

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, November 4, 2019**

**RAN Middle School Library
Meeting Convened at 6:35 PM**

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

**Present: Nick deKanter, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday,
David Hochheiser, Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan**

Absent: Steve Cole

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 except **Steve Cole**. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At this point **Bruce Menin** took over chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no Public Comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$115,467.67

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, October 7, 2019.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Nick deKanter** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, October 21, 2019.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher introduced three students deserving of recognition. They are as follows:

- Charlotte Kealey, Grade 6 who was recognized for her creative Vaping Poster, which was used at several functions after its submission because of its accuracy.
- Gabriela Ferreira, Grade 4 and Arthur Pereira, Grade 5 were recognized for their creative bulletin Board entitled "Do you know who makes your food".

Superintendent Gallagher presented each of the three students with a commendation. All those in attendance stood for a round of applause.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Peter D'Ambrosio brought the Committee members up-to-date on recent happenings at Newburyport High School:

- Close to 100 high school students have experienced leadership training over the past month.
 1. 27 students have worked with the organization, Essential Partners, to learn the skill of facilitating dialogue. Tomorrow after the ½ day students will be facilitating community dialogue dealing with the Val/Sal topic.
 2. We also had our sports captains work closely with John O'Sullivan from Changing the Game Project to understand the traits of strong leadership.
 3. Last week 39 students have worked with the Anti-Defamation League to become peer trainers. These students will lead their classmates around complex social issues to strengthen tolerance, respect, and understanding throughout our building. At the Middle School 35 students were also trained as Peer Trainers.
- The Student Council is in full swing at the High School. The 2nd meeting is this Wednesday. During our last advisory, council representatives gathered input around Valedictorian and Salutatorian, as well as whether the sophomore semi-formal stays as a grade 10 dance only.
- The next advisory is this Friday and students will be focusing on college and careers.
- Grade 9 students will reflect on the results of their strengths and learning styles survey and will explore strategies to support their study habits.
- Grade 10 will learn about the Futures Directions Fair they will participate in on April 2nd. This fair will expose students to presenters from different career fields and will allow students to learn about the paths taken to attain their careers. During their advisory time, all sophomores will complete and reflect on a Career Interest survey. Results from this survey will help organize students for the fair so they are part of sessions based on their interests. Special thanks go to the Newburyport Business Coalition, Anna Jacques Hospital, Strem Chemical, and the NEF as these organizations and businesses are playing a key part in making this fair happen. The date for the Futures Directions Fair is April 2nd, 8:00 - 10:00 AM.
- Grade 11 will participate in a presentation from the Merrimack Valley Work Force Investment Board to learn about future in-demand jobs as well as understand all of the resources available through the investment board. We are 1 of 6 high schools who have partnered with them through the Connecting Activities Program.

- The seniors will be able to use the advisory time to work within Naviance on college and job applications.
- ATHLETICS:
 1. Girls Soccer defeated East Boston 11-0 in Preliminary Round Play at #1 Stoneham on Tuesday at 2:00 in Division 3 First Round.
 2. Football lost to Lynnfield 27-3 in Division 5 Quarterfinals.
 3. Volleyball lost to Danvers 3-0 in Division First Round.
 4. Field Hockey lost of Danvers 2-1 in Division 2 First Round.

LATE START IMPLEMENTATION:

Bruce Menin described the feedback which has been received from stakeholders.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the implementation of the proposed Late Start Implementation proposal.

Brian Callahan thanked all concerned and said he was excited about the proposal.

Sean Reardon said this was a great job and thanked **David Hochheiser** and **Brian Callahan**.

Mayor Holaday said she was pleased that costs had been kept down.

Superintendent Gallagher said he collected all of the numerous information that had been gathered, and figured it out. He said the plan meets the needs of all stakeholders.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Bruce Menin	- Yes
Brian Callahan	- Yes
David Hochheiser	- Yes
Nick deKanter	- Yes
Sean Reardon	- Yes
Mayor Holaday	- Yes

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

VAL/SAL COMMUNITY DIALOGUE UPDATE:

NHS Principal Andy Wulf provided an update regarding the community dialogue about how the district will define and select Valedictorian/Salutatorian. In addition, John Sarruf, Co-Executive Director of Essential Partners provided an overview of Essential Partners, along with an overview of the training NHS students received in the art of constructive dialogue. The purpose of the dialogue in general is to foster mutual understanding and establish trust among participants with different values. Principal Wulf said that tomorrow, after the early release, is their next step. There will be tables for teachers and students who will participate.

QUESTIONS:

Nick deKanter suggested suspending the rules regarding questions, giving the School Committee the ability to respond to questions from the audience.

Robin Maine asked how do you take these things and come up, the Val / Sal, which will never go back to the way it was.

David Hochheiser said how will people understand why we did away with class. When we get recommendations, how do we understand the middle path if we did not like certain aspects. He asked if they could reconvene and discuss this later.

Mayor Holaday said they will cross that bridge when they get there. She suggested people send information to the School Committee.

Nick deKanter explained the policy - goes through two readings and two meetings of the full School Committee.

Sean Reardon asked if there was going to be a discussion regarding class rank or just about the Val/Sal. Answer just Val/Sal. He said we should honor the tradition of excellence.

Bruce Menin spoke regarding honoring excellence.

Nick deKanter said our direction is to Mr. Wulf - how do we define excellence.

Brian Callahan said when we did away with class rank the handbook did not define Val/Sal.

VAPING FORUM DEBRIEF:

Bruce Menin and **Superintendent Gallagher** discussed the next steps.

Superintendent Gallagher spoke of MIA/policies - Salem State program.

Brian Callahan said he strongly supports the initiative addressing vaping.

Mayor Holaday spoke of a program taking place tomorrow at the Brown School.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik reported on the following:

- 7th NHS Annual International Cultural Day and gave background information.
- Curriculum Pulse

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- Essential Partners - partnering with other volunteer schools
- One World Strong - One World Sister City School - pairing program (OWSCSPP) - next step - connected teachers
- Our Neighbors Table Breakfast - this was a great time
- Third grade recess - played football
- Student Leadership Training - one more training

Mayor Holaday inquired if they will come back? Answer: Yes

- University of Connecticut - National Grant for Literacy Pre K - Grade 2
- SEPAC - great meeting - there were a lot of parents there
- Interim Special Needs Director - Interim Principal Bresnahan - committee to screen applicants. Deborah O'Connor - Interim Special Needs; Dr. Lally - Interim Bresnahan Principal

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed - **Bruce Menin** said they just met. They discussed the budget process, Strategic Plan
- big picture items.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the November 4th Business Meeting of the Newburyport
School Committee at 8:15PM.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote