

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, August 19, 2019**

**Senior Community Center
Meeting Convened at 6:32 PM**

Bruce Menin Presided

Present: Nick deKanter, Steve Cole, Bruce Menin, David Hochheiser, Sean Reardon,
and Brian Callahan

Absent: Mayor Donna Holaday

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair Bruce Menin called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:32 PM. Roll Call one member absent, **Mayor Donna Holaday**. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jay Iannini of 26 Summit Place: stated he was very excited to see the Guiding Principles on the first agenda of this school year and is very happy the Administration is moving forward quickly. He would encourage Grade 11 kids to speak up and advocate for later start times in their senior year.

Colleen Guillou of 3 Bourbeau Terrace: This is something she has been advocating for and following on social media. She wanted to come tonight and show her support. Colleen hopes that this passes and moves forward quickly.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.

\$656.51

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.

\$17,635.56

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.

\$241,305.42

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by **Sean Reardon** and seconded by **David Hochheiser** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, June 17, 2019.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Brian Callahan abstained

Minutes:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Retreat meeting minutes of Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR LATER START TIMES (DRAFT):

Bruce Menin asked the members to offer comments and/or things they would like to see reflected.

Sean Reardon thanked the people that worked on this. He really likes #4 - that we will find a way to do this and not give up.

Nick deKanter said we should come up with solutions for external concerns; find ways to schedule things so athletics and town level youth sports continue to be robust.

David Hochheiser said that finding solutions for sports is an external issue.

Nick deKanter would not include the "Examples of Solutions" section as part of the vote.

David Hochheiser stated he had no problem taking the "Examples of Solutions" section out.

Nick deKanter said he would be happy to accept #4 as a guiding principle if "external concerns" was changed, maybe talk about extracurricular programs.

David Hochheiser asked to take out the word "external" in #4.

Steve Cole agreed.

David Hochheiser stated the document we are voting on tonight is on the six principles minus the word "external"

Steve Cole asked if more narrative should be included in #1 so it is not just "improve academic and athletic success". Answer: change wording in #1 to "*improve their overall success*"

Steve Cole suggested that once approved, the Guiding Principles could be forwarded to the District Nurse Leader Cathy Riccio to share with the district's consultant physician.

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve the six Guiding Principles for Later Start Times, with new wording

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

JLCF – LIFE THREATENING FOOD AND OTHER ALLERGY POLICY

Sean Gallagher introduced District Nurse Leader Cathy Riccio. He thanked Cathy and the nursing staff for all the hard work they've done over the years to create this allergy policy.

Nick deKanter reminded members that only the first page of the allergy package was the actual policy for the 2nd reading.

Cathy Riccio described the allergy policy and its contents.

Sean Reardon asked if there was any data on how many kids have allergies. Answer: The average is 2 students in a classroom have food allergies.

Nick deKanter asked what work is done to track dietary requirements/allergies of students. Answer: Nurses, parents and café staff work together to share information. In addition, various trainings take place throughout the year.

David Hochheiser asked if there was any curriculum to teach other kids. Answer: Yes. The nursing team developed allergy appropriate curriculum this summer.

Sean Reardon asked if nut free tables would go away. Answer: No. Nut free tables will remain an option at the Bresnahan School, and parents will have the ability to opt out.

David Hochheiser asked if the liability would be on us if a parent opted out. Answer: No. It is actually a common practice in elementary schools.

Bruce Menin asked how the allergy policy and supporting materials would be distributed. Answer: Upon approval, the materials will be sent home in the opening day packets.

Brian Callahan asked if schools can have year-end celebrations. Answer: This will be up to the building principals.

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

VOTED: To approve & accept the second reading of the JLCF – Life Threatening Food & Other Allergy Policy

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

SUMMER FACILITIES PROJECT UPDATE:

Director of Facilities Steve Bergholm reported on the following:

- **Custodial:** The entire staff have been working very hard and Steve is confident all buildings will be ready to welcome the kids back. The lead custodian at the middle school, Reyme Darling, retired after 34 years, which is a bit of a loss for the department.
- **Maintenance:** The crew has been very busy with a variety of work including plumbing, painting, and an extensive project which involved servicing the HVAC equipment.

- Testing & Inspections: Each summer testing/inspection of safety systems (i.e. fire alarms, kitchen hoods, sprinklers) is completed, which involves the Fire Department & Health Inspector. This year a preventive maintenance program with an outside contractor was added, which will include checking all kitchen equipment twice per year to ensure everything is operating properly.
- Projects: - High School Robotics Storage Closet
 - Nock Gym Floor - Strip and Refinish
 - High School & Bresnahan Gym Floor - Screen and Recoat
 - Nock Water Heater Replacement
 - High School Front Walkway
 - High School Cupola: will not be completely done before school starts, but the scaffolding should be down.

David Hochheiser asked if there were pictures available; Answer = yes.

 - High School Weight Room - turned out very nice and the kids love it!
- Solar Credits: Steve would like permission to participate again in this solar credit program to save an additional \$15,000 on the electric bill.

On a motion by **Sean Reardon** and seconded by **David Hochheiser** it was **VOTED**: To approve participating again in the Solar Credits program.

Motion Passed
Mayor Holaday absent for vote

SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUMMER RETREAT SUMMARY:

Bruce Menin thought the retreat was great and they were able to get a lot of work done. He stated that several action items brought up at the retreat are already being implemented. Materials for an orientation binder for the new school committee member have been gathered. Meeting packets will go out earlier, and will include a checklist.

DISCUSSION OF THE CITY OF NEWBURYPORT HOME RULE CHARTER REVIEW PROCESS

Bruce Menin said the Charter Review Committee is supposed to meet in September. One topic that does come up is questions about the Mayor being on the School Committee.

Nick deKanter says it is worth talking about. We are lucky to have a Mayor who is interested in our schools, regularly attends meetings, is always prepared etc.

Steve Cole described how the Charter Committee is made up.

David Hochheiser said that term lengths for SC are written in the Charter, and feels 4 year terms may be a lot to ask. Would more people run if the term was 2 years like City Council? There is also a clause in the Charter that School Committee members cannot hold city positions within the year after leaving the School Committee. Members are not allowed to apply for school based or City positions, but City Counselors are.

David Hochheiser stated communication about the City Charter process should be written in the Charter. Could we have this discussion at a working School Committee meeting?

Bruce Menin will talk to Superintendent Sean Gallagher.

ASS'T SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- Teach Point Program
- Grant Updates: Title 1 (\$331K), Title 2A (\$62K), Title 4
- Goals
- Mentor/Induction Program: 13 new teachers and 5 teachers within the district moving into new roles will participate in the program August 27-28-29

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- Staffing / New hires
- Opening of School (Opening Day schedule, Enrollments)
- Upcoming Events
- School Choice: Registrations: Gr 7 = 7, Gr 9 = 10 (3 waiting), Gr 10 = 8

Sean Reardon stated he would be in favor of voting in those on the waiting list if it remained only 3.

Bruce Menin stated there isn't a SC meeting prior to school starting so maybe we should vote to give the Superintendent the ability to accept more if needed.

Sean Gallagher will obtain an accurate number on enrollments, as well as data on students moving to/from private schools.

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To authorize the Superintendent to add three more grade 9 school choice spots in the high school if needed.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Superintendent Gallagher wished to personally thank Cathy Manning and Dawn Clay for their commitment and dedication for coming in over the summer, as well as the remarkable job on all the new people in the Central Office.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bruce Menin stated that the Subcommittees have not met.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To adjourn the School Committee Business meeting at 8:14PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Donna Holaday absent for vote