

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, May 4, 2020

Video Conference - Online

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72658264452?pwd=RmVIJiTWQ4LzVpKOdLRkJSWDAxQT09>

Meeting ID: 726 5826 4452

Senior Community Center

Meeting Convened at 6:33 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 6:33 PM. Roll Call found all members present. All those present pledged allegiance to the Flag.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sharif Zeid He expressed concern re: a three month budget.

Matthew Kane He asked for an explanation of a 1 12 budget.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

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

\$596.94

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 for payment the following warrant.

\$248,062.07

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

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

VOTED: To suspend the rules to allow Ms. Sarah Leadbeator to speak.

- **Motion Passed Unanimously**

Ms. Leadbeator spoke re: the products which the 3D printers have produced - they are as follows: 720 face shields, 170 ventilator splitters, 2,323 ear savers. These have been distributed to hospitals. 30 printers are working night and day producing these products, but unfortunately have run out of filament. She has been getting donations from friends and has found a company that is willing to sell the product at a discount of 60%. People may donate to the NEF and they will forward the money to Sarah.

DISTRICT RESPONSE COVID-19:

Cathy Riccio updated the Committee re: the district's school health preparations planning in response to COVID-19. They are as follows:

- Health & Safety Considerations May 4
 - Goals
 - Protect and foster health and safety of all students
 - Collaborate with key stakeholders in constructing a safe re-entry plan
 - Formulate a well written school re-entry plan that is accepted and adopted
 - Establish trust and decrease anxiety in the re-entry process
 - Reopening thoughts
 - Taskforce by Gallagher
 - Follow State and National guidelines for virus control
 - Reduce cross contamination
 - Minimize routes of exposure
 - Anticipate supports for families
 - Strengths
 - Mass School Nurse Organization
 - MSNO has a nurse leader rep. On Com. Rileys task force
 - State level - we are a model district
 - State level - member of Safe & Supportive Schools Commission
 - Collaborating with Newburyport Board of Health
 - Collaborating with Regional Food Pantry and food director Pam Kealey
 - Bruce Menin** asked for an explanation of cross contamination - Ms. Riccio explained.
 - Impact of NPS School Nurses
 - Supervision and screening of cafeteria staff for weekly school lunch program
 - Collaboration with Our Neighbors Table weekly grocery pickup
 - Food Insecurity emphasis with connections with vulnerable families and food service director
 - Support of families with students with chronic health care needs
 - Creation of Virtual Health offices via Google Classroom
 - Nurse (co-tchs) in various google classrooms
 - Support of community agencies
 - Sub nurse volunteering at Hope Hospital
 - School nurse during weekends working at MGH
 - School nurse during off hours providing home care
 - Multiple online webinars for PD, weekly staff meetings and one research presentation

Graduate Research Presentation Webinar May 1

School Nurse day May 6th

Bruce Menin said there was a former graduate working at a COVID hospital

SENIOR CLASS EVENTS:

Superintendent Gallagher said Principal Wulf is working hard developing contingency plans.

Principal Wulf commented on the following:

- Honoring and celebrating our seniors
- Drafting plans with safety and traditions in mind
- Scholarship Night - May 27 - working with Port Media
- Traditional Ceremonies - Vespers, Ivy Day, Sing Out - first week of June
- Students want to be together at least once even in their cars
- Graduation - June 7 - multiple plans
- Other activities - system for photos - acknowledgement, t shirts, signs, car parade through town
- Thanks to Student Class Officers, Katie Michko and Shawn Bleau, Mark Littlefield, Tracey Glynn, Mike Testa
- Students want to say goodbye to staff

STATE & CITY FISCAL BUDGET OVERVIEW:

Mayor Holaday updated the Committee on the following:

- Senate bill drafter for cities who cannot do a 1 12 budget
- State budget numbers not available for several months
- Reviewed city budget today - to City Council May 11 in a very different fiscal picture then we have ever done before
- Trying to work out payments for large items
- Transportation - State says to keep our contracts
- Budget - very solid addresses school needs
- Can make adjustments

Bruce Menin asked if there were any additional guidelines from State re: monies

Mayor Holaday commented on a grant program- trying to put together - CARES Act - will keep the Committee updated.

FY21 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher gave an overview of the following:

- NPS Quarterly Budget Preparation
1/12th Budget overview
- 3 month budget meets all contractual obligations
- No reductions in staff force
- Addresses unanticipated SPED costs
- Provides for contracts and updates for existing and supplemental software to enhance online learning
- Supports implementing the Later Start initiative at the High School

FY21 1st Quarter Proposed Budget

July 2020	\$2,183,125.00
August 2020	\$1,154,075.00
September 2020	<u>\$2,804,248.00</u>
	\$6,141,448.00

Nancy Lysik said they have worked with Salter. She outlined and reviewed the 3 month budget. **Bruce Menin** asked if September teacher salary includes additional teachers needed for late start. Answer - yes

Superintendent Gallagher said if additional money comes into the district we can add a position.

David Hochheiser commented and asked re: the following:

- Questioned moving positions forward
- Foreign Language - German at the Middle School
- Moving German position into the 7th grade - **Superintendent Gallagher** said they are talking about that
- X2 - \$30,000 a year? - Answer Yes
- Do we get a lot of tech support

Sheila Spalding commented and asked re: the following:

- 6 million every quarter? - Ms Lysik said it will change
- Does the budget allow for us to purchase unanticipated items?
- Professional Development - Ms Lysik said Professional Development - NEF - reimbursement for COVID-19 items

Mayor Holaday explained re: the following:

- CARES ACT
- Billing - explained - reimbursement right away
- As soon as we have additional guidelines from State we can work together to put together a budget

Brian Callahan asked re: the following:

- Athletics - if they say no sports, where does that money go? Answer - freezes - school keeps
- Level budget - what got cut out of this? **Superintendent Gallagher** said a priority list has been developed - will present at the next meeting

At this point the quarterly budget was discussed

Superintendent Gallagher said after tonight we will regroup - if funds become available - what could we do with that.

Bruce Menin said it is not fair to characterize this as a level services budget.

Superintendent Gallagher said we will do the most we can with what we have at this time.

David Hochheiser said it will be easier to see when everything is laid out on the 18th.

Brian Callahan asked are we able to vote on a budget that is not balanced. Ms. Lysik said they are voting on a 1-12 budget (quarterly).

Mayor Holaday said we are voting on a quarterly budget - it is her job to balance the budget.

Sean Reardon asked where were we on our Summer planning? **Superintendent Gallagher** said this is two fold - summer planning - ultimate goal - direct instruction to students but the Commission is not as confident - may be remote learning. Second challenge - Angela is working on Summer Professional Development. **Angela Bik** said - Do we have funds through Swasey to support Summer Professional Development - we do not know what our alleviation will be from the State - will help us.

Sean Gallagher said this is a major concern for all school districts - all will brainstorm - we can strategize to do the best for all our students.

Motion:

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To approve the 3 month budget as proposed.

A question was asked re: salaries. **Mayor Holaday** said we can cover that in the final full budget.

Bruce Menin asked if we had information that enabled us to put together a full budget could we do that? Answer - Yes

Sean Reardon asked what is the advantage in doing a July, August, September budget?

Mayor Gallagher said if we did a full budget it would be difficult to make changes - we can make changes - this gives us a little breathing room.

Bruce Menin asked if it is possible that the State may mandate two nurses in each school and make money available -is that possible. **Sean Gallagher** said they can make mandates.

Brian Callahan asked what is the advantage in doing a quarterly rather than a July budget.

Mayor Holaday said this way we can at least be ready to open schools because we have everything covered.

Addendum to Motion to read as follows:

To approve the 3 month budget as proposed, contingent upon the availability of information from the State to prepare a full year budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Sean Reardon	No
Sheila Spalding	Yes
Brian Callahan	No
Steve Cole	Yes
Bruce Menin	Yes
Mayor Holaday	Yes
David Hochheiser	Yes

Motion Passed 5 - Yes 2 - No

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik updated the Committee on the following:

- Book Project - all but two are in - all packaged to mail

- Remote Learning Plan - working hard - working closely with families - this has gone well - first family Zoom meeting - lots of questions - we will continue those sessions.

Bruce Menin asked if there was any possibility to establish Zoom Friendships with kids.

Angela Bik said she will bring that up at tomorrow's meeting.

- Special Education - Deb O'Connor said we have been doing Friendship Zoom Groups - bringing on volunteers.
- Our timeline - due process is not going to be changed at all - met with full staff today - virtual meetings by end of this week.

Superintendent Gallagher said he will reach out to parents to discuss time lines.

Deb O'Connor commented on Summer Team meetings - use CARES ACT.

Mayor Holaday said 100 students at Bresnahan School require a meeting - related challenging situation to Markey and Warren - could we have numbers from Molin and High School.

Deb O'Connor said it is not as bad as the Bresnahan.

Mayor Holaday asked if this was because this is their first IEP, because they are so young?

Ms. O'Connor said Yes - elementary would have more.

Superintendent Gallagher said he will be reaching out to those families.

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- Food Distribution Program - week 1 there were 38 families - week 2 there were 120 families. The nursing staff is delivering some of these to houses.
- Principal Furlong - 8th Grade team - looking at graduation
- Molin - Zoom meeting with Jen Groskin, Kyle Boudreau - Social Studies classes
- He is grateful to Ms. Lysik and the Leadership Team for all their help

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Joint Ed

They have not met

Finance

They have not met

Policy

David Hochheiser said they met and discussed fundraising, Lanuages, Special Meetings, Public Commen at Special Meetings, Finger Printing policy. They will meet again Thursday.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the School Committee Online Video Conference Business Meeting at 9:10 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously