

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, March 7, 2022**

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**

**Present:** Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Brian Callahan, Sheila Spalding, Bruce Menin, and Steve Cole

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

**Mayor Sean Reardon** called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:34 PM. Roll call found all members present.

At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motion:**

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

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

Warrant           \$405,235.33

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Motion**

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Mayor Reardon** it was

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

A-Warrant       \$18,369.66

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**MINUTES:**

**Motions:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the following:  
School Committee Retreat Minutes of February 1, 2022 (as amended)  
and School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday,  
February 7, 2022.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the following:  
Special School Committee Virtual Business Meeting minutes of  
Friday, February 18, 2022.

**Motion Passed**

**Brian Callahan Abstained**

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

NHS Student representatives Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser reported on the following:

- Environmental Stewardship Open House  
The High School would like to commend Mia Rodrigues, Riya Kaur, Priya Kaur, Olivia Barbera and Adella Daigle on their presentations at the Environment Stewardship Open House before the vacation. This event connected our students with projects happening around the city and local communities. Thank you to Mayor Reardon's office and the Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards (ACE) for making this happen. The Daily News published an article about the event and an editorial was written by Adella about the open house.
- Sasha Leydon has been appointed to the Northeast Teen Advisory Board for the Bring Change 2 Mind Organization.
- Sports:
  - Girls Basketball - (19-2)  
Won Geiras Tournament over February vacation  
Won first round playoff game over Shepherd Hill on Saturday  
Play at Whitman Hanson on Tuesday in the next round
  
  - Boys Ice Hockey - (12-702)  
Won Newburyport Bank Tournament over February vacation  
Won first round playoff game over Wilmington on Friday  
Plays at Norwood on Tuesday in the next round
  
  - Boys Track - (4-0)  
Div. 4 State Champions  
CAL Champions  
Indoor Relays Champion  
TJ Carleo finished 4th in New England set school record in 1000M
  
  - Boys Basketball - (14-8)  
CAL Champions  
Won first playoff game over Marblehead  
Lost to Leomister in the second round of the playoffs
  
  - Girls Hockey - (10-9-2)  
Lost to Acton Boxborough in the first round of playoffs

### Girls Ski

Grace Chandler won two medals in the state Alpine Ski championships

### Swim

Austin Hyer set a new school record in the 200 Free with a 9th place finish in the states.

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING - PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE UPDATE:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** provided a final update on the Portrait of a Graduate as follows:

- Building a Shared Vision
- Vision of a Graduate
- Overview
- Participants explored economic, technological, demographic, and environmental trends.
- Focus groups identified the skills, mindsets, and knowledge they felt NPS Graduates will need to be successful after graduation
- Shared community comments and ideas - categorized and ranked using a qualitative analysis process as follows:

Skills Categories

Mindset Categories

Knowledge Categories

Within each category, comments were reviewed

Empathy Comments

Resiliency Comments

Collaboration Comments (skills)

Sampling of Comments

Comments analyzed

Participants recommended programming

Graduate Aims: Themes Across All Comments

Participants shared ideas

NPS Planning for the Future

Next Steps

Short Faculty Survey - Complete Now

**Mayor Reardon** inquired about the timeline.

### **NHS COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS PRESENTATION:**

NHS Principal Andy Wulf introduced NHS College and Career Counselor Aaron Smith, along with Guidance Counselors in Student Support, have worked together in supporting seniors through the college search and application process. He has worked with local Community Partners to build up the Internship Program, along with offering a College and Career Readiness course that next year will be modified into a Middlesex Community College Early College course that all 9th graders will take, giving them one college credit. His presentation included the following:

- School Improvement Goals

- Internship Program
- College & Career Readiness Course
- College Visits
- On the Sport Admission Days
- College Fair
- Sr. Naviance Information Sessions
- Grant for CGN School
- MEFA Pathways
- MyCAP
- One-on-One Student Meetings
- NHS CCC Website - <https://nhs.newburyport.k12.ma.us/Guidance-Counseling/College-and-Career-Center/index.html>
- CCC Google Classroom
- Financial Aid Information Sheet
- Junior Post Graduation Planning
- More to Come this Spring
- CCC Vision for the Future
- Q & A questions and Answers

**Juliet Walker** inquired why they were working on college planning so early. Answer- just to talk about it and hear information - get them ready.

**Superintendent Gallagher** commented on the Naviance Program - getting them thinking.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FY 2023-2027:**

Facilities Director Steve Bergholm presented the district projects included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2023-2027 as follows:

- NHS-Addition, Renovation & Roof Replacement
  - Bruce Menin** inquired about feedback. **Superintendent Gallagher** said feedback has been extremely positive.
  - Brian Callahan** inquired if we could get out of it? Answer - we are not committed. What happens to students during the renovations? Answer - it will be disruptive. When would we find out? Answer - end of next year. What is the time frame? Answer - 2 years out.
  - Juliet Walker** asked the following:
    - What were the basis for the numbers? Mr. Bergholm explained.
    - Process - is that set in stone? Answer - number will change.
    - Do we have a capital plan? **Mayor Reardon** said this is being worked on. She said this should be in the packet.
    - Sarah Hall** said maybe the Science teachers should come in.
    - Mayor Reardon** commented that there should be a conversation about space issues.
- NHS-Engineering Services
  - Juliet Walker** said this was a good idea - do it for all facilities.
- Nock Molin - Tennis Court Renovation
- Middle School Playground Repaving
- Pick-Up Truck with Utility Body & Plow

- Pick-Up Truck with Plow  
**Juliet Walker** commented that they should look into electrical vehicles.
- NHS/Nock Control System Upgrades  
**Brian Callahan** asked about funding sources.  
**Juliet Walker** asked about internet security.
- Nock Molin Walkway/Sidewalk Repairs and Repaving
- NHS Carpet Replacement
- NHS School Auditorium Plaster Repairs  
**Sheila Spalding** asked about the cement flooring - can cement be polished?  
**Bruce Menin** asked about the roof project.
- Nock Molin Gym & Auditorium Roof Replacement
- NHS Energy Reduction Projects
- NHS Art/Music Area Feasibility Study
- NHS College & Career Center Feasibility Study  
**Bruce Menin** commented that this was where the School Committee used to meet - it was a dark place.  
**Superintendent Gallagher** said the room was out-of-date.
- Kitchen Equipment Replacement  
**Bruce Menin** asked if it were possible to capture energy efficiency? Answer - will check into this.  
**Sheila Spalding** said Mass. State has a program.  
**Brian Callahan** asked about rectangular pavement.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To send the Capital Improvement Program Plan FY 2023-2027 to the City.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**BUS TRANSPORTATION FY23 INCREASE DISCUSSION:**

**Brian Callahan** presented a proposal to increase the bus transportation fees next year due to inflation, gas prices, etc. The current annual fee is \$300.

Mr. Littlehale explained the focus on bus fees as follows:

- Different size buses
- Contract Costs - put dates in
- Transportation Costs
- Transportation Fees
- Number of Riders by Category
- Percentages of Bus Riders by Category

**Sheila Spalding** asked about the following:

- Eliminating buses
- Raising fees
- Reimbursement rates

**Juliet Walker** asked what was the reason why we have so many buses?

**Bruce Menin** commented that fees began in 2005.

**Juliet Walker** asked what was the basis for the fees to begin with?

**Brian Callahan** asked about the policy.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To increase the bus next year to \$360.

**Sheila Spalding** asked why do we have to increase it by that much?

**Mayor Reardon** asked about having a conversation about this - he said maybe there should be an Ad Hock committee formed.

**Sarah Hall** asked if there was a firm date to set the fees. Mr. Littlehale said this should have been done two months ago and that the information needs to be sent out to parents.

**Bruce Menin** said there should be a conversation about public transportation. **Mayor Reardon** said public transportation is willing to work with us.

**Juliet Walker** asked about options - different categories to charge full price.

**Steve Cole** explained the fees raised over the past years. He said he supported a two year phasing in of raising fees.

**Bruce Menin** said an option would be to vote for a \$30 increase now.

**Juliet Walker** said this might backfire - we need to put out a strong message concerning transportation costs.

**Brian Callahan** asked about options.

**Bruce Menin** inquired if there was an adjustment clause in the contract.

**Sarah Hall** asked the Committee if a \$30 increase was appropriate or should the motion be tabled at this time.

**Brian Callahan** withdrew his motion so there could be further conversation.

**SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

**Policy Subcommittee** - **Sheila Spalding** said they will be meeting next Monday.

**Joint Education Subcommittee** - **Bruce Menin** said they will meet tomorrow.

**ASS'T SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Assistant Superintendent LisaMarie Ippolito provided an update regarding the Math Academy that was held during the February vacation week as follows:

- 13 applications were received - 9 participated
- 73 students participated in the 3-day event
- Broke into smaller groups
- Stem Class - year 3-10
- Food Service provided breakfast

**Bruce Menin** asked if this was a one-time grant? Answer - as far as she knows.

- Funding for summer
- Gift cards for kids - some left over
- Pre-testing - post-testing

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

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- School Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grant  
Newburyport received 10 to 12 thousand dollars - purchasing a new stove for the High School - 2 new ovens at Nock - 2 new steamers at the Bresnahan.
- Hiring Update  
Principal Searches - 5 different applicants - 2 of our own - hired at the Bresnahan was Ms. Sokolowski and at the Nock Mr. Markos.
- COVID -19 Update  
Masks optional;  
Meeting on a weekly basis;  
Vaccination Clinic - 35 people - there will be no new clinics until COVID policy is received for the little children - when information is received that will be sent out to parents.  
Testing program going strong
- Custom House Museum  
Tour of Museum  
Strengthen our educational program
- Environment Stewardship Symposium  
He spoke at this symposium.  
This event brought in environmental leaders.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Juliet Walker** spoke about School Crossing Guards Appreciation.

**Mayor Reardon** spoke about the Art Show for students across the district.

**Mayor Reardon** delivered the sad news that retired NHS teacher Paul Kolman passed away today. He spoke about Mr. Kolman's career.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee Meeting at 8:54 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**