

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SPECIAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, April 13, 2020
Video Conference - online**

**Senior Community Center
Meeting Convened at 5:36 PM**

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

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

Absent: Steve Cole

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Special School Committee Business Meeting to order at 5:36 PM. Roll Call found all members present. Members pledged Allegiance to the Flag.

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

**POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL CALENDAR TO FOREGO APRIL
VACATION DAYS AND CONTINUE THE REMOTE LEARNING PLANS:**

Superintendent Sean Gallagher gave an update on remote learning. Teachers and parents are in favor of continuing with this process. The staff sees more consistency - more students are joining.

Mayor Holaday stated that Anna Jaques Hospital has said we are not at the peak of this pandemic yet - surge will start at the end of the week. The worst thing people can do is leave their homes during the surge. Because Newburyport did these things a little earlier than most we are doing a little better.

Brian Callahan asked if there was going to be a summer school for the High School.

Superintendent Gallagher said re: students not fulfilling - we are reaching out to parents. Parents should contact the High School Principal regarding this.

David Hochheiser asked are we able to talk about closing after the 4th. Can we be proactive - to allow teachers to plan.

Superintendent Gallagher said we started this with Phase 1. We are in Phase 2. We will regroup now to plan for Phase 3. Information will go out to parents in the next week or two.

David Hochheiser asked for an explanation of Phase 3.

Superintendent Gallagher said there will be a lot more structure. We will communicate with parents as to what has been turned in and what needs to be turned in.

David Hochheiser asked regarding summer programming in the City.

Mayor Holaday said the brochure is already out for summer programs. There may be, of course, some changes.

Sean Reardon said he wants to hear from the Unions.

Mayor Holaday said she has received over 40 e-mails - most want structure during the April vacation - tremendous support.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To move forward with remote learning from April 21st through the 24th.

David Hochheiser said some people need time off - a struggle for some.

Bruce Menin said work with the schools.

Superintendent Gallagher said reach out with principals and teaches - this is a crisis situation.

David Hochheiser said if this is not working out for some people they should take a couple of days off and then continue.

Superintendent Gallagher spoke about modifying a situation - some people were concerned re: teachers.

Bruce Menin said this has made us rethink distance learning.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

Mayor Holaday stated she hoped by Wednesday we should have more information re: Budget.

We received the Whittier budget - down \$32,000

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Special Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 6:03 PM.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote