

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, May 17, 2021**

**Meeting Convened at 6:31 PM**

**Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided**

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

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**Mayor Donna Holaday** called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present.

At this point Vice-Chairman **Brian Callahan** assumed chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

A moment of silence was held for teacher Pam Jamison who tragically lost her 27-year-old daughter in a car accident.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** awarded the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents award to Caroline Desimio-Maloney. This award 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 career. **Superintendent Gallagher** read her many accolades and a standing ovation was held for her.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

**Motions:**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:  
**\$14,857.01**

**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:  
**\$379,773.54**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school’s account.

**\$16,256.51**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Minutes:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Tuesday, February 23, 2021, as amended.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

NHS Student Representative Sierra Leahy reported on the following:

- Advanced Placement Testing started last week and continues into this week and next. Exams students are taking this year include Government, U.S. History, Psychology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Economics, English Language, English Literature, Art Studio, Calculus and Statistics.
- The High School will not administer the MCAS until early June.
- Last week the theater program showcased student run shows. Amelia Snyder wrote and directed the Five Year Plan; Rory Schmidt directed the short play Clover; Christian Kjaer directed Avalanche; and Meghan Kempton with Olivia Passen directed the musical Book Lovers. The students cast a crew for each production and rehearsed for over 2 months. Last week’s performances were all well received by the viewers.
- Spring sports are moving right along with many of our teams having a strong start. The update is as follows:
 

Baseball	4-0
Boys Lacrosse	2-1
Girls Lacrosse	3-0
Softball	3-0
Boys Tennis	2-0
Girls Tennis	3-0
Boys Spring Track	2-0
Girls Spring Track	1-1

**APPOINT NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE FOR WHITTIER REGIONAL VOC TECH:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** explained that the Newburyport School Committee Representative position for Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School has been vacant since March 31, 2021 as Ben Fichera’s term expired. Joseph Haberland of Newburyport has expressed interest in filling this vacancy. **Superintendent Gallagher** introduced Mr. Haberland to the Committee. Mr. Haberland spoke of his background and stated he was very excited to assume this role.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the appointment of Mr. Joseph Haberland for the position of Newburyport School Committee Representative for Whittier Regional Vocational Technical High School.

**Sean Reardon** stated Mr. Haberland has a great background.

**Brian Callahan** asked how many times does this Committee meet? Answer - once a month.

**Mayor Holaday** stated she was glad to see Mr. Haberland assume this role.

**David Hochheiser** thanked Mr. Haberland and asked a favor of him - he worried about kids who struggle and get excluded and if there was ever an opportunity to open up discussion concerning this matter he hoped Mr. Haberland would do so.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Mayor Holaday** - Yes
- Brian Callahan** - Yes
- David Hochheiser** - Yes
- Sheila Spalding** - Yes
- Sean Reardon** - Yes
- Steve Cole** - Yes
- Bruce Menin** - Yes

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:**

**Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD) - 2nd Reading & Vote:**

**Sheila Spalding** explained the first reading was completed on February 1, 2021. On March 15, the Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD) was withdrawn from a final vote on the revisions and sent back to the Policy Subcommittee for further clarification. She explained the changes to the policy.

**Motion**

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

**VOTED:** To accept the Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD) policy.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Communications Policy - 1st Reading:**

**Sheila Spalding** explained the policy. She stated she wondered why these things are numbered like they are.

**Mayor Holaday** suggested the Committee read over the policy and discuss it at the next School Committee Meeting. She said there was a lot in this policy.

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE 2021-2022 DRAFT - 1st READING:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** outlined and explained the draft of the 2021-2022 School Committee Meeting Schedule.

**Brian Callahan** suggested having a Forum.

**Superintendent Gallagher** recommended October 4, 18 - School Improvement Plans presented.

**Brian Callahan** suggested moving the Public Hearing back to March 21.

**David Hochheiser** suggested putting in some things they have on a yearly basis. He also suggested having a Public Discussion re: Goal/Priorities before school starts.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said things will be outlined at the Retreat.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Governor easing restrictions - Commissioners meeting next week.
- Summer - advertised positions - looking at student data - Nancy Koch is developing programs - partnering with Youth Services.
- Hiring Update - he thanked the School Committee for passing the budget - positions have been advertised and interviewing has begun.
- Potential Vaccinations for 12+ years and up - the staff is doing a great job.
- Survey to family - working on getting vaccinations in schools.
- District End-of-Year Activities - Principal Furlong has sent communication to families.  
Pre K -K - virtual slide show  
3 outdoor activities; PTO working with Principals - hiring magician

Molin - Wellness Day Plan - 8th grade live stream - based on High School football field - food trucks

High School - Principal Wulf has sent communication.

Seniors @ High - food trucks - games - on football field - Promenade

**Brian Callahan** inquired re: 8th grade - if things are OK with the Governor's Commissioners can parents attend certain functions?

**Superintendent Gallagher** said this will be discussed on Wednesday. He also stated tomorrow marks maskless recess. He said he wants to communicate the changes all at once and will do so in a systematic way.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Holaday** said they needed to identify what kind of evaluations they need to do this year. She said the Budget goes before the City Council on Monday.

**Sean Reardon** inquired re: Senior Week

The Finance Sub-Committee will meet tomorrow at 8:30 AM.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee  
At 7:24 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**