

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Newburyport High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Tuesday, April 26, 2022**

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:34 PM. Roll call found all members present except Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8050	\$ 545,770.39
	<u>15,984.42</u>
	\$ 561,754.81

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin absent for vote

MINUTES:

Motions:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business Meeting Minutes of Monday, March 21, 2022
(as amended) and Monday, April 4, 2022.

Sheila Spalding asked for a correction to her last name on bottom of page 1 in the March 21 minutes.

Juliet Walker asked for a correction of last name in the Public Comment section (should be Moltz) on page 1 in the March 21 minutes.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin absent for vote

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

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

- The High School hosted a Summer Jobs / Internship / Career Fair on April 13, as well as a virtual College Fair on April 25.
- National Honor Society and basketball teams for Newburyport High School and Recreational League raised a combined total of close to \$6,000 for Ukraine.
- Students were recently inducted into both the National Honor Society and the National Art Honor Society.
- During spring break, 26 students and 4 teachers traveled to the Galapagos for a 9-day adventure. In addition, over 60 students traveled to Greece during the break.
- The Peer Mentor Club has held several successful meetings, most recently an outing at the Graf Skating rink sponsored by the Al Khatib family. In addition, the club will hold a picnic outing at Cashman Park on May 6 (rain date = May 11). Water donations for this event can be dropped off at the high school lobby.

Nock Middle School

- A Nock Principal Student Council will be officially formed in May and Principal Markos is accepting applications.
- Nock is looking for students to participate in the Yearbook Club.

Molin School

- Molin is partnering with the NYS Youth Thrive initiative.
- Students are preparing for the STEM showcases: May = grade 4, June = grade 5.
- The 2nd annual Wellness Days will take place in June.
- Yoga is being taught in every classroom for a few days in May. (4 & 22)
- The entire Second Step curriculum is being completed by teachers for all 4th & 5th graders in May. This is a social emotional curriculum that includes anti-bullying information.

Bresnahan Elementary School

- Students celebrated math awareness month every morning. In addition, they are having a math spirit week that involves dressing up with number / pattern day.
- Pre-school and kindergarten students watched a live performance of the Tanglewood Marionettes.
- Kindergarten through Grade 3 students are planting lima beans in STEM class to learn about life cycle of a plant and what plants need to grow. The children will be able to take the plants home after they sprout.

NPS FY23 Budget

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher gave a presentation on the NPS FY23 Budget that began with a recap of the budget process from October 18, 2021 through April 26, 2022. He gave an overview of both the Aspirational and Level Service Budgets, including a review of the first and second tier revision options.
- The budget presentation was continued by Business Manager Phil Littlehale who provided additional background of other factors that impact the annual budget such as

increased needs of the student population, permanent increases from COVID-19, as well as future increases that could arise from rising costs of crude oil, natural gas and wheat.

Brian Callahan asked where is Chapter 70 funding? Answer: Because of the City portion, its included in the 39 million.

Juliet Walker commented that all the presentations have been great and very helpful. Based on all the work that has been done, and not having a target # as in the past, and if the budget meets the objectives identified (i.e. staffing & positions etc.), she would be supportive of the 6% as presented.

Brian Callahan agreed with Juliet Walker.

Sarah Hall read a statement in Bruce Menin's absence, which in summary stated Bruce felt the presented budget was responsible and coherent, and he would pass this aspirational budget as submitted with no amendments if he were here. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Steve Cole asked what the model was before for the groundskeeper position, just one? Answer: Yes, one has been tried the past three years and the job is too much for one person.

Steve Cole commented he echoes the feelings of what other members have said about getting as close to the aspirational levels as possible, and is glad that new positions are being added.

Juliet Walker asked for clarification as to where the Chapter 70 funding was in the budget presentation. Answer: It comes under the City's appropriations. Steve Cole and Phil Littlehale explained Chapter 70.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the FY23 Budget as presented by the Superintendent tonight with a 6.0 % increase for the City and a 4.9% increase overall including the additional funds.

Motion Passed

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin

Steve Cole asked for the total amount for salaries and expenses and those budget lines in the total before the roll call vote. Answer: \$40,480,039 (included funding from all sources)

Juliet Walker asked about the City portion. Answer: \$35,388,911, plus 110,000 from Medicaid reimbursement (total = \$35,498,911)

Roll Call Vote

Sarah Hall = yes

Brian Callahan = yes

Steve Cole = yes

Sheila Spalding = yes

Juliet Walker = yes

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin

NPS Wellness Policy Revision – 2nd reading

Sheila Spalding explained that the Wellness Policy in today's packet includes all the revisions presented since the last iteration of the policy in 2018. If approved, this policy will be reformatted to match the other policies on our website.

Sarah Hall asked if the Wellness Policy was designed not to intentionally use the same format as the other policies. Answer: Correct.

Brian Callahan stated he is concerned about the lack of a revision box and the formatting. He would like to be consistent.

Juliet Walker agreed and suggested it be passed as revised and talk to Council about whether it can be formatted the same as other policies.

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: to pass the revision to the Wellness Policy as presented tonight.

Motion Passed

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin

Formation of Transportation Advisory Committee

Juliet Walker explained the creation of this committee, and why an Advisory Committee was necessary, along with a proposed purpose and scope for the committee. Participants would include Brian Callahan, Superintendent Sean Gallagher, and staff.

Sarah Hall asked if we had a report by Fall of 2022 would that give us time to make some changes to our budgeting for next fall for busing? Answer: Yes.

Sheila Spalding appreciates how Juliet laid out the work of this committee and would like to see the School Committee write something like this for every subcommittee and have it on our website.

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: to have the School Committee vote to form the School Committee Transportation Advisory Committee consistent with the scope and time frame included in the packet.

Motion Passed

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they met on the 14th. Minutes are not yet ready, but the meeting included one transfer from textbooks to admin supplies, purchasing a la cart items, and parent concerns regarding AP classes and exam fees (if they are required to be taken if the student doesn't use the class towards their college transcript).

Policy:

Sheila Spalding said they met April 11. They discussed looking into a management system for the policy manual and will explore options (i.e. Board docs) and are also waiting to hear back from the school attorney regarding several policies. They will meet next on May 9th.

Joint Education:

Sarah Hall will ask Bruce Menin to report at the May 2nd meeting. Joint Ed will meet May 3rd.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher will be meeting with the AFSCME Union regarding the December 23rd holiday. Currently, the 22-23 calendar lists December 23 as ½ day, but that may be a full day holiday for the union. He will have an update for the May 2nd meeting. This could be a change on the calendar.

Brian Callahan noted that the US News and World Report announced that Newburyport was #61 for high schools in the state on their annual rankings. If you remove all the non-district schools, Newburyport is # 45.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 7:38 PM for the purpose of discussing Contract negotiations, possible litigation and legal matters. The Committee will not reconvene to Open Session.

Motion Passed

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin

Roll Call Vote

Sarah Hall = yes

Brian Callahan = yes

Steve Cole = yes

Sheila Spalding = yes

Juliet Walker = yes

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon and Bruce Menin