

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

Monday, May 19, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session:

Motion:

On a motion at 6:33PM by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to collective bargaining with the AFSCME Union, as well as non-contract related business, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee.

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote

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

School Committee returned to regular business meeting – call to order at 7:13PM

Public Comments - none

Motion:

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

VOTED: to move #8 in the meeting agenda to be heard first (Innovation Career Pathways Grant Update)

Motion Passed

Innovation Career Pathways Grant Update

Superintendent Gallagher introduced Dr. Erin Hobbs and Principal Andy Wulf, and thanked them for their hard work and efforts with the high school's Innovation Career Pathways programs. Dr. Hobbs'

presentation covered the purpose of the Pathway programs, industry partners, and the two new Innovation Career Pathways (Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare & Social Assistance). She explained the technical, required and advanced courses needed for each program, as well as spoke about the growth of student interest in these programs, certifications, grants, and how funding is spent.

Warrant

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$481,638.50 as presented.

Motion Passed

Student Representative Report

Logan MacKnight presented the student report which included Senior Center pen pals, Steam Expo, and field trips at the Bresnahan; a STEM Expo, special visitor assembly and a Dollar Drive at the Molin; Fishbowl discussions, Volunteerism Week, and the sustainable living project with 6th graders at the Nock, as well as Credit for Life Fair and Senior week activities at the high school.

Collective Bargaining Agreement between Newburyport Teachers Association (NTA) and Newburyport School Committee for period September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2028

Motion:

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

VOTED: to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Newburyport Teachers Association and the School Committee for a collective bargaining agreement for the period September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2028.

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote

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

Newburyport's Whittier School Committee Rep

Mary DeLai shared that Graduation will be held on May 29th at 7PM and the prom will be held at the Blue Ocean on May 27th. This year six Newburyport students will graduate from Whittier. Of this year's graduates, 41% will enter the workforce, 22% will attend 2-year colleges, and 28% will attend 4-year colleges. Superintendent Lynch will attend the City Council's budget meeting on May 20th.

Mary also spoke about the Whittier budget, as well as the state's upcoming vote on May 20th related to the admission process at vocational schools.

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School Building Informational Update

Mayor Reardon provided a brief summary of the Whittier Technical High School / Northern Essex Community College collaboration study. All eleven towns must sign a letter of agreement by July 1st. He explained that Newburyport's shared cost of the feasibility study would be \$166K.

Newburyport High School Cell Phone Community Dialogue

Sarah Hall stated this community event was a success with over 100 people attending. She explained the process, as well as how participants were split into mixed groups led by trained facilitators. Seventy-six exit tickets were completed and submitted into a Google form by attendees. The team would like to present their findings at the June 2nd School Committee meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated the next meeting will be held on May 21st at 8:00AM.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet next on June 7th at 7:00PM.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins explained their May meeting was cancelled, and they will meet again in June.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Mayor Sean Reardon will have an update at the next meeting.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated their next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29th.

Superintendent's Report

Waterfront Music Festival: The Superintendent attended this popular event over the weekend that included many musicians in grades K through 12. He thanked everyone that participated, as well as the district's music teachers for their hard work, and the NEF for supporting this event each year.

ADL Breakfast: Appx. 250 students, educators, state officials and law enforcement personnel from the local area attended the annual Anti-Defamation League Breakfast. Superintendent Gallagher was able to attend, along with several students and two teachers from the high school.

Jean Kirkpatrick Room Dedication Ceremony

Superintendent Gallagher attended the 2nd Grade classroom dedication for Ms. Jean Kirkpatrick by the NEF and Institution for Savings.

Peace Prize Awards

This year 12 students and 2 adults were recognized at the annual Peace Prize Awards night hosted by the Newburyport Human Rights Commission.

City Council Budget Dates

Superintendent Gallagher reminded everyone about the City Council budget meetings on June 5th and June 18th.

New Business

SEPAC: Kathleen Shaw reported that SEPAC met last Thursday (May 15th). This was a great meeting, attended by Brad Brooks and the school adjustment counselors.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:13PM.

Motion Passed

Submitted by: Logan MacKnight

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Last week, third graders in Mrs. Mailloux's class finally met their Senior Center pen pals after eight months of writing letters back and forth. It was heartwarming to see the genuine friendships that formed, and we're excited to continue this wonderful tradition. A big thank you to Mary Kelly, Sara Landry, and Liz Walsh from the Senior Center for helping to coordinate, and to Jill Mailloux, her class, and all the seniors who participated!

This is a busy time for field trips! First graders visited the Great Bay Science Center to learn about ecosystems last week. This week kindergarteners are exploring the Dover Children's Museum, 2nd graders are going to theatre in the Open and third graders are heading to Spencer-Peirce Farm this week. Thank you to our PTO for helping make these trips possible by funding the buses and keeping them accessible for all students.

Over the weekend, several Bresnahan students performed at the Waterfront Festival. Huge thanks to Gardner Rulon-Miller and the Performing Arts team for putting on a fantastic show, and to the NEF for supporting the event. Our kids love performing!

Looking ahead, we're excited for the STEAM Expo this week! Over 16 local STEAM volunteers will share their passions with students in grades 1 through 3. We're especially grateful for our NHS, Nock, and Molin student volunteers, and for Lori Towle from Code & Circuit, who's bringing Spot the Robot Dog. It's going to be a great day, and all School Committee members are invited to attend!

Molin News:

National Book Award finalist and TED speaker Jarrett J. Krosoczka is set to captivate students and educators alike as he takes the stage for special assemblies at the Molin School on May 23rd. Known for his engaging storytelling and impactful illustrations, Krosoczka will present the Molin community with multimedia presentations on his creative journey and the process he takes to create his award-winning books! Molin School has partnered with Our Neighbor's Table for a condiments and Dollar Drive = One Dollar, One Meal, One HUGE Difference"; The Dollar Drive runs from 5/12-5/23; As of 5/19: the Molin Students, Staff, and Community have provided: 5,375 meals!! (\$5,375)

Molin STEM EXPO is June 6th.

Nock News:

This week has been an exciting one across all grade levels, showcasing the depth of our students' learning experiences.

Grade 8

Our 8th grade ELA classes are engaging in Fishbowl discussions around *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This week, they are joined by special guests—our Senior Book Buddies—who will participate in the conversations. Our 8th graders will take the lead in welcoming their partners and escorting them to the classrooms, continuing to foster intergenerational connection and deeper literary dialogue.

Grade 7

Our 7th grade students are preparing for their annual Volunteerism Week, a service-learning tradition rooted in civic responsibility. As part of this initiative, students will tend to local cemeteries, helping maintain gravestones and participating in the annual flag planting project in honor of veterans for Memorial Day. This meaningful work instills pride, reverence, and a strong sense of community stewardship.

Grade 6

Last week, our 6th graders visited Back Country Tiny Homes as part of their ongoing interdisciplinary project focused on sustainable living. Through hands-on learning and direct engagement with the tiny home movement, students were able to see the behind the scenes of a construction of a "tiny home". They were able to hear about how engineers and contractors refine their designs and apply real-world insights. 6th Grade will finish the year in their math classes designing and "tiny home" as part of the last unit.

High School News:

On Thursday, May 22, the Junior Class will participate in the Credit for Life Fair which is organized and sponsored by the Institution for Savings. This activity teaches financial literacy and allows students to manage a monthly budget using the standard salary of a 25-year old in their profession of interest.

Next week is senior week and there are many events that offer the opportunity for the community to come and celebrate:

- May 29 - Senior Promenade on the Front Lawn (5:00 PM)
- May 31 - Senior Class Family Car Parade - Spectators can watch along High Street + the NHS Front Lawn (10:00 AM)
- June 1 - Graduation Day (11:00 AM)