

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING**

Monday, June 1, 2020

Video Conference - Online

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

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 6:34 PM. Roll Call found 6 members present, and 1 absent - Steve Cole. All those present pledged 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 **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$9,765.00.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$271,255.04.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$15,302.74.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was
VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee
Online Business Meeting minutes of Monday,
Monday, May 18, 2020 as amended.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher recognized NHS senior Lucy Gagnon. Ms. Gagnon received the Massachusetts Association of Schools Superintendent's Award which is given to a senior high school student that has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence with a strong, consistent academic performance during their high school careers. Ms. Gagnon has excelled in academics, participated in track, cross country, indoor track and has been awarded the CAL Athlete of the Year. Ms. Gagnon, who was present during the Zoom meeting, acknowledged the award and extended her thanks.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GR. 1-3 BRESNAHAN PRINCIPAL AND DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES:

Superintendent Gallagher introduced Timothy Miller who will be the new Gr. 1-3 Bresnahan Principal, and Nancy Koch who will be the new Director of Student Services beginning July 1, 2020. Both participated in the Zoom meeting and extended their thanks and anticipation of beginning their new positions with the Newburyport School District.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Gallagher introduced Principal Lisa Furlong and Principal Andy Wulf who reviewed the NPS World Language 6-8 Expansion Plan which included the following:

- Development Process
Since the fall of 2018, the 6-12 World Language Team has been working with Dr. Nicole Sherf to:
 - Establish department mission
 - Identify core program goals
 - Develop share instructional approach
 - Establish competencies and define spiral of curricula
- NPS World Language Program
- Current Courses grade 6-8
 - Grade 6
 - Course introduction to the study of world language (Spanish)
 - Meets once in a 5 day rotation for 60 minutes
 - Explore course
 - Grades 7-8
 - Course Spanish 1 (course is covered over 2 year period)
 - Meets two or three times weekly for 60 minutes
 - Expanded Explore course
 - 2019-20 only: Pilot of German (partial course)

- Staffing
 - 2 FTE teachers
 - Caseload for each: approximately 260 students
- Proposed 2020-21 School Year
 - Courses
 - Grade 7: Spanish 1
 - Grade 8 Complete Spanish 1, begin Spanish 11
 - Meets
 - Would be scheduled as a part of the core team (ELA,MA,SC,SS,SP Educ.)
 - Meeting times are dependent on the final schedule. For example, the course could meet daily for 45 minutes, every other day for 90, or 4 times in a 5 day rotation.
 - Same time on learning as core subjects.
 - Staffing
 - 4 FTEs, one teacher for each grade level team (additional 2 FTEs)
 - Caseload: 85-100, same as core teachers
 - Expanded stipend for WL curriculum leader as he/she will be leading 7-12 curriculum, assessment and instruction
 - Materials
 - Curriculum resources will need to be allocated for Spanish 11
 - Benefits
 - Allows for full course to be taught in one year
 - Provides realistic caseload for teachers
 - Integrates world language into the core curricula
 - Supports opportunities for interdisciplinary teaching and a more rigorous curriculum
 - Concerns
 - Space-teams have 4 core classrooms, there are not any unused classrooms at Nock/Molin
 - Scheduling - change would need to take place early enough in the summer to allow for (1) the development of a new schedule and (2) the actual scheduling of all students
 - Hiring-decision would need to be before the end of July to allow for an effective hiring process
 - Materials - we will need to purchase Spanish 11 resources for middle school
 - No world language in grade 6
- 2021-22 School Year
 - Courses
 - Grade 6: Spanish 1
 - Grade 7 Spanish 1 (first year for this cohort)
 - Grade 8 Spanish 11
 - Meets
 - Would be scheduled as a part of the core team (ELA,MA,SC,SS,SP, Spec.Educ.)

- Meeting times are dependent on the final schedule. For example, the course could meet daily for 45 minutes, every other day, or 4 times in a 5 day rotation
- Same time on learning as core subjects

Staffing

- 6 FTEs, one teacher for each grade level team (additional 2 FTEs)
- Caseload: 85-100, same as core teachers
- Expanded stipend for WL curriculum leader as he/she will be leading 6-12 curriculum, assessment and instruction

Concerns

- Space-same concern will be faced, where to put the class
- Scheduling - should not be a large concern, use schedule template from SY20-21
- Hiring - similarly, decision about hiring needs to be made early enough to hire quality staff

- 2022-23 School Year

Courses

- Grade 6: Spanish 1
- Grade 7: Spanish 11
- Grade 8: Spanish II

Meets

- Would be scheduled as a part of the core team (ELA,MA,SC,SS,SP,Spec.Educ.)
- Meeting times are dependent on the final schedule. For example, the course could meet daily for 45 minutes, every other day for 90, or 4 times in a 5-day
- Same time on learning as core subjects

Staffing

- 6 FTEs, one teacher for each grade level team
- Caseload: 85-100, same as core teachers

Concerns - should have been addressed in SY 21-22

By SY 23-24 middle school students will complete Spanish 1, 11, 111

Principal Wulf stated as students move through the system we should be able to offer more advanced language classes.

Mayor Holaday asked what would the base budget be to hire more language teachers?

Answer - \$130,000.00 for two.

Principal Furlong stated that two students at NHS are sitting for the Certificate of Literacy test this year.

Bruce Menin asked Principal Wulf if he sees more students taking AP in language? Answer - yes, with the advancement of languages.

David Hochheiser asked, if after 3 years of language at the Middle School where would we expect them to test into. Principal Furlong said the Lavant test, and **Superintendent Gallagher** explained levels of language learning. Principal Wulf explained the flexibility of learning skills of languages.

David Hochheiser thanked everyone for laying this out. He asked if we add Spanish to the Core Curriculum, what comes out, what loses minutes.

Brian Callahan asked if we are hiring staff, how does that reflect on the September budget?

Mayor Holaday said this is short money - we will take a look at the budget to see where we are - will look at.

GRADUATION OVERVIEW:

Principal Wulf said he met with the Board of Health and got approval for the following:

- In Person Graduation - July 23 - 6:00 PM
 - 2 Guests per graduate (guests must be immediate family members)
 - Pre-registering of attendees
 - Staggered and Escorted Arrival and Departure
 - The field has multiple gates. Each student with their guests will be assigned a gate to enter and leave from
 - Everyone wears a mask
 - No Professional - student sits with 2 invited guests upon arrival
 - Field and bleachers can be organized into over 300 squares that are 15'x15'
- Several pictures of the football field. showing how chairs would be placed, and the various gates, were in the presentation
- Senior Car Parade
 - Down High Street
 - Sing-Out reflection video will air 30 minutes after end of parade so that students return home
 - June 7th
- NHS Senior Activities - Class of 2020
 - May 22, 4:00 to 6:00 PM - NHS Faculty Distributes Lawn Signs to Graduates
 - May 27, 9:00 to 3:00 PM - Senior Obligation Collection
 - May 27, 6:30 PM - Scholarship Awards Ceremony
 - June 3, 9:00 - 3:00 PM - Cap and Gown Pick-up Day
 - June 3, 7:00 PM - Vespers Ceremony
 - June 4, 7:00 PM - Ivy Day Ceremony
 - June 7, 11:00 AM - Car Parade/Sing Out - Diplomas will be passed out
 - June 8-9, Sign-up - Formal Picture in Front of High School by Sullivan Studios
 - July 23, 6:00 PM - Graduation
 - Grab bags will be distributed containing T-shirt, 2020 face masks, gift certificates, and other neat things

Principal Wulf said people have been so patient - this has been a community planning effort. He will continue to meet with the Board of Health. We can do this as long as the State allows. If things change for the worse we will run virtual.

David Hochheiser said your team has done a great job with communication.

Sean Reardon said this was a great job.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS - FIRST READING:

David Hochheiser reviewed the following School Committee Goals: Superintendent's Evaluation, Budget, Strategic Plan, and new Protocols for School Committee.

Motion:

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve the 4 goals, Superintendent's Evaluation, Budget, Strategic Plan, and new Protocols for School Committee that were presented to the Committee at the last School Committee Meeting.

Mayor Holaday asked **David Hochheiser** if the rest of the Committee has seen the information that he shared with her. **David Hochheiser** said yes.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR 2020-2021 - First Reading:

The School Committee Meeting Schedule for July, 2020 - June 2021 was presented for the first reading.

David Hochheiser asked:

- Were they meeting this summer?
- If we get money will we be hiring Spanish teachers? Discussion ensued regarding this.

Mayor Holaday said we will have information at the next School Committee meeting.

A June 29 date was set as a tentative School Committee Business Meeting.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik reported on the following:

- Update of planning sessions with Special Education - Deb O'Connor stated they are planning a hybrid program for the summer. Nancy Koch discussed other School Districts plans - people are trying to be creative.
- Literacy Camp - We hope to do that in person with small groups of 5. She has reached out to teachers - all but one are on board. **Superintendent Gallagher** is going to coordinate a meeting. Nancy Lysik has reached out to Salter Bus Company to provide transportation.
- The High School may need a credit recovery program - Principal Wulf will discuss this at a School Committee meeting.
- English Learners - trying to plan - hope to have information at the next meeting.
- Deb O'Connor has letters ready to go to parents.

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- School Choice - opened 10 slots in Grade 6 - all are filled
- Our mind set - keep students and staff safe - formulating ideas. We are waiting for guidelines.
- Commissioner Riley has hinted at Circuit Breaker reductions. We are in good shape with our budget.
- Ed Davis - working with schools on reopening in September.
- PPE preparation - gave overview
- Summer School - will have guidance on that tomorrow.
- Friday memo this week:

- 7th grade teachers planted American Flags on graves. Mr. Webber headed up that event for Memorial Day
- Lawn signs for Seniors - planted on Seniors lawns
Mayor Holaday said she feels bad for seniors with everything they have lost this year. This was a very nice thing to do - it was important.
- Food distribution - 14,294 meals have been distributed to date
- Principal's Meeting - end of year celebration - last day of school - closure for students - parade route - students with families may drive by schools with staff outside

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no reports at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Newburyport School Committee Business Meeting
at 8:13 PM.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote