

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, March 2, 2020**

**Senior Community Center
Meeting Convened at 6:34 PM**

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

Present: Brian Callahan, David Hochheiser, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday, Sheila Spalding, Sean Reardon, 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 6:34 PM. Roll Call found all members present. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Greg Kulowick, 45 Bromfield St. He commented on the lack of transparency of the fundraiser for the Bresnahan PTO.

Art Currier, 100 State St. He congratulated **Bruce Menin** on his hard work on the District wide Sustainability Committee.

Monika Student, 7 Whites Ct. She commented on the PTO fundraiser - she said it should be made known who gets what.

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.

\$7,353.83

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **David Hochheiser** it was

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

\$45,994.84

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment
And deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$14,051.67

Motion Passed Unanimously

STAFF RECOGNITIONS:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher recognized the following staff members:

- Sue Anderson, Amy Heath, Jill Moran, Jay Murphy, Christen Page and Megan Tierney, members of the Newburyport Against Vaping Team (NAV) who were recognized for their outstanding dedication to students by completing the necessary coursework that has enabled them to effectively support students with a vaping addiction. All six are members Tobacco Research from the UMASS Medical Center. They also participated in focus groups for the CTR in order for the researchers to obtain knowledge of student perception of vaping use and staff understanding of cessation strategies. They are also key components of the high school and middle vaping diversion programs.

Superintendent Gallagher said he is proud of people in the community who work so hard.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative reported on the following events at NHS:

- Boys Basketball competed on Saturday - unfortunately, they did not win, but they had a tremendous season by making it to the quarter final round.
- Girls Basketball continues to dominate with their win at Saugus on Friday night. They play this Wednesday at St. John's.
- Theater Arts department competed in the State Drama Festival this weekend at Andover High School. At this year's event, they presented a condensed version of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.
- This past Saturday Norah Morrissey represented NHS at the National Poetry Out Loud competition.
- A group of students have been working with Essential Partners and will be facilitating dialogue between students and teachers this Wednesday.
- Spring Sports will begin week of March 16.
- Academic Awards Night is April 2. The list of students who are invited to attend has been published to be viewed by students.
- He wished **Superintendent Gallagher**, on behalf of NHS students, a speedy recovery from his surgery.

FY2020 STATEMENT OF INTEREST (SOI) MSBA:

Mayor Holaday said this was the first step in the Mass. School Building Process - going in for April 8 - School Committee votes then it goes to the City Council.

Steve Bergholm gave an overview of the roof project which will be combined with the science room project. As for now, they continue to patch things up on the roof as needed. Once SOI has approved both. It is then submitted to MSBA. They rank all submissions. If they do senior study they make a site visit. Once accepted this must be put forth for a feasibility study. Again, this is the very first step.

Bruce Menin inquired if there was a reason why the two were combined. Mr. Bergholm said they want to make sure we are doing things the right way.

Bruce Menin inquired re: reimbursement. Mr. Bergholm said about 50%.

David Hochheiser inquired re: Science rooms. Mr. Bergholm distributed SOI Diligence Access report.

David Hochheiser inquired re: standards. Mr. Bergholm explained.

Mayor Holaday asked if they look at the balance between many millions to fewer millions. Mr. Bergholm said they base it on emergency basis.

David Hochheiser asked if the School Committee signs on this are they saying that we have our half. **Mayor Holaday** said this is a while away.

Mayor Holaday read the motion that pertains to this.

Motion:

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

Resolved:

Having convened in an open meeting on March 2, 2020, prior to the closing date, the Newburyport School Committee of Newburyport, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest dated February 28th, 2020 for the Newburyport High School located at 241 High St. Newburyport, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

- 1) Inadequate science labs
- 2) Roof repair

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Motion Passed Unanimously

RE-APPOINT NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE REP FOR WHITTIER REGIONAL:

Bruce Menin said Brett Murphy is the current School Committee member representing the Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School District for the City of Newburyport. His term will expire on March 31, 2020. Brett is seeking to be re-appointed to serve the next 3-year term.

Mr. Murphy addressed the Committee explaining why he would like to be re-appointed.

Steve Cole asked Mr. Murphy if he was currently the acting chairman. Answer - yes.

Steve Cole asked Mr. Murphy if his term expires on March 31st Answer - yes.

David Hochheiser asked if acceptances were up; were more kids getting in. Answer - yes, Mr. Murphy explained.

David Hochheiser inquired re: School Choice. Mr. Murphy said that Whittier did away with School Choice years ago. There are currently two seniors left. Mr. Murphy explained this was to bring more in-district kids on board.

Mayor Holaday said that over 15 years we have developed good working relationships with Whittier.

David Hochheiser inquired re: admissions - does each district get so many seats. Mr. Murphy said application is open to everyone; there is no seat limit per town/district.

Steve Cole said demographics have changed.

There are currently 33 students at Whittier from Newburyport.

David Hochheiser asked how many students apply. Mr. Murphy said 15 applied this school year - 12 were accepted.

Motion:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and **David Hochheiser** it was

VOTED: To approve the re-appointment of Brett Murphy as the representative to Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School District for the City of Newburyport. This appointment is for a 3-year term.

Motion Passed Unanimously

PTO FUNDRAISING FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION:

Brian Callahan recused himself from this agenda item and left the Committee room.

Elementary PTO Board members presented their fundraising practices and the use of funds.

They hold small fundraisers - they raised \$80,000. Some of the projects that are funded by the money they raise are as follows:

- Fund field trip buses
- Assemblies
- Pre K - 8 is funded by PTO
- Sr. Celebration
- Camp Kiev
- 8th grade
- 100th day of school
- Many smaller things
- As per requests
- Fun fair
- Science fair
- Stipends to instructors - after school programs and coordinators on site, nurse
- Biggest fundraiser - Fun Fair

Why they chose professional help is because they had a lack of volunteership.

Bruce Menin asked how does the PTO decide which fundraiser. Members explained that the PTO is constantly reaching out to schools for ideas.

Mayor Holaday said the fun run happens during the school day - prizes were junk. Members explained regarding prizes and a schedule for speakers was worked out with principals.

David Hochheiser explained that the School Committee was very thankful for what the PTO does for the schools; \$80,000 is a lot of money. He said this is an easy piece to tackle - messaging to the community - how can we support you? - post on website.

Bruce Menin asked if the PTO had a website. Answer - yes, but not up to date.

David Hochheiser said there has to be someone who would volunteer - communication is the most important.

Bruce Menin said the finance committee is going to gather information on fundraising. Policies will be in place before the end of the year. Communication is most important - how can we help you?

The General Manager and associates (Rophe Mason, Siablen Fagan, Andy Bullard) from Booster Thon addressed the Committee and explained re: fun run.

Bruce Menin asked for an explanation re: levels of participation. Answer - in contract - talk with schools - full disclosure is made.

David Hochheiser asked for an explanation - fundraising - character education. An explanation was given by Booster Thon.

David Hochheiser asked if this could be done as just a fundraiser. Answer - yes.

Bruce Menin said this is a challenge for us - make sure conversation is open - he asked if this could be done outside of the school day. Answer - yes.

Bruce Menin asked what alternatives are made for kids who cannot participate.

David Hochheiser asked what is their timeline - when does this start. Answer - they ask for 8 to 10 weeks.

DISTRICT-WIDE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

Bruce Menin explained a committee will be set up with students, staff and community members. He is excited to be doing this. He asked those interested to contact him. The E Club has set up composting at the High School - problems have been fixed - Black Earth running smoothly at all three schools.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT:

Bruce Menin said that the Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 14 at the Central Office beginning from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The purpose will be to review roles and responsibilities and to discuss the School Committee goals process and format.

SEPAC UPDATE:

A summary of the Newburyport SEPAC Mid-Year Progress report was given.

Mayor Holaday said she appreciated the update.

Bruce Menin said this was a very timely conversation.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik updated the Committee on the following:

- Swasey - she went before the Committee today - the meeting went well.
- Learning Walks - completed at the High School last week.
- Student Activity Form - form has been updated.

She updated the Committee on the Girls group - there are 5 boys participating.

- Hiring Process - advertisements were placed at the end of year December/early January. Interview teams were established. This week/next week identify candidates. 2nd round interviews.

Mayor Holaday asked if there was a good candidate pool - Answer - yes - 45 applicants.

Sean Reardon asked if Kyle would be there to answer fundraising goals. Answer - yes.

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher updated the Committee on the following:

- National Census - sending out information and importance of that
- CoronaVirus - will be sending out information re: virus - being preventive - cold symptoms - staying home - working with the Department of Health and others - looking at field trips - events could have an impact.

Mayor Holaday said all are coming together to work out strategies re: virus, we have information on website.

Bruce Menin said we are trying to make sure people have accurate information.

Superintendent Gallagher said we have to be flexible - constantly thinking about contingency plans.

- Dual Enrollment Opportunities - college credit at Southern NH University - GOMI.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Education - Sean Reardon said they met today - discussed Budget, MCAS

Finance - Steve Cole said they have not met.

Policy - David Hochheiser - said they will meet next week.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:40 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously