

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, May 16, 2022**

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call found all members present,

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 8050 \$768,878.83

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon and Sheila Spalding absent for vote

MINUTES:

Motion:

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business meeting minutes of Tuesday,
April 26, 2022.

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin abstained

Mayor Reardon and Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday,
May 2, 2022.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon and Sheila Spalding absent for vote

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

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

- NHS now has less than two weeks left for our seniors.
- Last Wednesday evening was the Academic Key Ceremony. Valedictorian Mia Yim, Salutatorian Jack Fehlner and Bresnahan Scholar Athlete delivered impactful speeches.
- On Wednesday, May 25th NHS will hold its Annual Scholarship Awards Night.
- On May 17, 18 grade 10 students will take the math MCAS and the Freshman class will participate in the Bio-Bjitz to prepare for the Biology MCAS a few weeks later.
- The Interact Club recently collaborated with the Bresnahan Elementary to run a very successful clothing drive for Cradles to Crayons.
- The Student Council is sponsoring a drive for personal care items to benefit Community Service of Newburyport beginning May 11 through May 20.
- Last week NHS peer mentors and newcomers to Newburyport participated in a picnic at Cashman Park.
- On Tuesday, May 24 the Junior class will participate in the Credit for Life Fair sponsored by the Institution for Savings, an interactive event that prepares students to survive financially in the everyday world before they leave high school.
- In conjunction with NHS seniors Nock students participated in an Escape Room capstone project which was a huge success.
- Molin 4th graders had their STEM Showcase on Friday.
- Bresnahan students experienced the magic of our Artist-in-Residence, Kim Salathe by working on Zentangles in art class, a method for drawing which promotes concentration and creativity and increases personal well-being.
- PreK and K students visited with Curious Creatures this week, a program that provides hands-on interactive education teaching respect and appreciation for exotic and unusual animals. They will visit the Seacoast Science Center tomorrow.
- First graders are exploring how literacy and science connect by planting wildflower seeds and journaling their growth.
- Second graders just wrapped up a math module that covered a number of different topics: graphing, money, and measurement.
- Third graders in STEM are using the engineering process to turn recycled materials into new inventions.
- Teachers have been continuing their work on the new literacy curriculum, wrapping up a year of professional development in MyView and Functions. This past Friday a group of teachers participated in a training that will prepare the school to roll out the new Strategies-based and Language-based classrooms.
- The whole school is excited for the Waterfront Festival on May 21, the STEM Expo on May 26 and Field Day on June 3.

NPS STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented the results of his strategic planning process which consisted of the following:

- Background
- Our Mission

- Our Vision - a Portrait of a Graduate
- Strategic Objectives
- District Strategic Initiatives 2022-2027
- Tactical Action Plans
- Appendix I: Portrait of a Graduate Report
- Appendix 2: Strategic Objectives Focus Group Report
- Appendix 3: Tactical Planning through School Improvement Plans
- Francis T. Bresnahan School: School Improvement Plan
- Edward G. Molin School: School Improvement Plan
- Rupert A. Nock Middle School: School Improvement Plan
- NHS: School Improvement Plan

Bruce Menin asked how this impacts on the budget.

Juliet Walker said:

- She appreciated the repetition - revisiting process - did this without outside consultants
- Liked the Table of strategic outcomes
- Annual update - when would that happen

Sarah Hall stated she liked the plan.

Steve Cole inquired re: measurement outcomes - would there be opportunities to report out?

Bruce Menin asked that it would be really clear on measurement outcomes.

NPS FY23 SCHOOL BUDGET UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher provided an overview of modifications reflective of the 5% increase of the City Budget as follows:

May 16, 2022 FY23 Budget Request Overview

- The FY23 budget moves forward
- Investment in Special Education
- Investments in Tuition Free Kindergarten
- Investments in Staff through negotiated contract
- Investments in Staffing
- Investments in the Arts
- Investments in Instructional Technology
- Tiered Budget Additions
- City Appropriation Increase

Bruce Menin inquired re: tiered budget additions

Juliet Walker commented on

- 6% that School Committee passed - 1% less that City Council passed
- She suggested that the City Council be advised what the tiers mean.

Sarah Hall suggested that things be prioritized.

Juliet Walker said to show them all.

Brian Callahan commented that the process works. He spoke about the 1% reduction by the City Council.

2022-2023 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE:

Sarah Hall asked the Committee how they would like to proceed on this item.

Brian Callahan suggested that the Committee take it home and look at it.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they met and discussed the Superintendent's budget proposal and lunch fees.

Joint Education:

Bruce Menin said they met and discussed the budget.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher provided updates on the following:

- He met with a parent group re: Lunch program. There will be a survey going out to the district.
- Competency Forum
- COVID Report
COVID going up - Last week to today 37 students and 14 staff
- He suggested all those who had contracted COVID wear masks when returning.
- School Choice -

Sarah Hall inquired if he was meeting with the health care advisory team this Wednesday.

Bruce Menin inquired about slots.

Juliet Walker inquired about COVID protocol - school testing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sarah Hall said the Tuesday, January 21 School Committee has been canceled.

Steve Cole inquired re: transmissibility and asked about protocol.

Juliet Walker inquired about the Forum - Truly Responsive Teaching and Learning - June 6 - e-mail going out to families; focus presentation from each school.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

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

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon and Sheila Spalding absent for vote