

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

**School Committee
Business Meeting**

Monday, November 2, 2020

**6:30 PM
Room 118**

**Newburyport High School
241 High Street, Newburyport, MA**

SC Packet Checklist:

- SC Business Meeting Agenda 11-2-2020**
- SC Meeting Agenda Notes 11-2-2020**
- SC Business Meeting Minutes 10-5-2020**
- International Field trips**
- Student Activity Accounts**
- Alpine Ski Club Student Activity Account request**
- NEF Naming Opportunities Price List**
- MASC Resolution #7 – article for review**
- MASC Resolutions 2020**
- Amendment form**

Newburyport Public Schools
Newburyport, MA
School Committee Business Meeting
AGENDA
Monday, November 2, 2020

6:30 PM (in Room 118)
Newburyport High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Business Meeting Agenda: The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Due to COVID-19 restrictions attendance is restricted to School Committee Members & speakers only at this time. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment – *via Zoom* Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89673154304?pwd=eGFUWUJlPZWVqL05pVW5ldFhnVyt0Zz09>
3. *Consent Agenda (warrants and minutes of October 5, 2020) – *Possible Vote*
4. NHS Student Rep Introduction & Report
5. *Executive Session: *for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and legal matters* – *Vote*

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

6. Reopening Updates – *Bresnahan & Molin Elementary School Principals*
7. *Greece & Australia Field Trips – *Principal Andy Wulf - possible Vote*
8. *Recognize existing Student Activity Accounts for SY2020-2021 - *Vice Chair Bruce Menin - Vote*
9. *Alpine Ski Club Student Activity Account Request – *possible Vote*
10. *NEF Naming Rights Pricing – *possible Vote*
11. Code of Ethics of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*
12. COVID Update – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*

Continued – next page

13. Impact of Outside Activities on School Community – Vice Chair Bruce Menin & Sean Reardon
14. Superintendent’s Evaluation Update – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*
15. *Proposed MASC Resolutions #'s 7-10 – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin - Vote*
16. Superintendent’s Report: *Commissioner’s Update, NHS lighting upgrade, Open House update, school visits*
17. Sub-Committee Reports (if needed): Joint Ed; Finance; Policy; Superintendent’s Evaluation

Adjournment

The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

**Newburyport School Committee
Meeting Agenda Notes**

**Monday, November 2, 2020 Time: 6:30 PM (in room 118)
Newburyport High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950**

AGENDA NOTES

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to COVID-19 restrictions attendance is restricted to School Committee Members & speakers only at this time. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

Agenda:

2. Public Comment – via Zoom Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89673154304?pwd=eGFUWUJ1PZWWVqL05pVW5ldFhnVyt0Zz09>
Passcode: 936624

3. *Consent Agenda – (warrants and minutes of October 5, 2020) – *Possible Vote*
4. NHS Student Representative Introduction & Report
5. **Executive Session: for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and legal matters – Vote*

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

6. Reopening Updates - *Building Principals*
The following elementary school principals will provide updates as to how reopening is going at their schools: Principal Tim Miller (grades 1-3 – Bresnahan Elementary), Principal Amy Sullivan (grades pk-K – Bresnahan Elementary) and Principal Tara Rossi (grades 4 & 5 – Molin Elementary).
7. *Greece & Australia Field Trips – Principal Andy Wulf – *possible Vote*
Review milestones for two international trips in 2021.
8. *Recognize existing Student Activity Accounts for SY2020-2021 – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin – Vote*
Annual review of existing student activity accounts.
9. *Alpine Ski Club Student Activity Account Request – *possible Vote*
Review & discussion of the Alpine Ski Club’s application requesting a student activity account. (enclosed)
10. *NEF Naming Rights Pricing – *possible Vote*
Annual review of pricing for naming opportunities at the high school.
11. Code of Ethics of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*
Discussion of the MASC Code of Ethics.
12. COVID Update – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*
The Superintendent will review current COVID cases/quarantines and summarize total staff and student COVID cases/quarantines in the district.

Continued – next page

13. Impact of Outside Activities on School Community – Vice Chair Bruce Menin & Sean Reardon
Discuss the impact on the school community of indoor activities outside the city.

14. Superintendent’s Evaluation Update – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*

15. *Proposed MASC Resolutions # 7 – 10 for 2020 – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin - Vote*
Finish review of remaining resolutions (#7 – 10). Amendments need to be submitted on the official form and received by MASC by 12:00pm on Friday, November 6. (either faxed to the MASC office at 617-742-4125 or email to gkoocher@masc.org)

16. Superintendent’s Evaluation Update – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*

17. Superintendent’s Report – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*
 - Commissioner Jeff Riley’s update
 - Lighting upgrades at the high school
 - Open House Update
 - School visits

18. Sub-Committee Reports (if needed): *Joint Ed; Finance; Policy; Superintendent’s Evaluation*

Adjournment

*Possible Vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates: **SC Business meeting** – Monday, November 16 at 6:30pm

INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING - NOVEMBER 2, 2020

Trip	When	Money Lost if Cancelled	Parent Survey	Latest Time To Cancel Trip so Money lost does not Increase
Greece	April 2021	\$500.00	50% willing to wait and see knowing that if the trip is cancelled before March 1 the money lost is still the same.	February 28, 2021
			50% will pull out to either reschedule with EF for a different trip the following year or drop out all together	
Australia	Summer 2021	\$0.00	School Committee Cancellation must happen before November 10, 2020 for all families to receive full reimbursement.	November 10, 2020
			100% of families are comfortable with cancelling the trip.	

Account Balances - As of 10/20/2020

Account	10/20/2020 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Active Minds	639.24
Advocacy	3,829.21
Alpine Ski	0.00
Alt. Ed&Setting Sail Program	19.79
AP Testing	6,201.89
Band-High School	2,224.00
Baseball	2,455.34
Best Buddies	4,710.05
Boys Basketball	6,323.14
Boys LaCrosse	1,841.85
Boys Soccer	7,531.38
Boys Tennis	250.00
Building Bridges	0.00
Ceramics	383.78
Cheerleaders	1,549.71
Choir - Varsity	0.00
Class of 2018	0.00
Class of 2019	0.00
Class of 2020	19,418.69
Class of 2021	28,784.76
Class of 2022	10,072.90
Class of 2023	7,705.00
Cross Country	10,804.96
Culinary Club	10.00
DECA	208.60
Delta Epsilon Phi	229.50
Diversity & Tolerance (PROTECT)	0.00
Entrepreneurship	0.00
Environmental Club	4,798.31
Field Hockey	4,868.24
Football	10.00
Gallery 118	2,638.30
German Club-GAPP	15,221.19
Girls Basketball	5,336.03
Girls Forward	188.98
Girls LaCrosse	7,328.31
Girls Soccer	8,252.59
Girls Tennis	5,964.58
Global Awareness Club	0.00
Golf	36.24
Hockey	378.49
Homecoming	0.00
Honor Banquet	0.00
Interact	3,390.11
Interest from Bank	1,026.91
International Cultural Club	2,962.22
JC Noyes Scholarship	1,500.00
Lab Fees - Art	3,564.72
Leo's Club	0.00
Math Department	0.00

Account Balances - As of 10/20/2020

Account	10/20/2020 Balance
Model UN	910.71
National Art Honor Society	4,623.40
National Honor Society	479.37
Presidential College Convention	207.75
PSAT	2,609.98
Real World Design Challenge	1,988.41
Record	68.82
Robotics Club	5,585.56
School Store	830.66
Science	3,739.43
She's The First	0.00
Softball	1,653.57
Student Council	1,259.37
Theatre Arts	12,883.60
Track	15,075.90
Undistributed	5,908.73
Video Production	0.00
Volleyball Club	7,873.65
Yearbook	713.51
TOTAL Bank Accounts	249,071.43
OVERALL TOTAL	249,071.43

Account Balances - As of 10/20/2020
R. A. Nock Middle School

Account	10/20/2020 Balance
Bank Accounts	
Grad 2020 Gr 8	241.00
Model United Nations	200.00
TOTAL Bank Accounts	441.00
Cash Accounts	
AIM Program	4,470.03
Art Club 2018 2019	93.88
Band-Grade 6, 7, 8	11,105.77
Camp Kieve	20,451.22
Cedardale.	1,789.66
Check fees & interest	2,239.58
Christmas Carol 2017	367.00
Cross Country	4,768.77
Cultural Enrichment.	3,424.95
Field Hockey.	370.87
Golf	3,808.39
Grad 2020-Gr 7 Gold	27.05
Grad 2020-Gr.7 Crimson	8.00
Library.	7,015.69
Math Team.	391.94
Musical-Theatre	21,410.01
Needy.	531.25
Nock Fall Play	2,896.69
PBE-Grade 7	-2,609.92
Science Club-all grades	548.15
Ski	5,950.35
String Camp.	779.50
Student Council.	692.88
Track.	7,629.95
Undistributed Balances & Shortages	4,489.34
Walk for Water 2018 2019	2,966.00
Washington DC	9,960.49
XC-Grade 6	621.25
Yearbook.	1,335.10
TOTAL Cash Accounts	117,533.84
OVERALL TOTAL	117,974.84

STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT

Request For Recognition Of A Student Organization

SCHOOL: NEWBURY PARK HS DATE OF REQUEST: 2/29/2020

The undersigned hereby request the recognition of the following student organizations, including approval to maintain monies in a student activity account.

Suggested Name of Organization: ALPINE SKI

Reasons for Forming This Organization: NEWLY FORMED MIAA TEAM

Criteria for Membership in Organization: MIAA MEMBERSHIP,
ACCEPTANCE INTO LEAGUE

Grade Span: 9-12

How will Adult Supervision be Achieved?: COACH

If approved, we understand that the organization will be held accountable for complying with all regulations / guidelines / procedures for fundraising, procurement of goods and services under the Uniform Procurement Act (as required), and the handling of monies.

Student Signature

Kyle Hodson
Teacher / Advisors Signature

Andy Wulf
Principal Signature

Student (Printed Name)

KYLE HODSDON
Teacher / Advisors (Printed Name)

ANDY WULF
Principal (Printed Name)

Completed by Superintendent's Office

The above organization is approved as a recognized student organization.

Superintendent's Signature

Superintendent's (Printed Name)

Date

Student Activity Account Name:

**** All Fundraisers Must Receive Advanced Authorization from the School Principal ****

Revenue, Receipts, and Deposits

	Yes	No
- Are pre-numbered receipts, tickets, and/or attendance logs used?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
- Under what circumstances would pre-numbered receipts or tickets not be used when collecting receipts?	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	
	<u> </u>	
- Is a reconciliation process performed between pre-number receipts, tickets, or attendance logs and the funds being turned over prior to making a deposit?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
Prepared by: _____		
Reviewed by: _____		
- In circumstances when pre-numbered receipts, tickets, and attendance logs are not practical, are two responsible people each count the cash received?	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
- Are funds turned over to the Principal within twenty-four hours?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
- Are funds awaiting turnover kept in a locked/secure location?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
- Are duplicate copies of Deposit slips maintained by Advisor?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
- Are records kept by activity?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>

Student Travel

	Yes	No
- Are requests for student travel prepared well in advance of the time the funds are needed?	<u>✓</u>	<u> </u>
- Who typically prepares student travel requests?		
<u>COACH</u>		
- Who approves this request?		
<u>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR</u>		

Student Travel

Do Travel authorization forms include the following:

- Date of request?
- Date funds needed?
- Destination of trip?
- Purpose of trip?
- Estimated departure and return dates?
- Number of persons traveling?
- Estimate of cash required for tips and other various sundry items?
- Estimates of expenses?
- Signature of person requesting authorization?
- Signature of person authorizing the request?
- Check number and date of payment?
- Signature of School Principal?

Is a statement of final accountability submitted after completion of trip?

Does the statement of final accountability include the following:

- Date
- Notation of advance fund received (if applicable)
- Complete listing of itemized expenditures paid
 - With documentary evidence of payment
- Total of cash or checks expended
- Notation and total of credit card or open account expenses
- The amount returned to student activities (if advances received)
- The amount of additional reimbursement requested
- Signature of person completing final accountability statement
- Signature of principal or designee **ANTHONY DIRECTOR**


Student Account Advisor Signature

NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Section F: Facilities Development	File: LBC
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Naming a school facility is an important matter that deserves thoughtful attention. Personal prejudice or favoritism, political pressure, or temporary popularity should not be an influence in choosing a name for a school, a portion of a school, or a portion of school grounds. Whenever possible, the wishes of the community, including parents and students, should be considered in naming school facilities.

The School Committee has the authority to approve the naming and renaming of buildings, structures, and facilities located on school property. The School Committee also has the authority to name subsections of existing structures or facilities, such as classrooms, auditoriums, and gymnasiums. The School Committee may elect to authorize the designation of naming rights for specific portions of our facilities to the Newburyport Education Foundation through advanced approval of a list of naming opportunities to be reviewed annually.

Names and/or wording associated with school facilities shall be consistent with school district policies and promote messages aligned with the mission, vision and goals of the school district. To the extent possible, names and/or wording should be designed not to restrict the use of a space or inhibit changing the function of the space should that become necessary in the future.

When the opportunity to name or dedicate a new school or school related property, structure or facility is forthcoming, an orderly procedure will be communicated at the next available School Committee meeting. The Committee's agendas should clearly reflect the intent to consider, review, and vote on naming opportunities.

Submission of a name for a school space may be made by any resident or by the Superintendent, in writing, and should be made to the School Committee Chair. If a name is being initiated at the local school level, the Principal must take reasonable steps to include the School Council and PTO in the nomination of the name before submission to the School Committee.

The written request should specify the intent of the requestor and the reasons why this particular name would fit the facility. It should offer appropriate background information on the person or organization after which the facility will be named. An offer of a financial contribution to the School District may accompany the naming request, but the School Committee is not obligated to accept or reject a name based upon financial considerations alone. Philanthropic contributions in support of the School District are encouraged by the School Committee. The School Committee may acknowledge generous donors by designating appropriate spaces within the School District's facilities consistent with the level of financial commitment.

Following the submission of a naming request, the School Committee Chair will specify a consideration period that allows for public comment, following which the Committee will deliberate and vote on the name.

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/17
Second Reading	11/6/2017
Adopted	11/6/2017



Naming Opportunities Francis T. Bresnahan Elementary School

Name a room or area in honor or in memory of a teacher, family member, alumni class, loved one, or to create a lasting tribute or memorial. A plaque outside the classroom, office, or other area will recognize the tribute. Contact us at info@newburyportef.org for more information about recognizing your gift. (updated 5/29/2015)

Floor	Room	Cost	Honoree/Recognition
Exterior			
	Patio Area	\$10,000	
	Basketball Court	\$10,000	
	Playground (ages 2–5)	\$15,000	
	Playground (ages 5–12)		Mary Alice Arakelian Foundation
First Floor			
	Entry Lobby – A101		Chase & Lunt Insurance
	Lower Entry Lobby – A121	\$15,000	
	Conference Room – A118	\$15,000	
	SGR/Conference – A128	\$10,000	
	Library Media Center– A117		Newburyport Five Cent Savings Bank
	Nurse’s Office – A127		In Honor of Joseph J. Skiba (the Skiba family)
	Gymnasium – A109		Institution For Savings
	Stage/Music – A108		Institution For Savings
	Cafeteria – A104	\$100,000	
	Pre-K Classrooms (4)	\$5,000 (each)	
	SPED Classroom Pre-K	\$5,000	
	SPED Classroom Kinder	\$5,000	
	Kindergarten Classrooms (8)	\$5,000 (each)	
	Elevator		
Administration			
	Administrative lobby-A102	\$15,000	
	Principal’s office – A102B	\$10,000	
	Asst. Principal’s office – A102A	\$5,000	
	Faculty Dining – A103	\$5,000	
2nd Floor			
	Classroom 238		The Bradshaw Family (Jack and Denise Bradshaw)
	Art – B232		In Honor of Carol Kalashian Mullen
	Literature Closet – B242	\$2,500	
	Lit Specialist Room – B244		The Rotary Club of Newburyport
	Occupational Therapy – B233	\$5,000	
	Faculty Workroom – B262	\$5,000	
	SGR/Conference – B259	\$5,000	
	Classroom 237		In Memory of Ralph T. Castagna (Castagna Construction)
	Classrooms (12)	\$5,000 (each)	
3rd Floor			
	Music Classroom – B335		In Honor of Katherine T. (Arslanian) Bresnahan
	Lit. Specialist Room – A324	\$5,000	
	Literature Closet – B342	\$2,500	
	Speech Room – B344	\$5,000	
	Faculty Workroom – B362	\$5,000	
	SGR/Conference – B359	\$5,000	

	Nurse's Room – B339	\$5,000	
	Classrooms (12)	\$5,000 (each)	
	School Adjustment & Counseling Waiting Office – B339		In Honor of Patricia E. McGrath



Naming Opportunities Edward G. Molin Upper Elementary School and Rupert A. Nock Middle School

Name a room or area in honor or in memory of a teacher, family member, alumni class, loved one, or to create a lasting tribute or memorial. A plaque outside the classroom, office, or other area will recognize the tribute. Contact us at info@newburyportef.org for more information about recognizing your gift.

Floor	Room	Cost	Honoree
Exterior			
	Courtyard		Nickoletta Staszewski
	Molin Playground	\$15,000	
	Nock Playground/Basketball Courts	\$15,000	
	Tennis Courts	\$15,000	
Building A- First Floor			
	General Classrooms (16)	\$5,000	
	Special Education Spaces (6)	\$5,000	
	Literature Closet	\$2,500	
	Counseling Offices (2)	\$5,000	
	Science Labs (4)		Institution for Savings
	STEM Lab		IFS & Alice Arakelian Foundation
Building A- Second Floor			
	General Classrooms (15)	\$5,000	
	Science Labs (4)		Institution for Savings
	Special Education Spaces (5)	\$5,000	
Building B			
	Main Lobby	\$25,000	
	Molin Office	\$15,000	
	Molin Principal's Office	\$10,000	
	Nock Office	\$15,000	
	Nock Principal's Office	\$10,000	
	Molin Conference Room	\$5,000	
	Nock Conference Room	\$5,000	
	Library Media Center		Institution for Savings
	Nurses' Suite	\$5,000	
	Life Skills Classroom	\$5,000	
	Custodian Office	\$5,000	
	Cafeteria	\$100,000	
	Cafeteria Office	\$5,000	
	Art Gallery		Patricia A. Hodson Art Gallery
	Kitchen	\$5,000	
	Computer Lab	\$10,000	
	ELL Classroom	\$5,000	
	General Classrooms (5)	\$5,000	
	Special Education Spaces (2)	\$5,000	

Building C			
	Auditorium	\$100,000	
	Auditorium Seats	\$100- \$150	
	Auditorium Art Gallery	\$15,000	
	Band Room		Les Harris, Jr.
	Music Technology Room	\$5,000	
	Chorus Room	\$5,000	
	Art Room	\$15,000	
Building D			
	Central Office	\$25,000	
	Gym	\$100,000	
	Auditorium Lobby	\$25,000	
	Boys' Locker Room	\$15,000	
	Girls Locker Room	\$15,000	
	Mindfulness & Wellness Space		Jacalyn Stuart Bennett
	Art Classroom	\$15,000	
	Tech Education Room	\$15,000	
	Robotics Lab		Strem Chemicals
	3-D Printer Room	\$5,000	
	Tech Resource Closet	\$5,000	



Naming Opportunities Newburyport High School

Name a room or area in honor or in memory of a teacher, family member, alumni class, loved one, or to create a lasting tribute or memorial. A plaque outside the classroom, office, or other area will recognize the tribute. Contact us at info@newburyportef.org for more information about recognizing your gift.

Floor	Room	Cost	Honoree
Ground Floor			
Art	Art Studios (2)	\$15,000 each	
	Photography Lab		Chester W. Hawrylcw
	Art Gallery	\$15,000	
Music	Band Space		Edward G. Molin
	Chorus Space	\$5,000	
	Ensemble Room	\$5,000	
Drama	Set Preparation Area	\$5,000	
Athletics	Gymnasium		Institution for Savings
	Gym Lobby	\$25,000	
	Fitness Center		Coach Robert Welch
	Aerobics Room	\$15,000	
	Team Locker Room (Boys)	\$15,000	
	Team Locker Room (Girls)	\$15,000	
	P.E. Locker Room (Boys)	\$10,000	
	P.E. Locker Room (Girls)	\$10,000	
	Elevator	\$20,000	
	First Floor		
	Main Lobby		Class of 1938
Administration	Principal's Office	\$10,000	
	Associate Principal's Office		Class of 1942
	Adult Education Office	\$5,000	
	Conference Room		Edmund & Ruth Burke
Auditorium	Auditorium		Institution for Savings
	Auditorium Lobby (main)	\$25,000	
	Auditorium Lobby (inside)	\$15,000	
	Auditorium Balcony	\$15,000	
	Drama Room (Green Room)		Joan Miller and Carmela Iannini
	Single Auditorium Seats	\$100-\$300	
	Cafeteria	\$100,000	
	School Store/School Committee Room (Room 118)		NAID Foundation
	Distance Learning Room	\$15,000	
	Television/Video Production Studio		Thomas Pecorelli
Guidance	Athletic Director's Office	\$5,000	
	Reception Area	\$5,000	
	Conference Room (1)	\$2,500 each	
	Counselors' Offices (5)	\$2,500 each	
Health	Health Services Suite		Edward J. Knapp

Services			
	Nurse's Office	\$3,000	
Library	Library and Media Center		Institution for Savings
	Circulation Desk		Virginia Bilmazes Bernard Class of 1953
	Computer Lab/Classroom	\$10,000	
	Macintosh Computer Lab		Frances Ashe
	Librarian's Office	\$3,000	
	Reading Area		Richard Lamothe
	Book Club/Cafe Area	\$3,000	
	Study Area	\$3,000	
Second Floor			
	Computer Lab	\$15,000	
	General Classrooms (16)	\$5,000 each	
	Special Education Classrooms (3)	\$5,000 each	
	World Language/Wellness/Special Education Faculty Offices	\$5,000	
	Conference Room (216)	\$5,000	
	Nutrition Classroom	\$5,000	
	Wellness Classroom	\$5,000	
	World Language Lab		Newburyport Five Cents Savings Bank
	World Language Classrooms (2)	\$5,000	
	Challenge (Alternative Education) room	\$5,000	
Third Floor			
	English/Social Studies Faculty Offices		Roger Gagnon
	Math/Science Faculty Offices	\$5,000	
	Physics Lab	\$30,000	
	Physical Science Lab	\$15,000	
	Chemistry Lab	\$30,000	
	Biology Lab	\$15,000	
	Science Classroom #337		Zampell Companies
	Science Classrooms (5)	\$5,000 each	
	Social Studies Classrooms (3)	\$5,000 each	
	English Classrooms (3)	\$5,000 each	
	Math Classrooms (3)	\$5,000 each	
	Writing Lab	\$15,000	
	Engineering Technology Lab (Rm 340)		John O'Connell
	Learning Support Classroom	\$3,000	
	Publications Room	\$3,000	
	Conference Room	\$5,000	
	Learning Lab	\$5,000	

EDUCATION, K-12

Vouchers Over Virus: How the Department of Education Prioritized Private School Vouchers Over Responding to COVID-19

By [Neil Campbell](#) September 21, 2020, 9:00 am

Getty/Robyn Beck/AFP At a learning center in Culver City, California, an instructor helps a student with her lesson at a desk separated from others by plastic barriers, September 2020.

Amid the outbreak of the coronavirus in the United States this winter, schools faced their greatest disruption in generations with the abrupt switch to remote learning for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Public school systems were soon confronted with the complicated task of preparing for the new school year, with giant question marks about how COVID-19 diagnoses would affect their communities, what budgets should look like to provide necessary technology and personal protective equipment (PPE) to students and staff, and how safety concerns during the pandemic would affect the retention of students and educators.

The severity of the COVID-19 crisis demands a response from the federal government commensurate to its devastating impact on the education system, and the top priorities for the U.S. Department of Education over the summer should have been reopening schools safely in accordance with public health guidance and securing the resources needed to do so. Long-term efforts to improve choices within the public school system are also important, but leveraging the crisis to focus on private school vouchers to the exclusion of a coherent pandemic response is indefensible.

Secretary DeVos prioritized her long-term private school voucher agenda over safe reopening

The federal government's [role](#) this spring and summer should have been to support local education leaders in implementing social distancing, providing PPE for educators and students, and logistically planning for a safe reopening. There is a clear need for [additional](#) stimulus funding for education, as well as a need for those investments to address the [inequitable](#) impacts of the pandemic on high-poverty areas and on Black, Latinx, and Native American communities.

Yet between Memorial Day and the Fourth of July, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos remained largely mum on the current crisis, instead continuing to focus on increasing private school vouchers and sending public money to private schools—even using the pandemic as an opportunity to advance this agenda. The secretary’s [social media](#), [media advisories](#), and [speeches](#), as well as the Education Department’s [press releases](#), offered little public support to education leaders grappling with pressing instructional challenges.

For example, a June Supreme Court [decision](#) related to private school vouchers, *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*, received more attention on the secretary’s Twitter feed than did the COVID-19 crisis during the entire month. When Congress included language in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that provided funding for equitable services to private schools based on their share of students from families with low incomes, the Education Department spent months on an ultimately unsuccessful [effort](#) to direct more money to private schools based on private schools’ higher share of total enrollment. Additionally, the policy priority [highlighted](#) in a June update to Education Department stakeholders had nothing to do with responding to the coronavirus or supporting schools in reopening safely, but rather stated that the “Trump [a]dministration renewed its push to enact school choice legislation.”

A [tweet](#) from President Donald Trump in July pushing for schools to reopen in the fall also led to a higher [public](#) profile for Secretary DeVos, despite a lack of clarity in her remarks about what reopening schools safely should look like. The administration then pushed to [tie](#) additional federal aid for schools to in-person instruction, even as pediatricians and education groups sought to avoid [politicizing](#) school reopening decisions and parents expressed [growing concerns](#) about returning to in-person learning.

Months after the House passed the [Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions \(HEROES\) Act](#)—which allocated significant funding for state and local fiscal stabilization, including nearly \$60 billion dedicated to K-12 public schools—Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduced a [bill](#) in early September that included far less overall fiscal aid, conditioned much of the education aid on reopening for in-person instruction, and called for a new private school voucher initiative at the federal level. The bill’s voucher concept added an “emergency” designation to an already existing proposal in an attempt to tie private school vouchers to pandemic relief. These grants were part of the Education Department’s ongoing advocacy spotlighted in its June stakeholder update, and the proposal has yet to move forward in the House or Senate since it was introduced in early 2019. With the Senate bill [failing](#) to garner the support

necessary to advance to the floor, it is unclear if fiscal aid for public schools and other government services will pass this fall, even as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi [announced](#) that she would not adjourn without further legislative action. Without additional federal aid, many states and school districts may be forced to make mid-year budget cuts as a result of the economic slowdown.

Long-term recovery should include investments in public school choice

Rather than prioritizing the diversion of taxpayer funds into private school vouchers, the Education Department should focus on long-term recovery from the pandemic and ensure that all public schools are providing a quality education for every child. This recovery effort should involve significantly more investment in the public schools that serve 90 percent of U.S. students, which would include funding for high-quality charter schools, magnet schools, and other specialized schools of choice within traditional school districts.

Public money should support public schools, which include schools of choice within traditional school districts as well as independently operated public charter schools. Strong public education systems require that schools are properly funded, serve all students equitably, and provide teachers and families with the supports they need for students to succeed. Policymakers at the federal, state, and local levels should take a balanced approach to charter school policy and treat charter schools as a tool that communities can leverage to improve public education systems overall.

For the Education Department, supporting these efforts means [modernizing](#) the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP). Although the bulk of the CSP's funding currently supports new charter schools as they prepare to open, its responsibilities should be broadened to help communities implement smart growth policies such as common planning across sectors for new schools and programs, supporting existing charters to help them improve, and addressing and preventing problems within the charter sector.

Conclusion

The past six months have made clear that private school vouchers are a higher priority for Secretary DeVos and the Trump administration than providing parents with quality public school options and mitigating the massive disruption to public education caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Rather than urging schools to follow reopening advice from health experts, the Education Department wasted critical months this summer fighting unsuccessful legal battles to divert additional money to private schools; sought to condition aid on public schools opening for in-person instruction, regardless of local public health conditions; and attempted to use the pandemic to advance Secretary

DeVos' long-standing private school voucher agenda. In order to ensure that schools have the resources to respond to and help students recover from this crisis, Congress needs to provide significant fiscal aid for public schools, not advance the administration's private school voucher agenda.

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report of the resolutions committee

The members of the Resolutions Committee met virtually on June 25, 2020 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts and the MASC Board of Directors for consideration at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Ellen Holmes, Chair, Ex-Officio, Ashburnham-Westminster Regional; Deborah Davis, Northeast Metropolitan Voc. Tech.; Barbara Davis, Holbrook; Margaret Hughes, Narragansett Regional; Laura Fallon, Northampton; Irene Feliciano-Sims, Holyoke; William Fonseca, East Longmeadow; Jason Fraser, Silver Lake Regional; Beverly Hugo, Framingham; Mildred Lefebvre, Holyoke; Stacey Rizzo, Revere; Wendy Rua, Agawam; Lynn Ryan Assabet Voc. Tech.; Paul Schlichtman, Arlington; and Robert Swartz, Gardner.

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: MCAS AND HIGH STAKES TESTING

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the MASC Membership and MASC Board of Directors have previously and repeatedly taken the position of opposing high stakes testing including the MCAS; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 Remote Learning Model has negatively and disproportionately affected students with learning disabilities, students of lower socioeconomic status, ELL students and students who identify as minorities; and

WHEREAS the social and emotional trauma both individually and collectively has yet to be truly realized in the students who have experienced the shutdown of their local school buildings and separations from their peers and supportive adults; and

WHEREAS the students of the Commonwealth have already missed valuable face to face instructional opportunities with their teachers and would benefit from focusing on those important instructional opportunities and social emotional supports;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC rejects the calls for the students of 2022 who missed their tenth grade MCAS testing to be required to make it up during the 2020-2021 school year or ever. We demand those students be held harmless for not taking the MCAS and that their graduation requirements shall be determined by locally controlled voices of the School Committee and School Administration within the remaining graduation requirements of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Additionally, we reiterate our call for a moratorium on all high stakes testing for the 2020-2021 school year so all students can benefit from their time being focused on direct instruction and we urge the legislature to enact a moratorium on high stakes testing of three years.

RESOLUTION 2: COVID-19 STATE FUNDING

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS if schools are to re-open this fall in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is the responsibility of each school district to do so safely and responsibly; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the state to ensure that each school district is able to pay for the enormous additional staffing, transportation and material expenses required to do this; and

WHEREAS the state cannot expect mandatory COVID-19 safety guidelines to be followed without also ensuring that each school district has the funds required to implement these guidelines;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the state must guarantee every school district full reimbursement for whatever COVID-19 expenses are required to follow state mandates. We must ensure a statewide school re-opening that is safe, responsible and equitable. There can be no unfunded mandates for COVID-19.

RESOLUTION 3: SCHOOL COMMITTEE ANTI-RACISM RESOLUTION

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS as schools have the responsibility to equip students with their civil right of obtaining a free and appropriate public education, it is the responsibility of each school to ensure we create a welcoming community for ALL students; and

WHEREAS it is the responsibility that every district provide to all district staff, including School Committee members, annual professional development on diversity, equity and inclusion; and

WHEREAS every district will commit to recruiting and retaining a diverse and culturally responsive teaching workforce; and

WHEREAS every district will examine their policies for institutional and systemic racialized practices and implement change with sustainable policies that are evidence based; and

WHEREAS every district will incorporate into their curriculum the history of racial oppression and works by black authors and works from diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS we as school district leaders can no longer remain silent to the issues of racism and hate that continue to plague our public and private institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all the school districts in the Commonwealth should guarantee that racist practices are eradicated, and diversity, equity and inclusion is embedded and practiced for our students, families, faculty and staff.

School Committee members should ensure our that school culture and that of every district in the Commonwealth is anti-racist, and that acknowledges that all lives cannot matter until black lives matter.

RESOLUTION 4: LOWERING THE VOTING AGE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the right to vote is elemental to democracy and that right should be protected and guaranteed to all qualified citizen; and

WHEREAS sixteen and seventeen-year-olds possess the same critical analytic intelligence as eighteen-year-olds; and

WHEREAS in Massachusetts, sixteen-year-olds have been deemed able to consent to sexual intercourse, obtain a learner's permit and driver's license, get married with parental consent, work a full-time job and pay taxes, and be tried as an adult in a court of law; and

WHEREAS the 2018 Act to Promote Civics Engagement mandated an increased emphasis on civics education in Massachusetts Public Schools; and

WHEREAS studies conducted in places with a voting age of 16 have demonstrated that, when partnered with a strong civics education, a lowered voting age results in higher overall civic engagement and voter turnout and higher propensity to develop a lifelong voting habit; and

WHEREAS early voter engagement increases civic participation later in life, which is vital to a democracy; and

WHEREAS turnout among all voters in the United States is decreasing, and a push to vote is much needed for younger citizens; and

WHEREAS 16-year-olds may now pre-register to vote in Massachusetts, which may provide a logistical framework for their local participation; and

WHEREAS the rules of local voting should be a local issue; and

WHEREAS Representative Andy Vargas and Senator Harriet Chandler have introduced the EMPOWER Act (H.720/S.389), which would give municipalities the ability to lower their municipal voting age on local authority;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the sponsors call upon the Massachusetts Legislature to pass the EMPOWER Act and take other means necessary to allow cities and towns to establish a minimum voting age of sixteen years for all municipal elections.

RESOLUTION 5: SUPPORTING INCREASED FEDERAL SUPPORT AND STIMULUS FUNDING FOR PUBLIC K-12 EDUCATION

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic is a monumental and unprecedented challenge, emerging quickly and demanding an immediate overhaul of the instructional plans and strategies of school systems across the country; and

WHEREAS the nation's public schools remain committed to delivering high-quality instruction while ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff; and

WHEREAS to date, the employees of the Massachusetts Public Schools have worked around the clock to continue to provide our students and families with access to educational needs such as Chromebooks; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Public Schools has maintained payroll for full and part-time district employees, providing stability to our community during economic uncertainty; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts Public Schools have continued to provide daily lunches to students despite a projected shortfall of revenue from the Federal Meals Program; and

WHEREAS these challenges will persist and likely grow as COVID-19 affects our economy and destabilizes funding for public school; and

WHEREAS revenue shortfalls may result in budget cuts and personnel reductions; and

WHEREAS federal legislation has been approved to provide urgently needed funding to underwrite the recovery of the American economy and to support critical public programs, including public education with such examples as American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, additional funding for the Education Jobs Fund to help school districts retain existing employees, recall former employees, and hire new ones, and the recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) and other measures to stabilize public education and other public programs; and

WHEREAS public education is one of the largest employment bases of any field or industry; and

WHEREAS research has repeatedly found a strong causal relationship between levels of schooling and wages that individuals earn over a lifetime; and

WHEREAS for public schools to thrive and for our students to realize a bright and productive future, the federal government needs to make a substantial new investment in our well-being; and

WHEREAS it is likely that further emergency legislation will be required to underwrite the cost of public safety supplies, technology, and personnel to maintain the status of public schools; and

WHEREAS this level of funding is the minimum needed by the nation's public schools to sustain and accelerate their academic achievement trends over the past decade, including gains in reading and math achievement that outpace the national average; and

WHEREAS the governor and General Court may be able to access additional state revenues through use of accumulated reserves or through the implementation of progressive tax legislation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC align with state superintendents of schools and urge the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation and state legislators to advocate for and approve additional education funding for our nation's public schools through the enactment of progressive tax legislation.

RESOLUTION 6: RETENTION OF MEDICAID REVENUE
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the Affordable Care Act expanded access for health care to millions of Americans, including thousands of Massachusetts families who have been without health insurance; and

WHEREAS through the expansion of the Medicaid program, more families in economic distress gained access to health insurance and, subsequently, affordable health care; and

WHEREAS the Medicaid program reimburses public school districts for certain clinical services provided to students who may be clients of special education or who experience disabilities, and this revenue provides critical support to the districts and municipalities where they are based; and

WHEREAS the restriction of Medicaid eligibility and reduction of funding would require the Commonwealth to choose between extraordinary state budget increases to fill the gap or absorb the cost of caring for families who could lose health insurance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the General Court to require that 100% of Medicaid reimbursements to cities and towns be provided in full amount to the public schools of each municipality, through a school district revolving account, to underwrite the cost of providing an adequate education.

RESOLUTION 7: ATTEMPTS BY US DOE TO DIRECT FUNDING TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS a recent "advisory" issued by the United States Secretary of Education has inappropriately interpreted language in the recently enacted COVID-19 relief legislation to benefit private schools disproportionately in the distribution of federal funding for economically disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS in recognition of this executive branch attempt to overreach in the interpretation of a federal statute in devising a formula for the distribution of funds under Title I and other provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as revised and reauthorized; and

WHEREAS the commissioner of Education in Connecticut, in citing the Secretary for such a misrepresentation of the law, has advised officials of that state to follow the language of the law rather than the interpretation issued in the "advisory," and thus save thousands of dollars for economically disadvantaged students in the public schools of that state

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC petition the Attorney General of Massachusetts to review and recommend to the Executive Office of Education and the MA Department of Elementary Education to review the formal language of such statutes that determine the distribution of federal funds to benefit economically disadvantaged students and, further that the Attorney General provide legal guidance to state agencies in Massachusetts to implement such formulas based on the actual language and legislative intent of the statute should that be in variance with any "advisory" issued by the United States Secretary of Education.

RESOLUTION 8: MEMBERSHIP OF A SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ON THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) is established to oversee and implement policy related to public education; and

WHEREAS most boards and commissions in Massachusetts appropriately include representatives of constituent groups subject to the jurisdiction of those boards and commission; and

WHEREAS a glaring omission among members of the BESE is a representative of the people elected to oversee public policy making among the many city, town and regional school district school committees;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC submit to the General Court proposed legislation that MGL Chapter 15, Section 1E be revised as follows:

Section 1E. There shall be in the department a board of elementary and secondary education, in this chapter called the board, which shall consist of the chairman of the student advisory council established under this section, the secretary of education, in this chapter called the secretary, or her designee, and 9 members appointed by the governor. The 9 members appointed by the governor shall consist of 1 representative of a labor organization selected by the governor from a list of 3 nominees provided by the Massachusetts State Labor Council, AFL-CIO; 1 representative of business or industry selected by the governor with a demonstrated

commitment to education; 1 representative of parents of school children selected by the governor from a list of 3 nominees provided by the Massachusetts Parent Teachers Association; 1 representative from a school committee from a list of three nominees provided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees and 5 additional members.

RESOLUTION 9: PROVIDING EQUITY FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION - LGBTQ+ STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFF

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS gender identity is not listed as a protected class in federal laws; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ+ students, teachers and staff are victims of discrimination, harassment, and at-risk behaviors at rates alarmingly higher than non-LGBTQ+ persons;

WHEREAS the social and emotional wellness of our students has a direct relationship with their academic and future success and that schools have the moral and ethical responsibility to address the whole child so that they may experience success in school and in society; and

WHEREAS school districts that respect and support their teachers and staff by providing an inclusive culture where all can thrive, irrespective of gender identity, are more successful and in turn, are supporting a thriving school climate; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts currently recognizes in state law LGBTQ+ as a protected class;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file legislation and petition our federal legislative delegation to also file legislation which would have the effect of adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the list of protected classes in order to provide equity and support to our LGBTQ+ students, teachers and staff and petition our legislative delegation.

RESOLUTION 10: RELATIVE TO THE MONITORING OF ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

WHEREAS districts are required to have special but comprehensive plans for educating students during the pandemic crisis; and

WHEREAS student attendance is an important element of a district plan for returning-to-school, and school committees apply local policies for student attendance; and

WHEREAS the emergency nature of the pandemic requires that students may need to be educated in such venues as schools, home, institutions or other remote locations; and

WHEREAS circumstances may require that students be absent from school for reasons that may include extended illness, exposure to illness including COVID-19, or the judgment of parents or guardians determining that it is not safe for their children to return to a school building or other learning venue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC advocate for legislation and regulation that protect the rights of parents to withhold their children from school for reasons of their health status or health risk and, further,

- That MASC advocate for regulations that hold districts accountable for the attendance of students provide appropriate exemptions for students who experience or require extended absences from school due to health-related issues or concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and further,
- That MASC petition the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to waive all accountability requirements regarding attendance for the 2020-2021 school year, and
- That such regulations exempt districts from sanction status on the basis of attendance when such absences are related to a public health crisis, including COVID-19.

