

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, October 7, 2019**

**Senior Community Center  
Meeting Convened at 6:37 PM**

**Bruce Menin Presided**

**Present: Nick deKanter, Steve Cole, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday,  
David Hochheiser, Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan**

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

**Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday** called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:37 PM. Roll Call found all members present. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Annie Roberts, 5 Dexter St.** She expressed her concern for public health, vaping and marijuana. She expressed her concern regarding these issues and suggested further information be forthcoming to parents in a more consistent way.

**Lynne Schow, 75 High St.** She expressed her concern regarding the issue of vaping and the dangers of this.

**Annie Grant, 11 Congress St.** She stated she is in favor of a later school start and commended **Superintendent Gallagher** on his communications to parents.

**Tara Sullivan, Summit Place** She stated she is in favor of a later school start.

**Nat King, 63 Curzon Mill Rd.** He expressed his concern for the dangers of marijuana and vaping.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

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

**\$742.53**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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.

**\$787.53**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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.

**\$23,415.53**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

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

**\$41,432.62**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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.

**\$553,712.39**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**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 Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted Present**

**Minutes:**

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, September 16, 2019.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday voted Present**

**STUDENT RECOGNITION:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** introduced Isaac Zeller, Bresnahan 3rd grader and commended him for his commitment to participating in the *Recess Running Club* for three years, running 68.1 miles since 2017. Isaac received a standing ovation from all those in attendance.

**STAFF RECOGNITION:**

Principals for all schools introduced and commended teacher leaders from the various schools.

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Peter D'Ambrosio reported on the following events from NHS:

- Advisory Program - We have completely revised the Advisory Program to focus on two areas. Provide a structured time for students to reflect and plan for after High School, and to give an avenue for student voice on school and community issues.

- Student Council - During the September Advisory each room nominated students to serve as representatives on the council. The first meeting was held this past Thursday. Areas of focus were redefining of Valedictorian and Salutatorian now that class rank is not an issue, and class-only grade level dances. The Student Council is now a very good representation of student voice.
- College and Financial Aid Night - This past Wednesday the guidance department held a college information night which involved over 50 schools and organizations. The Merrimack Workforce Investment Board was also present and was able to provide information on the trending jobs in Massachusetts, as well as provide paths for students to find internships relative to interests.
- Student Leadership - This school year the high school has partnered with two organizations to help with student leadership development. The first is Essential Partners which has worked with communities, organizations and schools to foster cultures that embrace differences through constructive dialogue. They will be training 30 students and 11 teachers in the skills of constructive dialogue. All trained students and teachers will be able to practice their skills by facilitating our community dialogue around defining Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The second organization is the Anti-Defamation League who will be training students at the Middle School and High School. The Peer Training program equips students to lead their peers in dialogue around respecting and valuing differences.

**Mayor Holaday** asked if someone has to apply for these programs. Answer - Yes

**Sean Reardon** asked if they will present to the School Council then to the School Committee. Answer - yes

**LATER START TIMES DRAFT - PRESENTATION:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** outlined and explained the Later Start Times Draft Presentation. With feedback from all stakeholders they developed a draft plan that addresses major concerns in a proactive way.

- Transportation: consolidate routes to 3 locations utilizing the same number of buses. This approach would be cost neutral for the district.
- Bresnahan School would keep the current arrival/dismissal schedule.
- Proposal: Revise the Nock/Middle schedule so both schools would have the same arrival/dismissal schedule.
- Proposed NHS dismissal time of 2:45 or 2:50 PM will not interfere and/or would have little impact on the athletic program. The CAL Superintendents & Athletic Directors approved afternoon start times of 4:00/4:15 PM similar to other late start schools.

	<b>Current Times</b>	<b>Proposed Draft Plan</b>
	<u>4 Stops @ 4 Different Times</u>	<u>3 Stops @ 3 Different Times</u>
Bresnahan Elementary	8:20 am - 2:50 pm	8:20 am - 2:50 pm (no change)
Molin Upper Elementary	8:10 am - 2:40 pm	7:45 am - 2:15 pm (proposed revision)
Nock Middle School	7:30 am - 2:00 pm	7:45 am - 2:15 pm (proposed revision)
Newburyport High School	7:30 am - 2:21 pm	8:15 am - 2:45 pm (proposed revision)

**Nick deKanter** said this was outstanding work.

**Sean Reardon** said this was great work and thanked the many parents who have been involved from the beginning.

**Mayor Holaday** said she was pleased how they worked around the transportation issues. Nice job.

**Steve Cole** thanked the Superintendent and all concerned.

**Sean Reardon** said this opens up a lot of opportunities.

**David Hochheiser** said there were a lot of pieces to juggle.

**Bruce Menin** said there may be additional costs, but not on buses. There might be costs within schools to help schools adjust. Next step - community presentation.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACTUAL SALARY:**

**Bruce Menin** explained that the School Committee had voted to award **Superintendent Gallagher** a 3% raise, but **Superintendent Gallagher** expressed his desire to accept a 2% raise. Therefore a vote must be taken regarding this issue.

### **Motion:**

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

**VOTED:** To award **Superintendent Sean Gallagher** a 3% raise.

**Steve Cole** stated - "Is this appropriate - Yes - I support a 3% raise."

**Brian Callahan** said he appreciated **Superintendent Gallagher's** offer but he will stay with a 3% raise.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Mayor Holaday** - Yes

**Steve Cole** - Yes

**Nick deKanter** - No

**Brian Callahan** - Yes

**Sean Reardon** - Yes

**Bruce Menin** - No

**David Hochheiser** - Yes

5 - Yes      2 - No

**Motion Passed**

### **COMMUNITY FORUM TOPICS:**

**Bruce Menin** stated that the School Committee will be developing forums on various key topics impacting the school community.

**David Hochheiser** said he was all for it.

**Bruce Menin** said they will look at various topics.

**Nick deKanter** suggested use of technology including cell phones, educational outcomes - what does it look like.

**Mayor Holaday** said she commended Ms. Rossi for her presentation.

**Bruce Menin** suggested bullying/harassment - these should take place before school ends.

**David Hochheiser** said the School Committee should be involved in the Val/Sal discussions.  
**Superintendent Gallagher** said he would ask Principal Wulf to come to a meeting and give an overview on the November 21st.

**David Hochheiser** said they had talked about curriculum.

**Sean Reardon** spoke regarding data base - tie it back into what we are doing - he would like to see an action plan.

#### **ASS'T SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:**

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** recognized three district leaders – Alissa Gallegos, Kathy Hill and Jamie Sokolowski. She explained the Early Literacy Program - the goal of 90% of students reading at grade level k-5.

**David Hochheiser** inquired why we were choosing these programs.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Walk to School - Bresnahan Community
- Open House - always like a fresh start
- Student Opportunity Act - foundational budget - won't see much relief in Circuit Breaker

#### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Joint Ed - Bruce Menin** said they met - discussed recycling and budget process

**Policy - Nick deKanter** said they will be meeting

**Finance - Steve Cole** said they met September 17 - transfer of funds and branding

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee  
At 8:55 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**