

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, December 15, 2014**

Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 6:43 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:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM. Mayor Holaday called for a roll call, which found all members present. All those present stood 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.
\$19,678.00

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.
\$221,622.62

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, November 17, 2014.

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Audrey McCarthy it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, December 1, 2014 as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

There was no report at this time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD:

Superintendent Susan Viccaro announced the 2014 NHS senior winner James Kipp of the Superintendent's Award. All those in attendance gave James a standing ovation,

Superintendent Viccaro introduced NHS student Mark Landregan who gave a demonstration of a teachable robotic arm, which he designed and created. He has won awards for his design and competed nationally with it. He explained what he hopes to create and compete with next year.

NYC OVERNIGHT TRIP, NHS:

NHS teachers Aileen Maconi and Mary Rakoski were present to explain their request for an overnight New York City Cultural field trip on March 6,7 and 8. Approximate cost per student will be \$450 which includes all transportation, hotel, breakfast and dinner. Fundraising opportunities will be pursued to help defer costs. The purpose of the trip is to give students an opportunity to visit the Art capital of the world, visiting museums, an art college, attend a performance and go gallery hopping.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the NHS overnight New York City Cultural field trip on March 6, 7, 8, 2015.

Discussion:

Audrey McCarthy commented that last year another group went to New York at a lower cost. Ms Maconi stated that the cost is only \$50 higher. The membership is higher this year. Fundraising will be done.

Motion passed unanimously

HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENINGS:

High School Principal Michael Parent updated the Committee on happenings at the school:

- Wellness - Suicide Program
- Advisory Program Thursday

Discussion

Bruce Menin inquired as to who were the three staff members who attended; topics at grade level - how decided; evaluation - both students and staff?

Cheryl Sweeney asked how did they get to 13-1 ratio; is this credit bearing - No.

Audrey McCarthy asked regarding student transcripts - what else besides academics is on it; community service, real world design challenge theatre, jazz band, maybe Model UN.

- Schedule - Principal Parent reported how the decision for the new schedule came into being. He stated the staff voted for the 73 minute schedule for 2015-16.

Discussion

Nick deKanter said this was outstanding, a dream come true.

Steve Cole commented on the following

- He is always reluctant to see change in student schedules
- When was the last schedule change. 2010-11, there was a big change; 2nd year made a slight change
- Haven't heard anything regarding student supports
- Do what is best for the kids

Audrey McCarthy commented on the following

- Kids will adapt - a new schedule will fit better with executive functioning
- Did Landmark play into this

Bruce Menin inquired if the advisor/advisee program have any effect on time on learning

- No. He stated he was encouraged by this.

Michael Luekens said regarding the advisory program he was encouraged by this; it is a good program

Mayor Holaday said this was a fabulous job and she supports the programs.

Cheryl Sweeney said the work is child centered and she applauds this.

SPECIAL EDUCATION UPDATE:

Dr. Barbara Dee updated the Committee on the Special Education Program. Her presentation included updates on the following:

- Current Statistics
- The four centers; BEST (ABA); IDC (Individual Development Center); LLC (Language Learning Center); TLC (Therapeutic Learning Center).
- Professional development
- Vertical alignment of centers

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked how many students were in the BEST Program. Approx. 30.

Mayor Holaday said she was speechless and pleased - a lot of wonderful information.

Steve Cole said he echoed comments. Regarding conferences, was she able to budget these successfully. YES. Re: CREST Board - programs from that.

Bruce Menin asked how is this interacting with the SPED Parent group. How are they reacting. Will she be surveying. Yes

Steve Cole said the survey information is helpful.

Cheryl Sweeney inquired re: SEPAC (Special Education Parent Advisory Council) - what is her relationship with them.

Audrey McCarthy asked what about summer.

FY16 BUDGET:

Superintendent Viccaro said she is in the process of meeting with each building Principal and office staff, with some changes at the High School and Nock School. Decisions made will not be able to be changed - she explained.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked where we were.

Bruce Menin asked when the Superintendent meets with the Principals, have the Principals met with their School Councils. Yes and more.

Cheryl Sweeney said perhaps we could have a topic forum on the budget to get feedback from the community early.

Mayor Holaday commented on the House budget; there is a new governor who gets an extra month, so our figures will be delayed.

Mike Luekens asked if she was afraid by priorities at the high school - will they impact lower grades funding. Superintendent Viccaro explained.

DRAFT 2015-2016 SCHOOL CALENDARS (FIRST READING):

Superintendent Viccaro presented three drafts of the 2015-2016 School Calendars:

- Draft 1: Teachers begin 9/8/15, after Labor Day, and students begin on Wednesday, 9/2/15. The projected last day in this scenario is June 22, (with 5 snow days school would end on June 29), and graduation could not be before June 12.
- Draft 2: Teachers begin 9/1, before Labor Day, and students begin on Wednesday, 9/2/15 with a projected last day of June 17, (5 snow, 6/24/16), and graduation date of June 5. There would be no school on Friday, 9/4/15, to allow for a 4 day weekend, (contractual).
- Draft 3: Teachers first day is August 31 (prior to 9/1 would need NTA approval), and first day for students on 9/1/15, with a projected last day of June 16 (5 snow 6/23/16), and graduation date of June 5. There would be no school on Friday, 9/4/15, to allow for a 4 day weekend, (contractual).

Superintendent Viccaro commented on Early Release Days.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired re: Draft 1 - is this because of the Stadium Project. NO

Nick deKanter stated re: Professional Development Days - he is frustrated with losing time.

Look at special educational programs for half days. Superintendent Viccaro said she will think about that a little more.

Bruce Menin said there should be discussion regarding Mr. deKanter's suggestion.

WHITTIER VO TECH REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY:

Cheryl Sweeney called the attention of the Committee to the letter from Superintendent William P. DeRosa concerning the term of School Committee member, F. Nelson Burns who represents the Whittier Regional Vocational Tech. School District for Newburyport which expires on March 31, 2015. Ms. Sweeney said Superintendent Viccaro will be in touch with this man to see if he is interested in continuing in this role. Mayor Holaday suggested bringing him to the next School Committee meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Viccaro reported on the following:

- Challenge - came in 2nd
- Would like feedback from the School Committee re: Administrators contracts that are up at the end of the year.
- Visited Endicott today - student teachers from End in future - partner with them.

- January 5 vote - member community wants to withdraw CREST
- Will offer Jazz Band at end of January at the High School
- Dr. Chen visited - Principals Coffee tomorrow at Bresnahan. First grade class. Parents taking math in Mrs. Hoiseth's class.
- Molin - SRSP Program.
- Molin concert successful
- Molin Math Night successful
- E-Mail - Chinese students 2015 visit Middle School
- Day of Poetry - 16 to 18 poets working with all students. Funded by Grant, Business Coalition
- Last week - Dominic Janes workshop

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance:

Steve Cole said they met December 9. Discussed

- Principal Sullivan's registration lottery policy - tuition voted stay the same.
- Food service next year
- legal costs for School District - exceeded limit - use contingency fund.
- Impacts 9C cuts coming from Governors Office.

Policy:

Nick deKanter said they met ten days ago. They discussed

- The fingerprinting policy - glitch define when fingerprinting no longer needed.
- Acceptable use policy for technology
- Rating principals

Cheryl Sweeney asked when does the School Committee have to be done

Due Diligence:

Cheryl Sweeney said they hope to get organizational meeting off the ground before the end of the year.

Neighborhood Meeting this week at 7:00 PM

NEF Report \$92,000 in one event raised for schools

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously