

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, October 18, 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, and Steve Cole

**Absent:** Sean Reardon

**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 except **Sean Reardon**.

At this point **Brian Callahan** assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motion:**

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

<b>VOTED:</b>	to approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following two Warrants:
	Warrant 8039 \$388,012.05
	Warrant 8039A <u>\$ 14,556.08</u>
	Total \$402,568.13

**Motion Passed**

**Sean Reardon absent for vote**

**Motion**

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** to approve, receive and file the School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday, October 4, 2021 as amended (below).

**Mayor Holaday** suggested adding a link in the minutes to the Forum.

**Shiela Spalding** noted CPAC should be SEPAC (pg 2)

**Bruce Menin** noted his comments in "Joint Ed" should be under CISL Adhoc (pg 2)

**Motion Passed**

**Sean Reardon absent for vote**

## **NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCTION AND REPORT:**

New NHS student representatives Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser were introduced to the Committee. They in turn gave the following report:

- The student members of the mental health awareness club, Bring Change 2 Mind, had a “purple out” on Friday, September 24 in school and at the football game to highlight Suicide Prevention Month. The club sold BC2M bracelets at the game and raised over \$400 for the Suicide Prevention Hotline.
- The College and Career Center, along with the Guidance Department, held a series of workshops for seniors to work on their college lists, applications, teacher letters of recommendation, and to make sure their Common Applications and Naviance accounts matched. Eighty-seven seniors attended the workshop series.
- The NHS College Fair on 9/29/21 was a great success. Forty-four colleges and universities and over 130 students attended the fair. It was a wonderful night with lots of energy and excitement around the college search process. Students and families engaged with the college admission representatives. A really big thank you to those families who donated food and water for the college reps, and also area businesses who donated food and water and pizza: Aroma Joe’s Coffee House, Spindrift Sparkling Water, Pomodori NBPT, Port Pizza & Subs, and Stone Crust Pizza.
- On Wednesday, October 13th, grades 10 and 11 took their PSAT’s, while Grade 9 engaged in three different orientation activities (Team Building, Planning for Success, and Small Groups with their Guidance Counselor). Many seniors registered to visit a college on that day and others scheduled time to work on college applications in the College and Career Center.
- Poetry Soup: The first Poetry Soup of this school year took place. Over 30 students listened to readings of their peers, beginning with Audrey Hoover and ending with the mellow music of trio Declan Callahan, Charlie Grossman, and Patrick Walker after an inspiring student open mike and a dynamite performance by guest poet Cole Rodriguez. The next Poetry Soup will be Wednesday, October 20, featuring Anthony Febo and Ricky Orng, also known as Adobo Fish Sauce. Everyone is welcome to come share writing and music at the open mike or just listen and enjoy.
- Student Council met for the first time on October 14th. They are looking to draft their own proposal on the current hat policy at the high school.
- Since late September, seniors have been working in their Civics classes on their Active Citizenship Projects. This year, their focus is on local issues, and in particular, the mayoral election. On Tuesday, NHS will host Mr. Tontar and Mr. Reardon in a debate in front of all students that are taking either Civics or AP Government this semester. Candidates will be asked questions derived from student interests and that relate directly to student research.
- News from the Middle School:
  - Cross Country crushing it
  - Socktober - support our schools by bringing in socks for the greater community.
  - Eighth grade team doing an amazing job bringing in local leaders and students who are engaged in student dialogue and positive student dialogue.

## **RECOGNITIONS:**

- Brady O'Donnell was recognized as the Bay State Games National Athlete of the year, as well as being recognized as the National State Games Male Athlete of the Year. He is the first adult male from Massachusetts to earn this award.
- Luke O'Brien has run another successful Gear to Share Donation Program. Used sporting gear that was collected in the final weeks of summer will benefit many local youths in need of supplies. As a reminder, accrual of service hours can count towards high school credit. 75 hours of documented service equates to 2.5 credits (equivalent of a semester class). 150 hours of documented service equates to 5.0 credits (equivalent of a full year class).
- Nicolas Forestell, after having several of his photographs of birds published in Cornell's NorthEast Fieldguide as part of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, had his work recommended to Classid Brands, LLC., manufacturer of bird feeders and accessories.
- We will have three students serve as representatives to the Northeast Student Advisory Council this school year. They are Olivia D'Ambrosio, Sophia Hartford, and Lilly Ragusa (State rep). All three have been instrumental in strengthening student voice at the high school and will now extend their work to our region, as well as the state.

**Brian Callahan** suggested having the Student Representatives participate in the Committee meetings.

**Sheila Spalding** inquired where the next Poetry Soup would be held. Answer - Jabberwocky.

## **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:**

### **New School Committee Member Orientation Policy (BIA) - revision**

**Bruce Menin** suggested having this done after the election.

**Steve Cole** asked the Superintendent how he felt about the Superintendent participating in this policy.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said he was open to that.

### **School Committee Meetings Annual Calendar - draft (BCAA)**

**David Hochheiser** spoke about minimum expectations/baseline to start with.

**Bruce Menin** suggested moving some of the items:

- August - review how it is done - preliminary
- September - School Council Planning - he said he was uncomfortable with that. **David Hochheiser** and **Brian Callahan** explained.
- November - Cur. Presentation, Program of Studies  
**Steve Cole** said they review all handbooks in the Spring
- May - Superintendent Goals - be more specific  
**Mayor Holaday** said School Improvement Plans should be included in there.
- July - Retreat

**Bruce Menin** spoke about the next step.

**Sheila Spalding** will meet with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to streamline this calendar with theirs, then bring the BCAA policy back to the Policy Committee to revise.

## **School Year / Calendar Police (IC) - revision**

**Sheila Spalding** explained.

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

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Budget Process Overview:  
Athletic Program Award - He offered congratulations and thanked all.  
Budget Guidelines Timeline:
  - Principals meeting
  - All personnel will meet
  - Create a draft
  - District wide deliberations
  - Presentation
  
- DCAP Update:
  - NPS beliefs
  - Development of DCAP
  - What is a DCAP
  - What is the purpose of the DCAP
  - Whose Responsibility is the DCAP
  - Massachusetts Multi-Tiered System of Support
  - Tier 1 or School-wide Supports
  - Tier 2 or Targeted Support (5-10% of students)
  - Tier 3 or Intensive Support (1-5% of students)
  - Best Practices
  - Student Support Teams

**Sheila Spalding** inquired how this differed from a 504 Plan?

**Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

**Steve Cole** inquired about the difference between 2/3.

**Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

**Assistant Superintendent Ippolito** spoke about:

- Purpose
- Curriculum

Next Meeting - Monday at the Molin School.

**David Hochheiser** asked if the minutes would be available. - **Ms. Ippolito** said they will be posted.

**David Hochheiser** inquired if the meetings would be publicly announced.

- MCAS report
  - Results mailed out with letter - (test scores)
  
- Strategic Planning
  - Invite all to attend the Forum at the Middle School.
  - November 10 - parent/guardian - Strategic Planning Forum 6-8 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Holaday** spoke about a breakfast in September - Lisa Furlong to meet with them - break into groups.

**Superintendent Gallagher** spoke about a joint meeting - School Committee / City Council re: budget.

**ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn to Executive Session at 7:58 PM for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and legal matters. The Committee will not reconvene to Open Session.

**Motion Passed**

**Sean Reardon absent for vote**