeney asked if we were still collecting fees in one lump sum. Answer - Yes.

Superintendent Viccaro state that Nancy Lysik has recommended no change in the fee status.

Audrey McCarthy suggested collecting fees in two payments to make it easier for parents, with at least a month between payments.

Mayor Holaday inquired if we take credit cards. Answer not for VISA.

Michael Luekens suggested looking into other options - Finance Committee - March 12.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To have the transportation fees remain the same for FY16.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SCHOOL CHOICE:

Superintendent Viccaro stated the lightest enrollment is at Bresnahan - 17. Nock/Molin - 23-25. High School - increased enrollment. There is no room for School Choice.

Discussion:

Steve Cole asked if there is any plan to add to Educatus program. Superintendent Viccaro explained. There is no need for a vote as no change in program.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION FORM UPDATE:

Cheryl Sweeney passed out a sheet to Committee members regarding the Superintendent's rubrics and asked of elements to evaluate the Superintendent from the Committee.

Bruce Menin suggested continuing to evaluate on all elements from last year with some from the new list.

The Committee discussed goals, evidence provided, and elements of the evaluation.

Cheryl Sweeney said they will meet in the next two weeks with input from the Committee and come back at the next School Committee meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS AD-HOC:

No report at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- Over the last week Endicott and Salem State Colleges came to school to strengthen their partnerships. This is a nice opportunity for students.
- We are looking into dual enrollment.
- Budget update - where we are now.

Bruce Menin inquired what was done different this year. Superintendent Viccaro explained (SPED, increased budget, buy right supplies). Mr. Menin inquired regarding SPED - coming from constructive programs. Superintendent Viccaro explained regarding enhanced programs, Leadership process, refined budget every time we met.

- Let's Talk! – 5.0 version will be upgraded Thursday.
- 2014 winning Health Benefits - wellness.
- ServePro – in-house due to damage from flooding.
- DESSE - Midyear review - IEPS extremely well written.

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik spoke regarding the Pasta dinner, 6 PM for families from Plum Island in the Nock/Molin cafeteria.

- Superintendent's Adv. Council - opening it up to public - 6:30 PM at Nock/Molin Library.
- Leadership Team - Math Nights - enjoyable - will do something else in the spring.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed:

Cheryl Sweeney said they met this evening. The discussed:

- School Improvement Plans
- Budgeting

- New scheduling for High School for the next school year.
- Dual enrollment
- Community Forum - bullying
- School Lunch Program - next steps - \$25,000 transferred in School Lunch Program

Mayor Holaday explained MINCO affordable housing building project - impact on schools.

Finance:

Steve Cole said they will meet March 12

Policy:

Nick deKanter said they will meet Saturday

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Accountability:

Michael Luekens said they met last Wednesday. They discussed the following:

- Curriculum related budget priorities
- Science curriculum
- SPED
- Electives at the High School
- Expansion curriculum - elementary school
- Fifth grade teacher
- STEM
- Combined meeting - send by March 12 meeting - Finance Committee - priorities

Superintendent's Evaluation:

Cheryl Sweeney said they will try to meet and will get back to the Committee.

Mayor Holaday spoke regarding the Governor's budget which is due Thursday. Will send out locally and chapter 70.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously