

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, November 16, 2020
Senior/Community Center**

Meeting Convened at 6:35 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

**Present: David Hochheiser, Mayor Donna Holaday, Bruce Menin,
Brian Callahan, Sean Reardon, Steve Cole, Sheila Spalding**

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:35 PM. Roll Call found all members present. All those present stood for the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

At this point Vice-Chairman **Bruce Menin** assumed chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no Public Comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$328,861.14

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$680.00

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$23,060.18

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, October 5, 2020, as amended.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCTION & REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher introduced NHS student Sierra Leahy the new Student Representative to the School Committee. Sierra reported on the following:

- Student Council - the Student Council is up and running. There are 5 executive officers: Norah McElhinney, President; Sierra Leahy, Vice-President; Li McClure, Secretary; Oliva D'Ambrosio, Sergeant at Arms; and Emily Alford, Member at Large. Topics discussed at the last meeting include hybrid discussion, brainstorming so as what the Council wants to focus on.
- Students trained last year by the Anti-Defamation League to serve as peer trainers, met last week to coordinate plans for our community read using the text, *Just Mercy*. Thanks to the NEF and the Newburyport Literary Festival, a book has been purchased for every student and staff member. Through the read, we will engage in dialogue around systemic racism and grapple with the complexities of this topic and its ongoing effect on our country.
- Last Wednesday was the National Letter of Intent Signing Day. 7 students participated in last week's ceremony. Callie Beauparlant will attend Assumption College, Samantha King will attend Duquesne University, Ellie Schulson will attend Furman University, Lily Spaulding will attend Bentley University, Allie Waters will attend the College of the Holy Cross, Sydney Yim will attend Purdue University, and Jax Budgell will attend St. Anselm College.
- The Clippers Sport Teams had a successful fall season. Every team finished over 500. Some highlights from the season include the Boys Soccer team tying for their first ever CAL Championship and the Girls Field Hockey team also winning the conference as well. Additionally, the Golf team won every match.
- Finally, on November 5th, the senior class was able to maintain its Dress-up tradition. Though they were not able to parade through the halls of the school, the seniors met on the field to take part in the tradition.

REVIEW EXISTING STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS FOR SY2020-21:

Bruce Menin reviewed the Student Activity Accounts with the Committee.

Brian Callahan questioned how things work. He questioned Camp Kiev, which was cancelled this year - do they get their money back. Nancy Lysik explained that because it was yearly for one grade they would get their money refunded, unless they chose to donate the money. He questioned cash accounts. Ms. Lysik explained. She explained that when a class graduates they are able to withdraw the balance of their class account after they have set up bank accounts meeting the IRS rules. They have three years to do this.

Mayor Holaday asked about the balances on High School accounts; if the account is not used does the money just sit there? Ms. Lysik explained.

David Hochheiser said he was confused as to what money that is left over is used for. He questioned the AP account. Ms. Lysik explained AP testing money is used for proctors who monitor the tests. **Mr. Hochheiser** questioned the Band Account - Ms. Lysik explained this was for their trip. Ms. Lysik explained stipends and refunding.

Superintendent Gallagher explained the process of turning over money to the graduating classes.

David Hochheiser asked about class dues and refunding for classes. Ms. Lysik explained.

NEF NAMING OPPORTUNITIES LISTS DISCUSSION:

Brian Callahan inquired about rooms that are already named - is there a list from previous lists. Asst. Supt. Angela Bik said the list is the same; the figures haven't changed.

Bruce Menin asked do we know what the cost was from previously named rooms? He said it would be helpful to know what monies were raised. Ms. Bik said she would provide that information.

EDUCATIONAL STABILITY POLICIES:

David Hochheiser explained the State has said Newburyport had three policies: foster children, military children, and homeless children. They need to have specific language and those policies need to be part of a packet that's going back to the State by December 4. Ms. Bik said there are laws - the State wants to see if districts are aligning policies to that law to see if we are providing stability. There will be training on Wednesday.

Bruce Menin said these aren't just State laws by Federal laws.

Sheila Spalding asked if we had an idea of the numbers of how many homeless students or how many people in those populations we have.

Ms. Bik said yes, we don't have the numbers right here, but the homeless population varies from year to year. We have a very small number this year - approximately 5.

Bruce Menin commented that after December 31 evictions will start up again.

Mayor Holaday spoke re: affordable housing trust and if needed, they can put more money in there.

Bruce Menin said that the States' expectation is that we will have these policies from us by December 4. If we are going to approve these, we will have to waive a second reading.

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To waive the second reading of the policies for these 3 state mandated policies.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Brian Callahan commented that the Committee could not vote "no" as they would be violating Federal laws.

Mayor Holaday said part of the problem is that there were issues particularly in the North Shore communities with homeless children and getting them transported to schools. Laws were created to protect these children.

Ms. Bik said a lot of regulations changed a year and half ago around foster care temporary housing.

Sean Reardon said we already had a policy for the homeless - are we voting to replace it with the new one.

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To approve the three policies on Foster Care, Children of military Parents and homeless children collectively.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Brian Callahan said at the last meeting the NEF naming thing had a possible vote but that wasn't on tonight's agenda.

Bruce Menin said they were reviewing this policy, considering a change to the policy that would ask us to take a vote; but that policy isn't out yet.

SUMMARY OF MEETING WITH NRA PRESIDENT:

Mayor Holaday explained that they had a Zoom meeting with the President of NTA, Joan Sheehan. They had already received the letter which was sent to the AG's office and the NTA - they accepted our findings and there will be no further challenge of those 4 items that they listed. We will build positive working relationships as we go forward.

Superintendent Gallagher said the whole district was under a lot of stress and in August things have settled down - we are moving in the right direction.

Bruce Menin explained that they are working to try to reschedule the MASC meeting.

Superintendent Gallagher said it might be easier to schedule a Zoom meeting.

Mayor Holaday said yes, we can schedule a Zoom meeting and then schedule a retreat depending on where things are in January.

SUPERINTENDENT'S EVALUATION UPDATE:

Bruce Menin explained that he was waiting for two more evaluations from the Committee and asked they be sent via a Microsoft word document. Every comment is included in the evaluation report as an appendix. After he receives these they can put this on the agenda for the first meeting in December.

Mayor Holaday said that she and **Bruce Menin** can help if needed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher explained that they have Medical Advisory Team meetings each week. The next meeting will be on Wednesday at 10 AM. Since the last meeting we've had 5 additional cases within the school system and communicated out to families on those scenarios. Of the 5 we have had 19 students that are outside the school that are through remote that tested positive and would have no impact on the school system. We are seeing an increase in COVID cases throughout the city. Families have been very cooperative in quarantining.

Brian Callahan said recently the State changed some of the metrics - was that going to be a topic of conversation on Wednesday. Answer - Yes.

Mayor Holaday said everyone should understand the country is surging but so is the Northeast. We had 57 cases in 2 weeks - we have 37 active cases now, and 4 deaths over the weekend. We are finding that the strongest carriers are the youth. She commented on using precautions.

Superintendent Gallagher said household spread and outside activities are what we are dealing with.

Bruce Menin said we are still experiencing minimum to none spread in the school itself.

Superintendent Gallagher said we have not had in-school transmission.

Bruce Menin asked for an update on students at the High School.

Superintendent Gallagher said they have the benefit of live streaming - so many of the High School students have chosen to continue with the live streaming up until Thanksgiving and then they'll let Mr. Wulf know if they're coming back in the hybrid model or not - at this time we are under 40% of capacity of students in the hybrid model. We do have the ability to pivot if we have to - to full remote.

Sean Reardon asked about the 12 week leave for teachers - do they have to let us know when they are returning.

Superintendent Gallagher said yes it was part of the process when they went out on leave.

Bruce Menin asked if there were any concerns about Thanksgiving.

Superintendent Gallagher yes he thinks we do. It's important to keep meeting with the Medical Advisory Team.

David Hochheiser asked if they were going to keep Wednesdays closed for right now?

Superintendent Gallagher said yes, Wednesdays have been very beneficial.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy

David Hochheiser said they met and discussed the following:

- Fundraising discussion - they wrote a new policy which **Superintendent Gallagher** will take to the legal team to look at for consistency and for loopholes. They discussed crowd funding and whether or not we use teacher driven crowd funding in the schools; public gifts to schools that have nothing to do with public gifts to the schools so our new policy will replace file KHA. They spent a lot of time on the wording of another policy called Public Gifts of the Schools and naming structures.

Joint Ed

Meets next week.

Finance

Steve Cole said they will meet at the Nock Auditorium at 8:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
At 7:35 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously