

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, May 18, 2020  
Video Conference - Online**

**Meeting Convened at 6:36 PM**

**Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided**

**Present:** Brian Callahan, David Hochheiser, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday, Sheila Spalding, Sean Reardon, Steve Cole (joined meeting at approx. 6:50 PM.)

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

**Mayor Donna Holaday** called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:36 PM. Roll Call found all members present, except **Steve Cole** who joined the meeting at approximately 6:50 PM. 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:**

**Minutes:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the School Committee  
Online Business Meeting minutes of Tuesday,  
April 28 2020

**Sheila Spalding** made a correction to page 4.

**Motion Passed as amended**

**INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIPS 2021:**

**Bruce Menin** introduced Aileen Maconi and NHS Principal Andy Wulf who provided an overview of two proposed international field trips in 2021. First, a trip to Greece (April 16 through April 24, 2021) and a trip to Australia (July 5 through July 16, 2021).

Ms. Maconi began by reading a postcard which a student created after an international trip to the Dominican Republic.

She spoke of the trip to Greece, through EF Tours. At present there are 25 students who have signed up for this trip. There is a cut-off of 36 students, with chaperones totally 1 per 6 students. The cost is \$3,808 per student. Fundraising has already started. There is a School Board guarantee included - a 100% refund if notified by June 18. After June 18 the guarantee ends.

Australia trip through World Strides: there are 8 people signed up for this trip, which is open to parents and students.

**Bruce Menin** asked if they need an affirmation before June 18 - does she recommend the School Committee hold off, assess the situation and discuss and/or vote on June 1 and June 15.

**Brian Callahan** said we possibly need to change timeline - do we need to have the Policy Subcommittee review this.

**David Hochheiser** spoke of policy wording.

**Bruce Menin** spoke of generic fundraising.

Ms. Maconi spoke of things they have used generic fundraising monies for.

**David Hochheiser** asked about the guarantee. Ms. Maconi explained.

**Sheila Spalding** asked if they have any wiggle room on dates. Ms. Maconi explained that she has already had the companies extend their deadlines, but if needed she could ask them to extend them further if needed.

**Bruce Menin** asked about funds for students who cannot afford full freight for the trips. Ms. Maconi explained.

**Superintendent Gallagher** asked how many incoming seniors have signed up. Ms. Maconi will provide that data.

**Mayor Holaday** expressed how concerned she was with possible problems that might arise re: upsurge of the virus, illness, etc. She asked if there were any other school districts in Massachusetts who are still doing international field trips. She said she would like to know what the concrete plans are if something untoward happens on either of these trips.

**David Hochheiser** asked if families could on their own get 100% of their monies back. Ms. Maconi said no.

**Bruce Menin** said the **Mayor** has requested that the Committee hold off until they get more information re: safeguards for families.

The Committee agreed to hold off at this time until further information is forthcoming.

At this point **Steve Cole** joined the meeting.

#### **CAFETERIA RFP DISCUSSION:**

Nancy Lysik updated the Committee re: a cafeteria contract extension. She stated we went out for an RFP for food services. The Department of Vegetation issued a waiver which extends our current contract for 1 year. The new contract with Chartwells will extend from July, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Bruce Menin** asked how far along on the contract had we gotten. Ms. Lysik said it did not go public.

#### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To extend the 1 year contract with Chartwells from July 2020 through June 30, 2021.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

## **STATE & CITY FISCAL BUDGET OVERVIEW:**

**Mayor Holaday** gave an overview of the fiscal budget. There was a recent meeting on how the CARES ACT will transpire. Some money has come in. The State has been allocated 2.7 Billion with 1.6 million allocated to Newburyport. FEMA will fund 75% of claims and CARES will fund 24%. This is a good system. The State has no submitted numbers as yet; it will be a while. She stated she submitted the quarterly budget to the City Council last Monday. She is encouraged by the decisions that have been made.

## **FY21 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET & PRIORITIES:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** and Nancy Lysik provided a district budget update and discussion of priorities for additional funds. **Superintendent Gallagher** presented a Power Point presentation which included the following:

- Revenue & Expenses Overview
- 2020-2021 Late Start Allocated Funds
- FY21 - Priority List
- FY20 COVID-19 Related Refunds

Lysik said they are watching the Revolving Accounts. The bud company is working on routes. They are progressing as normal and will adjust as they go along.

**Sean Reardon** asked why they were upping the Assistant Principal at the Molin School.

**Superintendent Gallagher** explained that with the situation they way it was extra supervision was needed.

**Bruce Menin** explained that aligning the schedule with Molin/Nock additional staff was needed.

**Sheila Spalding** asked are we locked into buying ChromeBooks.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said Chrome Bookds are what we have been using.

Discussion ensued at this point as to looking into something other than ChromeBooks that could be used.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said this makes sense.

**Bruce Menin** spoke of the practice run at the High School and asked if there was information and feedback. **Superintendent Gallagher** said they got lots of information and positive feedback.

**David Hochheiser** asked what sort of technology were teachers interested in using in the classroom.

**Sheila Spalding** said ChromeBooks were slower.

**Brian Callahan** asked what happened to the 1 to 1 program that was started. Principal Wulf said 7 teachers were part of the pilot program which ended at the end of February. Then the COVID-19 became the focus of attention.

**Superintendent Gallagher** spoke of exploring different platforms. We will regroup and see where we want to go as a district.

**Bruce Menin** said 1 to 1 is not off the table.

**David Hochheiser** asked if

- Bus monies were being collected from parents now? Nancy Lysik said yes - parents must pay up front and we will make adjustments if necessary.

- Intervention - **Superintendent Gallagher** said they are working with teachers to get support for students.
- Are there things that the School District is interested in if money comes in. **Superintendent Gallagher** said there are different items we can add in after September.
- He asked if they could talk about the World Language teachers. **Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** said what makes the most sense at the Middle School - add language at 7 / 8 grade.
- He said this is the first time he has heard that we are offering sub-par language courses.

Discussion ensued re: world language classes at the Middle School - some students did not come into the High School with any language skill.

**Brian Callahan** asked what is the requirement for World Language at the Middle School.

**Angela Bik** said they do not have to take a World Language.

**Superintendent Gallagher** said the benefit of taking a World Language at the Middle School is they come into the High School as advanced students, which frees up time in the higher grades for other subjects.

Principal Wulf said we can offer more advanced level languages - there is more desire to pursue languages.

**Brian Callahan** asked what language is offered at the Middle School? Answer - Spanish

**Mayor Holaday** said as we move through the Summer and if funds become available we can look at this. She is pleased where we are. She said she is grateful to the **Superintendent**, Nancy Lysik and the Leadership Team.

### **DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS:**

**David Hochheiser** presented an overview of the draft School Committee Goals as follows:

- Superintendent Evaluation
- Budget Proposals
- Update of meeting types and protocols
- Strategic Planning

He is waiting for advice from legal re: fundraising, ownership of computer files, advice on fingerprinting.

#### Superintendent Evaluation:

He said they have done an exceptional job before.

**Mayor Holaday** spoke re: School Committee Final Report - she agreed with **David Hochheiser**. The **Superintendent** does Friday reports. She thanked **Mr. Hochheiser** for tightening up the evaluation process.

**Bruce Menin** said the goals statements are pretty good. He suggested changing the language. The Committee at this point discussed language change.

#### Budget:

The School Committee will upgrade our communication and deliberation process in order to help us endorse a yearly Superintendent's budget.

**Bruce Menin** said he would like to see the School Council have more conversation re: community feedback on priorities and budget items before Principals begin meeting with the central office.

Discussion ensued re: what is a level service budget.

Update of Meeting types and protocols:

Ways we can change our meetings.

Strategic Planning:

Start working on Strategic Plan

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:**

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** updated the Committee on the following:

- Summer Planning  
They have been meeting over the last several weeks. All is unknown right now. Conversation is taking place as to what kind of enrichment we might do. Deb O'Connor said there was a town hall meeting on Thursday - remote learning was discussed.
- Elementary & Sec. School Emergency Relief Fund - working with administrators - looking at what our assessment needs will be - summer programming, summer curriculum work, curriculum supports, technology, social and emotional health of faculty and students.
- Waivers - CARE ACT
- Grant Total received \$267,952.00 - submit by mid June

### **SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** updated the Committee on the following:

- May 7 - National Virtual Honor Society - doing best we can. He offered congratulations to the inductees.
- Student belongings - individual student belongings were bagged - curbside pickup occurred todayl.

**Brian Callahan** asked how the line was. Answer - it went very well

- Teachers will be coming in to gather their belongings.
- SNAP Program - to allow parents to sign on line.

**Brian Callahan** asked if that was a yearly thing. Answer - Yes - now they can sign on line - this is a positive thing.

- Timelines - good shape on that.
- Food Program
- Preplanning Actions - Reopening - students and staff are our ultimate priority - ordered children and adult masks.
- Nurses Office - restructuring - nursing procedures, medications - dividers plexiglass **SUB**-protectors
- Virtual IEPs - on-line signatures
- Thanked Port Media - tonight's meeting was a live broadcast

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Joint Ed - Sean Reardon** said they met today - discussed budget

**Finance - Steve Cole** said they met on the 15th - discussed internal transfers, priority list, COVID reimbursements

**Policy - David Hochheiser** said they met

**Superintendent Evaluation - Bruce Menin** said they have not met

**WARRANTS:**

**Motions:**

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.

**\$36,299.95**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

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

**\$629,814.40**

**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 to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.

**\$14,061.48**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To adjourn the School Committee Online Video conference at 9:30 PM.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**