

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, August 16, 2021**

**Meeting Convened at 6:30 PM**

**Mayor Donna Holaday/Brian Callahan Presided**

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

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

**Mayor Donna Holaday** called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present.

**Steve Cole** asked for a moment of silence in memory of Jeffrey Stone, son of retired NHS teacher Susan Stone.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Keith Eddings, Spring Street spoke regarding the wearing of masks in schools.

Charlie Tontar, 29 Jackson Street candidate for mayor wished the Committee good luck.

Jennifer Smith, 10 Lunt Street spoke regarding the mandate of wearing masks in schools.

Joe Cheever, 22 Goldsmith Drive said he was anxious about the opening of schools - wearing masks and keeping social distancing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motions:**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.  
**\$22,342.54**

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the Following warrant.  
**\$45,746.31**

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the Following warrant.  
**\$449,788.98**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**DISCUSSION OF DESE GUIDELINES REOPENING SCHOOLS:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Increased cases of DELTA variant on the rise. Essex County is in a high risk area.

- Summer school decided to wear masks.
- Vaccinations
 

Grade 9 - 64%	Grade 11 - 69%
Grade 10 - 64%	Grade 12 - 74%

**David Hochheiser** asked how those numbers were known. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained and said the High School was at 68%.

- Multi-layer approach - 2 component testing program
  - Stay home if ill - if ill in school - rapid test
  - 2nd phase - test and stay
  - Social distancing
  - Regular lunch and snack time experience
  - Cleaning protocols
  - Hand hygiene
  - Mask indoors
  - Masks on buses
  - Outside - masks optional

**Sheila Spalding** asked about social distancing in the cafeterias.

Students wearing masks - maximize tables - information will be sent out to parents.

**Mayor Holaday** asked what happens if students test positive?

**Bruce Menin** asked about vaccinations/boosters in school?

**Mayor Holaday** said she did not see why not.

**Superintendent Gallagher** spoke regarding a mobile vaccination unit.

**David Hochheiser** said he was glad to hear about these procedures.

Dr. Su said the #1 goal was to keep all students in school if possible and safe.

**Sheila Spalding** surmised that the youngest children were the most at risk.

**David Hochheiser** asked if we have heard about any mandates for flu/COVID?

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** That the Newburyport School District will require masks for all vaccinated and unvaccinated students and staff at the beginning of the school year, and the Medical Advisory Team and the District administration will review data on an ongoing basis to assess any needed changes to our protocols.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**POTENTIAL 2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR ADJUSTMENT:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

**VOTED:** To move the first day of school for Pre-K students from September 7 to September 8.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**2021 - 2022 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** To change the School Committee Business Meeting from Monday, January 3, 2022 to Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following

- School Choice remaining numbers
  - Grade 4 - 0
  - Grade 6 - 2
  - Grade 7 - 0
  - Grade 9 - 7
  - Grade 12 - 4
- ESSER II Grant has been submitted
- ESSER III Grant - sending out survey
- We are in great shape with our grants.
- Hiring 31 new staff members - among them are the following:
  - Tom Abrams - District Literacy Coordinator
  - Elise Comeau - Molin/Nock Special Education Team Coordinator
  - Theresa Fitzpatrick - Bresnahan Special Education Team Coordinator
  - Lisa Furlong - Director of Communication & Instructional Technology
  - Lisa Marie Ippolito - Assistant Superintendent
  - Phil Littlehale - Business Manager
  - Lauren McDonald - Director of Health Services
  - Michael Munroe - Assistant Principal Bresnahan
  - Tim Potts - Behavioral Health Coordinator
  - Leah Salloway - Bresnahan Early Childhood Coordinator
  - Nick Markos - Nock Interim Principal
  - Alissa Gallegos - Nock Interim Assistant Principal
- Mentor / Mentee training
  - Mentee - Induction Program begins on August 25th - 27th
  - There are several staff members presenting to the new teachers - Judy Webster, Nancy Koch, Chrissa Pissios, Joan Sheehan, Steve Costello, Michael Eatman and LisaMaria Ippolito. Julie Zielinski helped organize these mentee days. Mentor training will be conducted on August 25 by our mentor leaders - Shannon Osgood, Lori Solazzo, Tim Mahan, Pam Vecchio and Renee Ames.

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Superintendent Evaluation Sub-Committee**

**Bruce Menin** reported that the Superintendent Evaluation has been filed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A pamphlet "The Gazette" of the Westorchard Elementary School, Chappaqua, NY was distributed to the Committee.

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following sports achievements:

- Congratulations to the Newburyport 9U All Star Team, which on Sunday won the BayState Tournament of Champions, defeating Tewksbury by a score of 5 - 4 to win the championship in dramatic fashion.
- Aaron Armstrong had the game winning hit in the bottom of the sixth inning. Other members of the team were: Rowan Alphon, Paddy Arcand, Jackson Boselli, Conor Contrino, Joe Fulmer, Ben Greile, Paxton Lindenmayer, Matthew Linteris, Grady Pointing, Ollie Reardon, Mikey Savastra, Matthew Sheehan, Jamison Smith, and Charlie Todd.
- Congratulations also to: Manager Chris Sheehen, Coaches Sean Todd, Ray Arcand and Eric Greile

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the School Committee Business Meeting at 7:48 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**