

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, May 1, 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:

Mayor Sean Reardon 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS:

The School Committee recognized seven high school students for their volunteer work helping the Newburyport Human Rights Commission with set up & cleanup for the Community IFTAR held at the high school on March 28th. Grade 9 = Catherine Duchesne, Lily DeJordy, Charlotte Kealey, Miguel Nye, and Audrey Powers; Grade 10 = Maya LaRosa and Devon Davis.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL:

- Allison Byrnes was introduced as the new Assistant Principal at the Bresnahan Elementary School. Allison currently works for the district as a Math Instructional Coach and has over 15 years working in education.

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 8084 FY23	\$355,252.11
<u>A-Warrant</u>	<u>\$ 54,325.02</u>
	\$409,577.13

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the April 25, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the April 27, 2023 Special School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed

Sarah Hall abstained

Equity in Action Network Presentation (DESE Sponsored Program):

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher explained that Newburyport Public Schools is honored to be selected as one of 13 districts to participate in this yearlong working group. He reviewed DESE's goals for this program, as well as the connection to the district's goals.
- Dr. Tom Abrams is leading this group made up of grade 6-12 English / Language Arts teachers, as well as administrators. For one year, the team will attend monthly webinars / workshops, collaborate with other districts and develop self-assessments and action plans. The group will craft a vision of equity statement and analyze curriculum based on that vision. Dr. Abrams shared a draft version of their vision of equity statement.
- Novak Education/DESE consultant, Pam Chu-Sheriff, visited over 30 classrooms throughout the district in March, and was very complimentary of the range of curriculum materials and diversity of instructional practices. Dr. Abrams stated that she was very impressed with our students, noting they were happy and engaged with staff.
- A meeting will be planned in June to develop an action plan and close any gaps.

2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule:

- No changes were recommended to the meeting schedule presented.
- Sarah Hall suggested that ideas to obtain the community's input on meeting topics can be discussed at the summer retreat.

Motion:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to accept the 2023-2024 School Committee Meeting Schedule as presented, in accordance with Policy BE – School Committee Meetings.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

- Brian Callahan said the next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 11th.

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker reviewed proposed changes to NPS Policy Chapters A-B-C, based on the recent review completed by the Policy Subcommittee with MASC. Juliet will complete any additional revisions to these policies in time to present them for a 2nd reading and vote at the meeting on May 15. If necessary, additional minor revisions can be proposed at the May 15th meeting.

- Section A: Foundations & Basic Commitments Changes
 - * New Policies: ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
ADC: Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited
ADDA-R: DCNIS Model CORI Policy
 - * Replacements: AC-A with AC
AC-B with AC-R
AC-C with ACE
AA-B with AD
 - * Juliet will find out why AC and AC-R have the same titles.
- Section B: Board Governance & Operations Changes
 - * New Policies: BBA/BBB: Member Qualifications/Oath of Office
BBC: School Committee Member Resignation
BBBE: Unexpired Term Fulfillment
BDFA-E: School Improvement Plan
BGF: Suspension of Policies
BIBA: School Committee Conferences Conventions and Workshops
 - * Replacements: BCB with MASC's BCA
BCA with MASC's BDA
 - * BDB: Juliet will also change the last sentence on page 1 (him/her to them)
 - * BDE - Subcommittees of the School Committee: Subcommittee Chairs need to review the policy and subcommittee descriptions. Notify Juliet of any changes.
 - * BE: Juliet will check her notes regarding "Bullet # C may be problematic."
 - * BEDF - Voting Method: pending; Juliet will check with MASC Representative.
 - * BEDH - Public Comment: Juliet will obtain clarification on item #4.
- Section C: General School Administration Changes
 - * New Policies: CBD: Superintendent Contract
 - * Replacements: CBB with CB
CHA & CHC combine into CHA/CHC
 - * Delete: CL – Administration Reports

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee:

- Bruce Menin stated they will meet in the next week or so.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Walker Associates has observed 20 special education classrooms to date and have held various focus groups with building administration, teachers, related service providers and IA's from all four schools. Walker Associates plan to finish their work in the district this week, and will submit their findings in the next few weeks.

- Superintendent Gallagher reported that 321 students in grades 8 thru 11 have purchased Apple iPads to date, as well as five staff members. He may extend the deadline by a few days to ensure families have the opportunity to place their order.
- Highlights of recent/upcoming events was provided by Superintendent Gallagher.

NEW BUSINESS:

- * Brian Callahan provided an update of the recent chess tournament at the high school.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
at 7:44 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously