

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Library @ High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Brian Callahan, Steve Cole and Breanna Higgins

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held in memory of two former employees: James T. Stehlin, past athletic director and football coach, and past history teacher, Jean Foley Doyle.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

STAFF RECOGNITIONS:

The School Committee recognized the district's crossing guards for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the safety of all Newburyport children and families as they travel to and from school each day: Janet Crump, Frank Crump, Diane Learned, Judith Nelson and Robin Turner.

A short recess was held for congratulations and picture taking.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following Warrant:

Warrant 8081 FY23	\$613,323.39
<u>A-Warrant</u>	<u>\$ 23,573.76</u>
	\$636,897.15

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the April 3, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the April 11, 2023 Special School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins & Juliet Walker abstained

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Seniors Avery Hochheiser and Olivia Hansen provided the student report that included news from the College & Career Center, along with student recognitions, the Belize trip, accomplishments and several happenings at the High School. The full report is included with the minutes.

Proposed 2023-2024 NPS Budget:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided a brief summary of changes reflected in this version of the proposed budget, followed by a review of frequently asked budget questions and a brief look at budget trends from the North Shore school districts.

- This proposal contains a 4.5% City Appropriation, which is lower than the 5.3% originally presented on April 3rd.
- In addition, the overall increase is now at 6.6%, lower than the 7.1% previously proposed.
- Funding for the .5 BCBA positions at the Nock and Molin, the Molin Gr4-5 Language-based teacher, and the Bresnahan Special Ed Teacher has been shifted to funding from Special Education reimbursement (Circuit Breaker).

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the 2023-2024 NPS Budget as presented by the Superintendent, in accordance with Policy DBD – Budget Planning Process.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Reardon	Present
Sarah Hall	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Bruce Menin	Yes
Steve Cole	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes

Motion Passed

2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule (Draft):

- No changes were requested; put forward for a vote possibly on the May 1st meeting.
- Brian Callahan suggested using November 6 as a due date for the public to provide the School Committee with their input of what to include in the budget. Other ideas suggested

by Committee members were to use a survey to obtain public input, hold a workshop, and/or get feedback from School Councils.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

- Brian Callahan reported that FINCOM met two weeks ago mainly about fundraising. The committee would like a full audit of fundraising funds, as well as have a fundraising section on the website.
- District seeks approval to create a separate account in memory of James T. Stehlin.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to create a separate account for the NHS Athletic Dept. to be used for donations received in memory of James T. Stehlin, in accordance with Policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker is working to have changes to Chapters A, B and C ready to present by the May 1st meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- First two meetings of the new Adhoc Superintendent's Advisory Council have gone well.
- The hiring process for a new Bresnahan Assistant Principal is complete, and the Superintendent will introduce Ms. Allison Byrnes at the May 1st meeting.
- A second cohort of teachers are learning iPad technology and developing new instructional technologies.
- A group of High School teachers attended a virtual reality course with XR Terra. The Superintendent would like to schedule a vendor presentation to the School Committee by the end of the year.
- Mid-year assessment data for grades K-8 will be presented at the May 15th meeting.
- The Superintendent will provide an Apple 1:1 program update at the May 1st meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There will be a Special School Committee Business meeting at 6:30PM on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the Senior/Community Center
- The June 20th School Committee Business meeting may conflict with a City Council meeting on the same night. This meeting "may" need to be cancelled.
- The Peace Awards will be held live on May 25, 2023 from 6:00 – 7:30PM at the City Auditorium. Nominations forms have been distributed and are due by May 15th.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:05 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously