

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

**School Committee
Business Meeting**

Monday, December 21, 2020

6:30 PM

SC Packet Checklist:

SC Business Meeting Agenda 12-21-2020

SC Meeting Agenda Notes 12-21-2020

SC Business Meeting Minutes November 2, 2020

Fundraising in Newburyport Public Schools (KHA)

Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD)

Crowdfunding Policy (GBEBD)

Letter from Governor Baker

Newburyport Public Schools
Newburyport, MA
School Committee Business Meeting - **REMOTE**
AGENDA
Monday, December 21, 2020
6:30 PM

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 is 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. **SPECIAL NOTE:** This meeting will be held remotely and will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment – *via Zoom* Please click the link below to join the webinar:
3. *Consent Agenda (warrants and minutes November 2, 2020) – *Possible Vote*
4. NHS Student Representative Report
5. *Galapagos Islands Overnight Field Trip 2022 – *Possible Vote* – *Principal Andy Wulf*
6. *Medical Advisory Team Update – *Possible Vote* – *Michael Allard, Dr. Jessica Su, and Cathy Riccio*
7. Remote Learning Academy Update & Overview – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*
8. Fundraising Policy (KHA) – *first reading*
9. Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD) – *first reading*
10. Crowd Funding Policy (GBEBD) – *first reading*
11. Response to letter from Governor Baker – *David Hochheiser*
12. Discussion of School Committee Retreat – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*
13. Superintendent’s Report – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*
14. Sub-Committee Reports (if needed): Joint Ed; Finance; Policy; Superintendent’s Evaluation

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**

Monday, December 21, 2020

Time: 6:30 PM

Meeting will be held remotely via Zoom

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.

SPECIAL NOTE: *This meeting will be held REMOTELY and will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.*

Agenda:

2. Public Comment – via Zoom
3. *Consent Agenda – (warrants and minutes of November 2, 2020) – *Possible Vote*
4. NHS Student Representative Report – *Sierra Leahy*
5. *Galapagos Islands Overnight Field Trip 2022 – *Possible Vote* – *Principal Andy Wulf*
This overnight field trip was originally planned for April 16-24, 2020 and was approved by the School Committee on February 3, 2020. The trip was cancelled in March 2020 due to the pandemic. As international travel does not look promising for 2021, Erin Hobbs would like to offer this trip to NHS students for April 2022, pending approval by the School Committee. Students already signed up for the 2020 trip will have the opportunity to transfer their current trip voucher to April 2022, or to a sibling or another NHS student. Otherwise, those students could request a refund from EF Tours (trip cost minus \$565), or try to resell their voucher with Erin's help.
6. *Medical Advisory Team Update – *Possible Vote*
Michael Allard, Dr. Jessica Su, and Cathy Riccio, members of the Advisory Team, will discuss the current COVID-19 data trends and projections impacting the community and schools. Discussions will include learning plan options, and possible vote.
7. Remote Learning Academy Update & Overview – *Superintendent Sean Gallagher*
The Superintendent will provide an overview of the Remote Learning Academy, including total number of students and staff per grade, a breakdown of trimester dates, and enrollment correspondence to parents.
8. Fundraising Policy (KHA) – *first reading*
Changes and new policy enclosed in the packet.
9. Public Gifts to the Schools Policy (KCD) – *first reading*
Changes and new policy enclosed in the packet.
10. Crowd Funding Policy (GBEBD) – *first reading*
Changes and new policy enclosed in the packet.
11. Response to letter from Governor Baker – *David Hochheiser*
This is a follow-up to the MASS and MASC organization's correspondence to the Governor regarding messaging.
12. Discussion of School Committee Retreat – *Vice Chair Bruce Menin*
The School Committee Retreat is currently scheduled for 6:30PM on Tuesday, January 19, 2020.
13. Superintendent's Report
Sean Gallagher will provide an update from Commissioner Riley's recent conference call with superintendents. Topics included January MCAS, ACCESS testing, internships for high school seniors, the role-out of vaccines, new federal quarantine guidance, and synchronous hour requirements in the new year.
14. Sub-Committee Reports (if needed): *Joint Ed; Finance; Policy; Superintendent's Evaluation*

Adjournment

*Possible Vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

Holiday Break – December 24 – January 1

City Council & School Committee Budget meeting – January 12 at 7PM

SC Retreat – Tuesday, January 19 at 6:30pm

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Monday, November 2, 2020
Newburyport High School**

Meeting Convened at 6:30 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

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

Absent: Sheila Spalding

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll Call found 6 members present, and Sheila Spalding absent. All those present stood for the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

At this point Vice-Chairman **Bruce Menin** assumed chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

Tribute:

Superintendent Gallagher shared a tribute with the committee and held a moment of silence in memory of Mary Grabowski.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trish Boateng, 18 Merrill Street: (via email) Would like to pay tribute to Mary Grabowski, a beloved bus driver for Newburyport that recently passed away. Vice-Chairman Bruce Menin read the email which is included at end of minutes.)

Impact of Outside Activities on School Community

Discussion on this topic (agenda item #13) postponed until after the Governor provides more directives about athletics.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Donna 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.
\$15,029.72

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$28,163.25

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.
\$379,884.28

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Minutes:

The minutes of Monday, October 5 were tabled until the next School Committee Business Meeting on November 16, 2020.

NHS Student Report

The report was provided by Superintendent Sean Gallagher:

Sports Update:

Golf: League champs with 10-0 record
Field Hockey: 7-1 record, in 1st place, 2 games to play
Boys Soccer: 6-0-2, in 1st place, 2 games remaining
Girls Soccer: 4-2-2, in 3rd place, 2 games remaining
Girls Cross Country: 4-1, in 2nd place, 1 meet left
Boys Cross Country: 4-1, in 2nd place, 1 meet left

EEA will meet this week regarding winter sports and will provide their recommendations to MIAA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

VOTED: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and legal matters

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Passed 6 yes; Sheila Spalding absent

(Note: Sheila Spalding joined Executive Session via Zoom)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Reopening Updates (Bresnahan & Molin)

Bresnahan - Principal Amy Sullivan and Principal Tim Miller presented the following update:

- Health and safety protocols for staff and students, including daily screening
 - Masks, hand washing, hand sanitizer, distancing
 - Health data points to success of the precautions
- Supporting students and families
 - Live help desk for technology via Google Meet, email, Gmail chat
 - SEL curriculum, PBIS, responsive classroom
 - Weekly 1-page communication on Wednesday: contains events, resources, technology information etc.
 - Virtual Bresnahan website (in development since Spring)
 - Open houses, including a website with information about teachers and the event; over 500 individual log-ins for the event.
 - Two counselors and a social worker are available via website link
 - Weekly parent Zoom on Wednesdays
- Hybrid Learning (Gr 1-3)
 - Socially distanced (6 feet apart)
 - Synchronous classes
 - Morning and closing meetings are synchronous
 - Conceptual openings to ELA and math are synchronous
 - Floors are numbered to help students remember where to go
 - Sanitation stations
- Teachers' rooms look different. Spacing between teachers. Zoom meetings for faculty.
- The remote students get some synchronous instruction and then do asynchronous work to break up the screen time.
- PreK and K
 - ½ sessions, AM or PM. 4 days/week
 - No remote
 - There are specials that can be accessed remotely
 - Heavy focus on early literacy, math, and play
 - Accessing outdoor space in many ways; pandemic has increased the use of all spaces
 - Visual instructions for directions and protocols
 - Using more doors for entrance and exit, feeling increased calm from when main doors were used by all
 - Much of first ten days were spent by teachers developing individual student kits for different lessons
 - School is seeing very impressive levels of independence

- Partitions used at larger tables and horseshoe “teacher tables”
- Small group play has been allowed both inside and outside
- Planning for future possibility of remote instructions
 - Google Meets
 - Online components for Eureka Math, Lexia, Zearn, See Saw
- Goal, though, is increased attendance in the building
 - Wednesdays
 - Eating in the cafeteria
 - Move specialists back into their own spaces and allowing students to travel.
 - PreK expansion
 - Kindergarten go back to full day

Brian Callahan asked about current strategy that didn’t bring K-8 back on Wednesdays.

Superintendent Gallagher explained this provides a buffer between the two cohorts; serves as a type of quarantine.

Sean Reardon asked is there another date that we’re looking towards as a goal. **Superintendent Gallagher** stated the Medical team meets weekly and will continue to look into it.

Sean Reardon asked if this was the first year using MyView. Answer: Yes

Molin: Principal Tara Rossi and Assistant Principal Jamie Sokolowski presented the following:

- Created a fun, warm and welcoming environment
- Safety protocols in line with district protocols: Hand washing, sanitizing, masks, distancing, cohorts for contact tracing, travel stickers, sneeze guards, lunch in classrooms
- Students have their own stations in certain classes and specials
- Movement and mask breaks
- Outdoor breaks as possible
- Morning and closing meetings every day for all students
- Teachers have leveled up their technology proficiency since the spring
- Remote students all have online staff support
- Counseling drop-in sessions for students and families
- Daily live technical support
- Technology in use includes MyView literacy program and InSync Math / Zearn
- Movement, lunch, and snack breaks exist both in school and remote
- Using Wednesdays to support horizontal and vertical alignment
- Teachers have redesigned multiple content areas for live and remote learning which was a huge task

Sean Reardon asked if K-8 have gone through first round of STAR 360, and will we be comparing these results to last winter’s data? Answer both = Yes. Ms. Rossi stated they will also likely be testing more often to gauge for students’ coming back to grade-level.

- Teachers creating learning videos
- Zearn and STAR provide data

COVID-19 Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the District Health Data as of November 2nd:

- October 19 was our last in-person case

- More positive cases outside of school; household cases are driving the spread more than inside school;
- Students who have tested positive or were contact traced have been staying quarantined
- Nursing and medical professionals have done an excellent job at facilitating tracing
- 345 absences to date due to illness (whether or not COVID)
- High School population increased today
 - Confident that students are following safety protocols
 - Significant number of students staying home (20% - 200 students - across both cohorts)
 - Medical Advisory Team is now meeting weekly

Sean Reardon asked about widespread testing for students in CT; The Superintendent replied “yes”, MA is receiving a lot of tests and will begin working on plans for distribution. Home testing kits may be on the horizon.

Principal Wulf stated increased student numbers at the high school improved the energy level in the building. Students have been great following safety protocols!

International Field Trips

Principal Wulf explained 2 trips currently scheduled 2021: Australia in the summer & Greece in April. He explained the cancellation clauses in the both trip contracts.

- Students signed up for Australia trip will get money back if trip is cancelled tonight.
- **Brian Callahan** stated School Committee doesn’t have a policy about cancelling field trips.
- **Bruce Menin** stated Australia has a mandatory 2-week quarantine upon arrival.
- Parents can end up with vouchers for cancelled trips if the company cancels the trip.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to cancel international field trips to Australia in summer of 2021

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Motion

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

VOTED: to postpone a decision for the Greece trip (April 2021) to no later than 2/28.

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Student Activity Accounts

Bruce Menin explained the list includes a new account established for the Ski Team. The account list should be recognized each year, but hasn’t been done every year.

Brian Callahan asked what the “undistributed” account was. **Bruce Menin** believes funds are from closed accounts. **Superintendent Gallagher** will get back to Brian.

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin**, and seconded by **David Hochheiser** it was

VOTED: to recognize existing Student Activity Accounts

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

David Hochheiser raised questions about 2020 senior class fund balance and policy JJF. **Steve Cole** and **Sean Reardon** believe the high balance is due to the cancellation of the prom, etc.

Mayor Holaday asked if we should be giving money back. **Superintendent Gallagher** said the prom was refunded.

David Hochheiser asked if the ending balances for Class of 2018 and 2019 could be obtained.

There were also questions on numerous Nock line items. **Superintendent Gallagher** stated Student Activity Accounts are double checked and audited. He will follow up with Nancy Lysik and email the answers to these questions to everyone.

Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin**, and seconded by ? it was

VOTED: to accept Alpine Ski Club Student Activity account

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

NEF Naming Rights Pricing

Superintendent Gallagher explained that district policy, as well as the NEF's updated naming price list included in the packet for the School Committee's review. NEF is working with donors interested in naming a space in a building.

MOTION:

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

VOTED: to approve the NEF Naming price list

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Mayor Holaday asked about categories and pricing.

Sean Reardon asked what is the context of the naming and the costs.

Bruce Menin thought the NEF may compare pricing with other districts.

David Hochheiser commented about possible equity issues with regards to who can afford the rights.

Brian Callahan suggested this item be tabled until NEF can attend a school committee meeting to answer committee member's questions.

Motion withdrawn until follow up with NEF.

Code Of Ethics MASC

Bruce Menin would like to combine new MASC Guidelines and would like a single document. He will send a draft to the Policy Subcommittee for consideration.

Superintendent's Evaluation Update:

Bruce Menin noted that information about Superintendent's evaluation has been distributed. Work is being requested by November 16.

MASC Resolutions # 7-10

Steve Cole reminded members that ideas for MASC Resolutions were due by 4pm on 10/29.

MOTION:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin**, and seconded by **David Hochheiser** it was

VOTED: to accept Resolution #7 (Attempts by US DOE to direct funding to private schools)

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Resolution #10 is relative to monitoring attendance of students during the pandemic. No vote to approve.

Superintendent's Report

- Evaluation information has been provided to all School Committee members.
- Steve Bergholm has been updating lighting to increase efficiency at the high school. Green community grant received. Work needs to be done by 1/31. Plan to begin with 2nd shift, following all safety protocols.
- Commissioner Riley's Superintendents Meeting Update:
 - Districts should remain open, even red districts.
 - MCAS testing. States would need to request waivers. Federal government has not yet allowed any. Retesting will happen in January, and regular standardized testing this spring. This shouldn't affect NBPT scheduling.
 - Governor Baker increased certain regulations as of today as the state went to red. Ventilation was discussed; our district is in good shape.
 - Districts are going to have to fill out information for data collection on new hybrid and remote work and successes.
- Open houses were very successful. The Superintendent thanked parents and families for their flexibility.
- The Superintendent thanked Bresnahan staff who went above and beyond to create a fun but safe atmosphere for Halloween. The kids were happy, and one noted, "It will be a lot different this year!"

Subcommittee Reports

Sean Reardon reported that Joint Ed met today to discuss the Strategic plan and Budget

Steve Cole provided the following report for the Finance Subcommittee:

- Budget: Quarter 1 = 57.7% spent
- Bresnahan and Nock are on hold for Q2 with the exception of emergency purchases
- Kyle Hodsdon, Athletic Director, presented account balances for athletics groups. The Alpine Ski Club account application was reviewed. The ability to use school vans instead of buses saves a lot of money and is good, financially. Money raised for boys' sports has to be equaled for girls' sports.

David Hochheiser stated the Policy Subcommittee will meet next Tuesday, December 10, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
At ____.

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

TRIBUTE TO MARY GRABOWSKI

Hello,

I had wanted to make a public comment to give a tribute to bus driver Mary Grabowski but unfortunately had some technical difficulties right before public comment was open.

If you wouldn't mind, could someone please read my public comment below?

My name is Trish Boateng and I live at 18 Merrill Street.

I'd like to pay tribute to Mary Grabowski. We are heartbroken to learn that our daughter's beloved bus driver has passed away suddenly, and we will miss her terribly. She was such a kind person who taught our girl how to ride a bus without her parents as a little bitty 5 year old, while simultaneously soothing my own anxiety as only an empathetic and loving fellow mom could. We saw Ms. Mary and her big smile almost every morning and afternoon for 3 years!

Mary was kind, smart, funny, and so loving. She had the ability to make each child and each family that she encountered feel important and cared for. Mary was a true professional who took her job seriously, was able to keep everyone on the bus safe, while at the same time going out of her way to make her bus a positive place to be. She helped bus friends work out disagreements. She chatted with "her kids" and got to know them. She cared about them as little people. Every Halloween and holiday break, Mary created goodie bags for each child on the bus. Last Halloween she even made one for my 3 year old who doesn't even ride the bus! She also kept a box of books at the front of the bus for kids who wanted to read together while riding. Mary truly went above and beyond to show she cared, including for parents: One afternoon, I got to the bus stop late and missed the bus, but I didn't panic as I knew that Mary would have my back. Sure enough, she circled back around 5 minutes later with Amelia. She was part of our village.

We are very thankful that we got to start and end our day for 3 years with a big smile, a quick chat, or a wave from Mary. She touched our family as well as countless other families in Newburyport. Many families are mourning the loss of such a remarkable person. She was our bus driver who turned into our friend, and a reliable bright moment in each day. We will miss her so much.

FUNDRAISING IN NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Section K: Community Relations	File: KHA
---------------------------------------	------------------

The School Committee will place limits on commercial activities and fund-raising activities in the schools for the following reasons:

1. The school system should provide students, parents, and employees some measure of protection from exploitation by commercial and charitable fund-raising organizations.
2. The school system should not give the public the impression of generally endorsing or sanctioning commercial and fund-raising activities.
3. Commercial and fund-raising activities may disrupt school routine and cause loss of instructional time.

Following these guiding statements, the Superintendent and Principals may permit occasional commercial or fund-raising activities related to the objectives of the schools with the following exceptions:

- No direct solicitation of students or employees may take place without School Committee permission.
- No general or class distribution of commercial or fund-raising literature may take place without School Committee permission.

For the purposes of this policy, local PTO groups and groups representing school system employees will be considered "school groups" and will be governed by the Committee's policy on staff solicitations.

All requests to hold fund-raisers will be given to the appropriate building principal and athletic director (when applicable) by the following dates for approval (July 15 for fall activities, December 15th for spring).

- Reporting form will include:
 - Purpose
 - Monetary goal
 - Allocation time table
 - Duration and other time considerations
 - Methods
 - Whether or not regular budget channels have been requested
 - Who's raising the money (students, families, or other)
 - Inclusivity to all students (differently wired, equity; how much is being asked of families)
 - Whether or not it adheres to models of environmental sustainability. (Avoid disposable swag)
- Administration will assess the following items. Anything that feels like a stretch of these boundaries should be brought to central office for further discussion / approval:
 - Nutritional factors (Does this involve selling and/or distributing junk food)
 - Equity (financially). Does this model ask students to raise money in amounts or means that they may be considered an excessive burden?
 - Does this ask similar parents to consecutively and/or concurrently raise money for multiple causes
 - All fundraising is voluntary
 - Are all students fundraising directly involved in the benefits of the fundraising?
 - Is it possible and appropriate to fund this need through a district budget? This should be a consultation with central office if needed.
 - Class time will not be sacrificed for fund-raising.
 - Transparency of the use(s) intended for funds being collected
 - No fundraising signage on school grounds during school time.

- Is the money being raised for actual needs that are commensurately appropriate to the time spent by each student?
- Principals report their approved list of fundraisers to the finance subcommittee at the beginning of August and January as well as reports sent on after each fundraiser's completion.
- District should consider / look for opportunities for philanthropic work.
- Superintendent has discretion to allow additional standard approval agreements with consistently contributing organizations and events as well as one-time approvals throughout the year.
 - Long-term organizations (NEF, Athletic Boosters, Alumni Org)
 - PTOs
 - Clubs and teachers
- Repeat fundraising should be considered for future budget items. Finance ought to consider those fundraisers being done to make recommendations for budget items.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [44:53A](#)

CROSS REFS.: [GBEBC](#), Staff Gifts and Solicitations

[JJE](#), Student Fund-Raising Activities

[JP](#), Student Gifts and Solicitations

[KHB](#), Advertising in the Schools

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/2017
Second Reading	11/6/2017
Adopted	11/6/2017
Revised First Reading	12/21/2020
Second/Adopted	

Fundraising in Newburyport Public Schools

~~PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS~~

Section K: Community Relations

File: KHA

The School Committee will place limits on commercial activities and fund-raising activities in the schools for the following reasons:

1. The school system should provide students, parents, and employees some measure of protection from exploitation by commercial and charitable fund-raising organizations.
2. The school system should not give the public the impression of generally endorsing or sanctioning commercial and fund-raising activities.
3. Commercial and fund-raising activities may disrupt school routine and cause loss of instructional time.

Following these guiding statements, the Superintendent and Principals may permit occasional commercial or fund-raising activities related to the objectives of the schools with the following exceptions:

- No direct solicitation of students or employees may take place without School Committee permission.
- No general or class distribution of commercial or fund-raising literature may take place without School Committee permission.

For the purposes of this policy, local PTO groups and groups representing school system employees will be considered "school groups" and will be governed by the Committee's policy on staff solicitations.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. [44:53A](#)

CROSS REFS.: [GBEBC](#), Staff Gifts and Solicitations

[JIE](#), Student Fund-Raising Activities

[JP](#), Student Gifts and Solicitations

[KHB](#), Advertising in the Schools

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/2017
Second Reading	
Adopted	

All requests to hold fund-raisers will be given to the appropriate building principal and athletic director (when applicable) by the following dates for approval (July 15 for fall activities, December 15th for spring).

- Reporting form will include:
 - Purpose
 - Monetary goal
 - Allocation time table
 - Duration and other time considerations
 - Methods
 - Whether or not regular budget channels have been requested
 - Who's raising the money (students, families, or other)
 - Inclusivity to all students (differently wired, equity; how much is being asked of families)
 - Whether or not it adheres to models of environmental sustainability.
(Avoid disposable swag)

- Administration will assess the following items. Anything that feels like a stretch of these boundaries should be brought to central office for further discussion / approval:
 - Nutritional factors (Does this involve selling and/or distributing junk food)
 - Equity (financially). Does this model ask students to raise money in amounts or means that they may be considered an excessive burden?
 - Does this ask similar parents to consecutively and/or concurrently raise money for multiple causes
 - All fundraising is voluntary
 - Are all students fundraising directly involved in the benefits of the fundraising?
 - Is it possible and appropriate to fund this need through a district budget? This should be a consultation with central office if needed.
 - Class time will not be sacrificed for fund-raising.
 - Transparency of the use(s) intended for funds being collected
 - No fundraising signage on school grounds during school time.
 - Is the money being raised for actual needs that are commensurately appropriate to the time spent by each student?

- Principals report their approved list of fundraisers to the finance subcommittee at the beginning of August and January as well as reports sent on after each fundraiser's completion.

- District should consider / look for opportunities for philanthropic work.

- Superintendent has discretion to allow additional standard approval agreements with consistently contributing organizations and events as well as one-time approvals throughout the year.

Add to KHA
Fundraising

- Long-term organizations (NEF, Athletic Boosters, Alumni Org)
 - PTOs
 - Clubs and teachers
-
- Repeat fundraising should be considered for future budget items. Finance ought to consider those fundraisers being done to make recommendations for budget items.

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

Section K: Community Relations	File: KCD
---------------------------------------	------------------

The Superintendent and School Committee will have authority to choose to accept any gifts and offers of equipment or money from groups outside of the recognized long-term organizations (eg NEF, PTO, Alumni Association) for the schools in the name of the Committee when the gift is valued at more than \$5000. Any gift being made under that value will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

No extensive advertising or promotion may be involved in any donation to the schools without School Committee approval. For the purpose of this policy, "extensive" will mean something that community members can be exposed to both consistently and prominently.

Gifts that would involve changes in school plants or sites will be subject to School Committee approval.

Gifts will automatically become the property of the school system. Any gift of cash, whether or not intended by the donor for a specific purpose, will be accepted by vote of the School Committee, handled as a separate account and expended at the discretion of the Committee, as provided by law.

The Committee directs the Superintendent to assure that an appropriate expression of thanks is given all donors.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:37A](#)

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/2017
Second Reading	11/6/2017
Adopted	11/6/2017
Revised First Reading	12/21/2020
Second/Adopted	

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

Section K: Community Relations

File: KCD

The Superintendent ~~and school committee will~~ will have authority to ~~choose to accept any~~ gifts and offers of equipment ~~or money from groups outside of the recognized long-term organizations (eg NEF, PTO, Alumni Association)~~ for the schools in the name of the Committee when the gift is valued at more than \$5000 ~~of educational value.~~ Any gift being made under that value will be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.

~~No in the case of gifts from industry, business, or special interest groups, no~~ extensive advertising or promotion may be involved in any donation to the schools. ~~without school committee approval.~~ For the purpose of this policy, “extensive” will mean something that community members can be exposed to both consistently and prominently.

Gifts that would involve changes in school plants or sites will be subject to School Committee approval.

Gifts will automatically become the property of the school system. Any gift of cash, whether or not intended by the donor for a specific purpose, will be accepted by vote of the School Committee, handled as a separate account and expended at the discretion of the Committee, as provided by law.

The Committee directs the Superintendent to assure that an appropriate expression of thanks is given all donors.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REF: M.G.L. [71:37A](#)

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/2017
Second Reading	
Adopted	

PUBLIC GIFTS TO THE SCHOOLS

The Superintendent will have authority to accept gifts and offers of equipment for the schools in the name of the School Committee when the gift is of educational value. In the case of gifts from industry, business, or special interest groups, no extensive advertising or promotion may be involved in any donation to the schools.

Gifts that would involve changes in school plants or sites will be subject to School Committee approval.

Gifts will automatically become the property of the school system. Any gift of cash, whether or not intended by the donor for a specific purpose, will be accepted by vote of the School Committee, handled as a separate account and expended at the discretion of the School Committee, as provided by law.

The School Committee directs the Superintendent to assure that an appropriate expression of thanks is given all donors.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:37A](#)

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	10/16/2017
Second Reading	11/6/2017
Adopted	11/6/2017

CROWDFUNDING

Section G: Personnel Policies	File: GBEED
--------------------------------------	--------------------

If any district employee seeks to use a crowd funding campaign to benefit the School district, they must obtain the approval of their building principal. It's important to note that any crowdfunding efforts must be for something that benefits entire classes or groups of students, not the teacher, if it's going to avoid becoming a conflict of interest. Crowdfunding includes the solicitation of goods, services, or money from a large number of people through any physical or electronic medium, including without limitation through any online service or other electronic network such as GoFundMe, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, YouCaring, and DonorsChoose.

SOURCE: MASC February 2018

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:37H](#)

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	5/21/18
Second Reading	6/18/18
Adopted	6/18/18
Revised First Reading	12/21/2020
Second/Adopted	

CROWDFUNDING

Section G: Personnel Policies

File: GBEED

If any district employee seeks to use a crowd funding campaign to benefit the School district, they must obtain the approval of the Superintendent.

SOURCE: MASC February 2018

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. [71:37H](#)

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	5/21/18
Second Reading	6/18/18
Adopted	6/18/18

CROWDFUNDING Section G: Personnel Policies File: GBEBD If any district employee seeks to use a crowd funding campaign to benefit the School district, they must obtain the approval of their building principal. ~~the Superintendent.~~ It's important to note that any crowdfunding efforts must be for something that benefits entire classes or groups of students, not the teacher, if it's going to avoid becoming a conflict of interest. Crowdfunding includes the solicitation of goods, services, or money from a large number of people through any physical or electronic medium, including without limitation through any online service or other electronic network such as GoFundMe, Kickstarter, Indiegogo, YouCaring, and DonorsChoose.

SOURCE: MASC February 2018 LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37H

Version Control Action Date

First Reading 5/21/18

Second Reading 6/18/18

Adopted 6/18/18



masc

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

You know as well as anyone how difficult it is to lead through a pandemic. Every day, you undoubtedly hear from outspoken critics who believe the current State restrictions go too far and should be eased or lifted, and you hear from equally outspoken critics who believe the State has not gone far enough and should impose even tougher restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. For the past nine months, you and your team have had to make incredibly difficult decisions, and you have consistently stated that your actions are always based on the best scientific advice and the latest public health data.

Given your first-hand experience of that enormous leadership challenge, we find it particularly baffling that you do not appear to understand or empathize with the similar circumstances facing the leaders of public school districts throughout Massachusetts.

The members of our two associations – Superintendents and School Committees from across the Commonwealth – have expressed deep disappointment, frustration, and at times outrage at the messaging you have repeatedly delivered in news conferences and in the press, urging school districts to bring more students back to in-person learning. Whenever you issue these blanket statements, many of our members report that they immediately hear from parents, demanding that their students return to school full time, often citing support for their position from the highest elected official in the State.

If only it were that simple. For the past nine months, we have consistently affirmed that we share your belief that children benefit most from in-person learning. No one disputes that remote and hybrid learning pale in comparison to the full experience of students being in school with their teachers and classmates. Throughout the spring and summer, our members worked diligently to devise reopening plans that would bring as many students as possible back into school buildings *within the limitations of the health and safety protocols prescribed by the State*. District leaders, in partnership with families and staff, crafted several plans for a variety of scenarios, and those plans were reviewed and critiqued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. The most challenging requirement – ensuring six feet of social distancing among all children and adults at all times – made it impossible for most schools to return to full in-person learning. As a result, many districts had no option but to begin the school year with hybrid or remote learning models. The conditions that required those decisions in August remain largely the same today. Yet, despite our adherence to the process and guidelines established by your administration, you continue to question why more districts don't simply bring all students back.

What is conspicuously absent from your calls for reopening the schools is any mention of the role teachers' unions have played – and continue to play – in these decisions. In every community across the Commonwealth, reopening plans required the approval of the local teachers' union. School Committees and Superintendents engaged in extensive negotiations with labor leaders to arrive at a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that spelled out, often in painstaking detail, the terms and conditions of each plan. In many cases, districts that were fully prepared to move forward with hybrid models faced such strong resistance from the unions that they had to shift to full remote learning, despite parents' explicit preference for some in-person instruction.

Why then, Governor, when you publicly insist that school districts offer more in-person learning, is that challenge not extended to the teachers' unions, who are often the primary obstacle to that objective?

In fact, the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents asked you in August to provide leadership at the State level to prevent labor unions from stonewalling reopening plans, which you did not support. At any point, you could have convened the leaders of the State's largest teachers' unions to urge their cooperation in providing more in-person teaching and learning, but you have not. Instead, you have relegated that responsibility to local school district leaders – and then disparaged them for not achieving the results you desire. In several communities, union leaders have taken votes of "no confidence" in School Committees and Superintendents over implementation of the reopening plans, but again, these tactics appear to merit no public objection from your office.

Now, more than ever, we need elected officials at all levels of government to deliver a unified message about the complexity of this public health situation and to work together to educate the public about the vast array of variables that must be considered when setting public policy in response to the pandemic. Instead, our members find themselves continuously trying to correct misinformation and educate their constituents about the unique circumstances in each community and the complex set of factors that contributed to the learning model adopted in each district.

As you continue to lead Massachusetts through this ordeal, we respectfully ask that you demonstrate and articulate a more nuanced understanding of the challenges school districts face and the options at our disposal. As always, our members welcome the opportunity to meet with you to collaborate on a statewide strategy to meet the needs of the families and communities we proudly serve.

Sincerely,




Glenn Koocher
Executive Director
Massachusetts Association of School Committees



Deborah Davis
President, MASC
Member, Northeast Metropolitan Vocational
Technical School Committee



Thomas Scott, Ed.D.
Executive Director
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents



Robert N. Baldwin, Ed.D.
President, MASS
Superintendent, Fairhaven Public Schools