

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**  
**PUBLIC HEARING & BUSINESS MEETING**  
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

**April 7, 2025**

**PUBLIC HEARING - FY26 BUDGET**

**Present:** Mayor Sean Reardon, Juliet Walker, Sarah Hall, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins, Kathleen Shaw and Andrew Boger

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee FY26 Budget Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Juliet Walker took over.

**FY26 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** presented the proposed NPS FY26 budget, beginning with a review of various challenges the district is facing. He provided an overall budget summary and is confident with the budget projections, presenting a 3.24% increase of the City Appropriation and a 1.25% increase in the overall FY26 budget.

The Superintendent reviewed FY26 sources of funds, as well as the budget book notes and the detailed pages for each of the cost centers. A budget vote will occur at the next School Committee Business meeting on April 29th.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING**

**Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Public Budget Hearing Meeting at 7:23 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**

**April 7, 2025**

**Present:** Mayor Sean Reardon, Juliet Walker, Sarah Hall, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins, Kathleen Shaw and Andrew Boger

### **CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:24 PM. Roll call found all members present.

### **Public Comments**

Tom Shanley 14 Maple Terrace, Newbury (School Choice)  
Spela Trefalt, 35 Hancock Street, Newburyport (Camp Jewell)

### **Warrant:**

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Reardon it was

**VOTED:** to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$711,928.10 as presented.

**Motion Passed**

### **Minutes**

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

**VOTED:** to adopt the minutes from the March 17, 2025 School Committee meeting as presented.

**Motion Passed**

### **NHS Overnight Field Trip**

High School Principal Andy Wulf provided background on the overnight field trip request to Worcester Poly Tech in Worcester, MA from June 8 to June 13<sup>th</sup> to participate in a Sailbot Robotics competition. Cost of the trip is appx. \$62 per student, and costs were offset by proceeds earned from the dessert auction in the fall.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

**VOTED:** to approve the Sailbot Robotics overnight field trip in accordance with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

**Motion Passed**

### **NEF Request to name a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor classroom at the Bresnahan for Mrs. Jean Kirkpatrick**

Mayor Reardon explained that the Institution for Savings would like to donate \$10,000 to the Newburyport Education Foundation for the purpose of naming a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom at the Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School in honor of former longtime elementary school teacher, Mrs. Jean Kirkpatrick. The NEF is seeking the school committee's approval to move forward.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

**VOTED:** In accordance with Policy FF – Naming New Facilities, to approve naming a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom at the Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School in honor of Mrs. Jean Kirkpatrick, a former longtime elementary school teacher.

#### **Motion Passed**

### **CREST**

Superintendent Gallagher provided a brief background of Crest Collaborative. He also explained that the main purpose of amending the Articles of Agreement is to allow Crest's Board of Directors to set non-member rates at a higher amount.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Mayor Reardon it was

**VOTED:** to approve the amendments to CREST's Articles of Agreement as approved by CREST's Board of Directors on March 12 and 26, 2025.

#### **Motion Passed**

### **Collective Bargaining Agreement between IA Union and NPS – 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2028**

School Committee members and Superintendent Gallagher thanked the IA's and members of the negotiation team for all their hard work. (note: amend agenda to reflect correct contract date range)

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

**VOTED:** to approve the MOU between the Newburyport Instructional Assistants Association and Newburyport School Committee for September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2028.

#### **Motion Passed**

### **Roll Call Vote**

<b>School Committee Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Sean Reardon	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes

### **Superintendent Contract / Compensation**

Juliet Walker explained the proposal to increase the Superintendent's salary by 3%, retroactive to July 1, 2024, bringing his salary to \$205,377. This salary increase would be consistent with what has historically been done every year since 2022.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

**VOTED:** to increase the Superintendent's salary by 3%, retroactive to July 1, 2024.

**Motion Passed**

### **Finalist Recommendation – Director of Finance and Operations**

Superintendent Sean Gallagher noted this was a comprehensive search process and thanked everyone on the hiring team for their hard work. The Superintendent reviewed the background and experience of the finalist, Ethan Manning.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

**VOTED:** to accept the recommendation of the hiring committee to hire Ethan Manning as the Director of Finance and Operations, and move forward to start negotiations for a contract.

**Motion Passed**

### **School Choice**

Superintendent Gallagher announced the proposed school choice openings per grade for 2025-2026. As a reminder, he stated that the district is not increasing staff #'s to accommodate school choice openings. Members support revisiting grades 11 & 12 for potential openings.

The sibling policy was discussed. Sarah Hall clarified that if there is a lottery, preference is given if there is a sibling already enrolled. Members also discussed possible enrollment options available to a school choice student that forfeits their seat when they leave the district to study abroad.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

**VOTED:** to accept the proposed school choice numbers for 2025-2026 consistent with Policy JFBB – School Choice.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Slots</b>
Grade 1	5
Grade 2	5
Grade 3	5
Grade 4	5
Grade 5	3
Grade 6	10
Grade 7	10
Grade 8	10
Grade 9	20
Grade 10	5

**Motion Passed**

## **School Committee Meeting Schedule 2025-2026 - Draft**

Juliet Walker reviewed the draft. She explained that City Council adopted a new meeting schedule through the end of 2025 which conflicts with the school committee's schedule. Juliet has contacted City Council to possibly switch 10/6/25 and 11/17/25. Mayor Reardon and Juliet Walker proposed changing the meeting day to Wednesday which could potentially avoid conflicts with City Council's new schedule and help secure meeting space at the Senior/Community Center. A new draft of the meeting calendar will be created using the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday from January – June 2026.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Finance Subcommittee:**

Brian Callahan stated they will meet on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Policy Subcommittee:**

Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet next week (April 14<sup>th</sup>).

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Sarah Hall stated they will meet on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Meeting is currently scheduled 5-6PM, but she will follow up with members to potentially change this meeting to begin at 4:30PM.

### **Teaching & Learning Subcommittee**

Breanna Higgins stated the next meeting will be held next week (4/15)

### **Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee:** have not met

## **Superintendent's Report**

**NEASC Conference Presenters:** Superintendent Gallagher shared that a great team of four high school teachers were invited to present Newburyport's Portrait of a Graduate (POG) work at the New England Association of Schools & Colleges conference. This was a wonderful opportunity to present how NPS is bringing POG to life, and several districts are interested in visiting the high school to observe the work being done.

**Playful Learning Institute Workshop:** The Superintendent shared that a team of PK-3 teachers attended a 2-day workshop in Lowell as part of the Playful Learning Institute grant to learn about playful pedagogy and learning strategies.

## **New Business**

- Kathleen Shaw reported that SEPAC will meet in-person at 6:00PM on April 17<sup>th</sup> in the Nock library.
- Sarah Hall will be meeting next week with the group organizing the community cell phone dialogue.
- Mayor Reardon noted that *Newsies* opens this week at the Nock.

**Motion:**

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Mayor Reardon it was

**VOTED:** to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:24PM and move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy related to non-union contract negotiations and will not reconvene in open session.

**Motion Passed**

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>School Committee Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Sean Reardon	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes