

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS**

**School Committee  
Business Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**SC Packet Checklist: SC Business Meeting Agenda September 7, 2021  
SC Meeting Agenda Notes September 7, 2021  
SC Business Meeting minutes 6-21-2021  
Face Coverings Policy (EBCFA) – first read  
Finance Subcommittee Minutes – 8-26-2021  
School Newspaper sample**

**Newburyport Public Schools  
Newburyport, MA  
School Committee Business Meeting  
Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**7:00 PM, Senior/Community Center, 331 High St., Newburyport, MA 01950**

to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88402553688?pwd=aFI2SzB3L2FZZUtlN3lOaUJTR2hjUT09>

*The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.*

**Business Meeting Agenda:** The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

- 1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. \*Consent Agenda - (warrants and minutes of 6-21-2021), possible Vote**
- 4. Policy Subcommittee**  
**Face Coverings Policy (EBCFA) – first reading**
- 5. Finance Subcommittee**  
**Minutes 8/26/2021**
- 6. Student Newspaper Proposal – Keith Eddings**
- 7. Superintendent Evaluation 2020-2021 - Discussion**
- 8. \*Executive Session: Vote**

*RETURN TO OPEN SESSION*

- 9. Superintendent Contract and other items – possible Vote**
- 10. Superintendent's Report: First Days of School, CISL (Curriculum, Instruction & Student Life)**
- 11. New Business**

**Adjournment**

\*\*The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session**, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

**Newburyport School Committee  
Meeting Agenda Notes**

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**7:00 PM  
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA**

to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88402553688?pwd=aFI2SzB3L2FZZUtlN3lOaUJTR2hjUT09>

**AGENDA NOTES**

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

**Agenda:**

**2. Public Comment**

**3. \*Consent Agenda:** warrants, and minutes of 6/21/2021 enclosed - *possible Vote*

**4. Policy Subcommittee**

Face Coverings Policy (EBCFA) – *first reading*

**5. Finance Subcommittee**

Minutes of 8/26/2021

**6. Student Newspaper Proposal:** *Keith Eddings will discuss a proposal for a student newspaper in the elementary and/or middle schools. (sample attached)*

**7. Superintendent Evaluation 2020-2021 Discussion**

**8. \*Executive Session:** *for the purpose of discussing possible contract negotiations and legal matters, and will reconvene in Open Session. - Vote*

***RETURN TO OPEN SESSION***

**9. Superintendent Contract and other items – possible Vote**

**10. Superintendent's Report:** *First Days of School, CISL (Curriculum, Instruction & Student Life)*

**11. New Business**

**FYI: Upcoming Dates:**

- ✓ **First Day of School for grades PK & K:** Wednesday, September 8
- ✓ **1st Vaccination Clinic:** Thursday, September 9 @ Nock, 5-8PM
- ✓ **School Committee Meeting:** Monday, September 20, 6:30PM

\*Possible Vote

**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**

<b>Brian Callahan</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Bruce Menin</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>David Hochheiser</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sheila Spalding</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Sean Reardon</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Steve Cole</b>	<b>No</b>

**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**



# FACE COVERINGS

Section E: Support Services	File: EBCFA
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The Newburyport School District is committed to providing a safe environment in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Maintaining a safe environment is critical to the District's ability to maintain a full-time in person classroom learning experience.

According to public health experts, one of the best ways to stop the spread of coronavirus and to keep members of our school community safe, is the use of face masks or face coverings. Therefore, using the guidance and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), the District has established the following requirements which will remain in place until further notice.

A face covering that covers the nose and mouth must be worn by all individuals in school buildings and on school transportation. Face coverings must also be worn outside when social distancing cannot be observed.

Masks or face coverings will not be required for anyone who has a medical, behavioral or other challenge making it unsafe to wear a face mask or face covering. A written note from a physician is required for a requested exemption. Parents may not excuse their child from the face mask requirement by signing a waiver.

Additionally, face masks or face coverings will not be required when appropriate social distancing is enforced: during mask breaks, while eating or drinking, during physical education classes or while outside.

Exceptions to this policy under certain circumstances, such as for students with medical, behavioral or other challenges who are unable to wear masks, must be approved by the building principal in consultation with the school nurse or local Board of Health. Face shields or physical barriers may provide an alternative in some instances.

A student's mask or face covering is to be provided by the student's family. Staff members are responsible for providing their own face coverings. However, the district will supply disposable face covering for individuals who arrive at a building, or board school transportation, without one.

If students are in violation of this policy, the building principal will consult with the parent/guardians to determine whether an exception is appropriate, or the student may be removed from the school building for in-person learning until such time as they can comply with the requirement, or the requirement is lifted.

Violations of this policy by staff will be handled in the same manner as other violations of School Committee policy.

Visitors in violation of this policy will be denied entry to the school/district facility.

This policy will remain in place until rescinded by the School Committee. We will revisit this policy in October, following DESE guidelines, advice of our Medical Advisory Committee and the local Board of Health.

Guidance Statements

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/updated-advisory-regarding-masks-and-face-coverings-july-30-2021-0/download>

**Center for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools  
Updated August 5, 2021 -**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

**Center for Disease Controls – Guidance for Covid-19 Prevention on Public Transportation**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education – Fall 2021 Covid-19 Guidance**

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop/2021-0730fall-2021-covid19-guidance.pdf>

SOURCE: MASC – August 10, 2021

### Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	9/7/2021
Second Reading	
Adopted	

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING  
Nock Middle School Auditorium, 70 Low Street, Newburyport  
Thursday, August 26, 2021**

**Meeting Convened at 8:05 AM**

**Present:** Mayor Donna Holaday, Bruce Menin, Brian Callahan, Steve Cole, Sean Gallagher, Phil Littlehale  
**Absent:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Steve Cole made the motion to call the meeting to order at 8:05 AM. Motion was seconded by Bruce Menin. Motion passed 4-0.

**TRANSFERS**

July and August transfers were reviewed. There were 4 budget corrections. Funds were placed into the incorrect org/obj when the budget was entered into MUNIS. There were five budget line transfers: One for the Nock and four for the high school. All requests were to move budgeted amounts to other expense lines to more properly reflect for what the funds are to be used. All of the transfers were approved.

Discussion ensued about the transfer approval process and the pros and cons of the current practice. Phil was requested to draft a proposed Budget Transfer Policy by September 7. The proposed policy will be brought up as new business at the September 7, School Committee meeting with the expectation it will be sent to the policy sub-committee.

**FY21 UPDATE**

FY21 is almost ready to close. The last payroll that included FY21 salary expenses was the August 19 payroll. There are still a few FY21 outstanding invoices to be processed before the end of year roll process can be performed.

**EXPECTATIONS**

There was discussion around what type of reporting the committee would like to see and at what intervals. Phil suggested that quarterly reporting. Phil discussed the challenge of providing actual salary expenses as expenses are on a cash and not accrual basis. Several budget areas were highlighted that will be reported on more frequently: food service, special ed (out of district tuition), substitutes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Bruce Menin made the motion to adjourn at 9:05 AM. Motion was seconded by Steve Cole. Motion passed 4-0.

# Sample Newspaper



## THE RBS NEWS

Roaring Brook Elementary School, Chappaqua N.Y.

### RBS Getting Greener This Year, 4th Grade headed to West Point, Principal Byrne Tells RBS News



Principle Byrne holds a press conference with top reporters at RBS News.

By Matthew Miller and Nathan Jbara

Roaring Brook is making changes to go green, including by installing a new heating system this summer that will use less fuel, Principal Byrne said in a recent interview.

The school already is using energy-efficient light bulbs. Teachers and students also are recycling paper and bottle caps.

In other news, RBS students are helping less-fortunate kids by helping collect 5,000 books to donate to the Graham School, which serves disadvantaged children who can't live at home.

Fourth-graders are going on a trip this spring to West Point, an historic military academy that has been on the Hudson River since the Revolutionary War, Principal Byrne said.

Mr. Byrne also offered his opinion of the students who go to RBS. To read it, see page 2.

### RBS students to cafeteria: Tacos, Yes! Hot dogs, Yuk!

By Harris Allen, James Allen and Jack Lin

What do *you* want for lunch?

Roaring Brook students want more tacos, pasta and sliders but less hot dogs, an RBS News survey has found.

RBS News reporters interviewed 40 or so 3rd- and 4th-graders to see what they're putting on their trays in the cafeteria and what they're leaving behind.

To see what your classmates think about the lunch you like, turn to page 2.

### When the last bus pulls away, the ferrets come out to play

Play hide-and-seek with a ferret. Swing a baseball bat like a pro. Publish a newspaper (like this one). There's much more than homework to do after school. While everyone else is getting on the bus at 3:30, about 100 RBS students meet in clubs like

ProSwing and Sea Creatures.

To see what they're up to, turn to page 3.



Ranger Rick introduces Cody to Kate Shaw. Photo by Harris Allen.

### Where's Kyle?

Page 4

Photo by

Kyle Flamino



### Ms. Winters is RBS News' Teacher of the Year, page 4

Thirty years at our school, longer than any other teacher.

By RBS Staff

### Stop the flu: wash your hands, page 4

And sing a song while you're at it (we have one to suggest).

By Divya Kishore