

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, June 5, 2023

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Brian Callahan, Steve Cole and Breanna Higgins

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 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Hochheiser, 2 Forrester Street: (1) Thank you to all the NHS staff who did extra work for the seniors related to scholarships, college and the admissions process. (2) He feels restricting public comment would be a step backwards; keep the door open. (3) Communication is important and receiving more than 2 emails per month from the School Committee would be a step forward. (4) Finally, he is in favor of reinstating the Foreign Language Committee and offering an AP Spanish course.

RECOGNITIONS:

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission, Bruce Menin shared the winners of the 19th Annual Peace Prize awards: Gretalise Trefalt-Liu and Cole Wilson (Bresnahan), Kernan Farrell and Brock Ritter (Molin), Zachary Bell and Juliette DePasqua (Nock), Sasha Leydon and Jasmine Al Khatib (NHS), Declan McCarty and Ailsa Carmisciano (IC), Cady Seaton (RVC), and adult winners Prince Boateng and The Wolfe Club.

Six retiring staff members were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to Newburyport Public Schools: Lauren Eramo, Michelle MacDougall, Dianna Ouellette, Janis Pollard, Anne Larnard, and Nancy Stanwood.

A short recess was held for congratulations and picture taking.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Sean Reardon it was

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

Warrant 8086 FY23	\$462,263.85
A-Warrant	<u>\$263,783.70</u>
	\$726,047.55

Motion Passed

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the March 6, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the May 15, 2023 School Committee Business meeting with changes.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole abstained

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

Brian Callahan said they met on Thursday, May 18th. Athletic fundraising was discussed. They would like to have the ability to track funds and how they are spent. This will be discussed further at the next meeting on June 15th.

Policy Subcommittee:

The next meeting will be held at 6PM on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 in the Nock Library. Policy sections G & H will be reviewed, as well as going back over sections D, E and F.

Policy BDE

Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes to policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee (second reading).

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to Policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee as presented.

Motion Passed

Policy BEDH

Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes to rules 1 & 3 of policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings (second reading).

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings as presented.

The proposed changes to the language in rules 1 and 3 policy BEDH were discussed, along with suggestions and possible legalities.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: to modify the previous motion to table changes to policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings to a future meeting until they can obtain additional input from legal counsel.

Policy CBI

Juliet Walker and Bruce Menin explained the proposed changes to policy CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent (second reading).

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to policy CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent.

Motion Passed

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Sailbot: The 15th Annual Sailbot Competition is underway and is being hosted by Newburyport High School at Lake Attitash in Amesbury. Sean Gallagher reviewed the list of participants, as well as some of the events.

K-8 Assessment Data Follow Up: Sean Gallagher provided a brief summary of answers to follow up questions related to the District’s recent K-8 Assessment Data presentation. The follow up question list will be posted on the website with the assessment presentation.

Technology Update: The iPad 1:1 Program is going well. The Superintendent reported that over 350 NHS students are currently participating, along with 15 staff members. Several professional development activities are scheduled for the summer. In addition, a tech integrator position has been advertised. The Superintendent would like to complete a family technology survey next year. It was suggested that a technology presentation be provided at the first school committee meeting that covers safety features, as well as each school’s technology policies.

School Choice Update: Overall, 55 of 77 school choice slots have been filled as of June 1, 2023. At this time there are currently no plans to offer school choice or tuition paid programs for either kindergarten or City employees for the 2023-2024 school year. Superintendent Gallagher stated kindergarten enrollments typically occur throughout the summer months. He will monitor those numbers, as well as first grade enrollments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cancel the School Committee Business meeting on June 20, 2023 as the City Council has scheduled a special meeting the same evening to vote on the budget.
- The School Committee Retreat will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023 from 4PM-8PM. Send any agenda ideas to Sarah Hall.
- Superintendent Sean Gallagher thanked everyone involved for the amazing rally of help to complete all the facility, streaming and sound preparations needed for the indoor graduation.

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