

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, June 21, 2021**

Meeting Convened at 6:31 PM

Brian Callahan Presided

Present: Brian Callahan, Bruce Menin, David Hochheiser, Sheila Spalding,
Sean Reardon, Steve Cole

Absent: Mayor Donna Holaday

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, except **Mayor Donna Holaday**.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no Public Comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motions:

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:
\$51,996.58

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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:
\$462,797.04

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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.
\$15,318.60

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, May 17, 2021.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, June 7, 2021.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

HIGH SCHOOL MATH TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION:

Kevin Sheridan, Newburyport High School Math Teacher shared with the School Committee instructional technology best practices that were utilized during this challenging school year. The High School's math department piloted an iPad Pro technology platform. It consisted of the following:

- Visited Beverly High School where they saw different instructional practices and met with administrators.
- Visited Beverly Middle School
- Visited Danvers High School
- Worked pilot program at Newburyport High School
- Continued the pilot program with the math department
- He was tasked with investigating devices that would meet the ends of NHS in a 1:1
- Apple Pilot - outlined and explained
- Spring 2020 preparing for 2020-2021 school year
Apple teacher certification and iPad - Professional development

Bruce Menin asked, in terms of intake, did he notice any difference at all? Answer - things went well.

David Hochheiser thanked Mr. Sheridan for his work and presentation. He said that this was awesome and that teachers were certified. He asked about videos.

Sean Reardon asked if this would be expanded.

Superintendent Gallagher said that this would be an initiative for them.

Steve Cole said this was a tremendous opportunity to allow students collaborative work.

Sheila Spalding said how accessible it is.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they met. There was one transfer of \$10,000 - bus contract. They discussed Food Services - deficit \$40,000.

Policy:

Sheila Spalding presented the following policies - Communications Policy (KAA) (new) and Public Participation at School Committee Meetings Policy (BEDH) (amend)

Motions:

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

VOTED: To approve the Communications Policy (KAA) (new) as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve the Public Participation at School Committee Meetings Policy (BEDH) (amend) as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

David Hochheiser thanked **Bruce Menin** who worked on the language for this policy.

Joint Education:

Sean Reardon said they met on June 14. They discussed the MSBA application and the Strategic Plan.

2021-2022 SCHOOL CHOICE UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher presented an update and recommendation on School Choice.

Graces	Slots	Applicants	Available
4	7	5	2
6	7	5	2
7	7	5	2
9	15	7	8

NHS Principal Wulf has recommended 5 slots be available in Grade 12.9

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To open 5 School Choice slots in Grade 12 at Newburyport High School.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

David Hochheiser inquired re: advertising this information and making it available to charter schools and Immaculate Conception School.

Nancy Lysik said it will be advertised in newspapers and put on the district website.

Steve Cole expressed concern for the social aspect of students entering grade 12 re: School Choice. He said this is a tricky time to take on a student.

Sheila Spalding asked if this has been done in the past. Answer - yes

David Hochheiser asked with a smaller senior class, didn't this open up slots in electives to other grades.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed **5 -Yes 1 - No**

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Superintendent Gallagher spoke regarding Homeland Security approving VISAs which should encourage applicants to the Newburyport District.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- It was a great ending for the school year at all schools.
- Grade 8 graduation - it was held outside and was wonderful.
- Grade 8 Day - The grade 8 students went to Newburyport High School where they enjoyed a day of events.
- Molin Awards - The 38th and 39th years awards were presented. He announced the winners of each year's awards.
- He praised everyone in the district who stayed together during the virus - this was his message at the Molin awards.
- Hiring update:
Director of Early Childhood - interviewing
Assistant Principal at Bresnahan School - interviewing
Assistant Principal at Nock School - advertising
2 hires: Health Coordinator - Kim Hawkes and Director of Health Services - Lauren McDonald

STAFF RECOGNITIONS:

Superintendent Gallagher recognized the following people who were retiring:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik - 32 years of service
Nancy Lysik - 32 years of service
Cathy Riccio - 9 years of service

Steve Cole gave a speech concerning the retirees.

Bruce Menin thanked each retiree for their service.

Brian Callahan thanked each retiree for their service.

Superintendent Gallagher thanked each retiree for their dedication which was built upon hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School
Committee at 7:39 PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday absent for vote