

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, September 20, 2021**

**Meeting Convened at 6:33 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 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ralph Orlando, 4 William Hall Drive - stated he liked the meeting starting at 7:00 PM. He suggested the agenda go back to two Public Comment sessions.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motion:**

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

<b>VOTED:</b>	To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrants:
	Warrant 8039 \$301,869.13
	Warrant 8039A <u>\$ 97,141.71</u>
	Total \$399,010.84

And the following 3 sets of meeting minutes:

August 12, 2021, Newburyport School Committee Retreat

Monday, August 16, 2021, School Committee Business Meeting

Tuesday, September 7, 2021, School Committee Business Meeting

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE - Face Coverings Policy (EBFA):**

**Sheila Spalding** gave an overview of the policy.

**Brian Callahan** asked if outside policy was covered by this.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said masks were optional outside.

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To approve the Face Covering Policy (EBFA) as presented.

**Motion Passed unanimously**

**David Hochheiser** asked if there have been any changes to outside policy.  
**Superintendent Gallagher** said masks were optional outside.

### **SELF-EVALUATION:**

**Brian Callahan** read the results of the School Committee Self-Evaluation report.

**David Hochheiser** said some of this requires the way their meetings are run.

**Brian Callahan** reviewed how meetings are run.

**Bruce Menin** discussed Collective Bargaining item 6.

**Brian Callahan** spoke regarding different policies.

**David Hochheiser** spoke regarding the following issues:

- Having a second Policy Committee to go through the Policy Booklet
- The level of pushback - School Committee/School Department  
Having a retreat in the future to discuss this.

**Mayor Holaday** thanked **Mr. Callahan** for his work in compiling this report. She said they need a better website for the School Committee.

**Sheila Spalding, Brian Callahan and Superintendent Gallagher** commented on the website.

### **FUNDRAISING:**

**Mayor Holaday** said she thought the Finance Committee was working on fundraising.

**Steve Cole** commented on the fundraising policy.

**Brian Callahan** said he thought the Committee was going to see a list.

**David Hochheiser** said the question is why are they collecting so much money. Is this the sort of thing they want athletes doing?

**Brian Callahan** questioned how the policy is written.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said they could discuss this at the Finance Committee meeting. He spoke about what was covered by fees and had a discussion with the Athletic Director regarding Booster Club donations. They need a little more detail.

**Sean Reardon** said the Committee needs a bigger and clearer picture.

**Mayor Holaday** asked if they were getting money from the GE Foundation from the Newburyport Bank?

**Superintendent Gallagher** said he was not sure but would check into this.

**Steve Cole** said some money was received.

**David Hochheiser** discussed fundraising in the district.

**Mayor Holaday** said our students/teachers do a lot in the area of collections.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Lueken's Calendar
- Past agenda items
- Student Handbook process - done in Spring
- Agenda items that come up in various months
- COVID - meeting with team to monitor cases in school/out of school
- Continue to wear masks
- Testing protocols

- Mandated update
- Lead nurse moving forward - vaccination for 12 and under - will set up a clinic when available.
- All faculty close to 98-99% fully vaccinated  
**Mayor Holaday** asked about the numbers from the first clinic.  
**Superintendent Gallagher** said most students took advantage of this.  
**Mayor Holaday** said the city will work with the school for these clinics.  
**Superintendent Gallagher** said parents can have a confidential discussion with the school nurse if they want.
- Early Release
  - Bresnahan School - Literacy focus
  - Molin School - Literacy focus
  - Nock School - Vertical curriculum run
  - High School - Partners, Common Planning
  - All together it was a great early release day.

**Sean Reardon** asked if numbers were available for 10 - 12?

**Superintendent Gallagher** said he would provide numbers at the next School Committee Meeting. He said it was approximately in the 80th percentile.

**Steve Cole** asked if the number of students was known.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said at the High School approximately 80% and at the Middle School approximately 60%.

**Sheila Spalding** said the Middle School has some eleven-year-old students which would affect the percentages.

**Bruce Menin** commented on the mask policy.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Brian Callahan** said there will be a Question and Answer session on Monday, October 4 at the Nock Middle School Auditorium with the Medical Team Forum.

**David Hochheiser** asked about the State Policy on October 1. Discussion regarding the Delegate to Hyannis ensued.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at 7:35 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**