

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, August 21, 2023

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

Absent: Sarah Hall

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 6:32 PM. Roll call found all members present, except Sarah Hall. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

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 8093 FY24	\$874,067.93
Warrant 8094 FY23	<u>\$ 30,076.06</u>
	\$904,143.99

Motion Passed
Sarah Hall absent

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the August 7, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed
Sarah Hall absent

PROPOSED EXPANSION NOCK TENNIS COURTS

- Representatives for Friends of Newburyport Tennis provided a summary for a proposed Phase II tennis court renovation project at Nock Middle School. They are seeking approval to begin fundraising for this project which would include three additional tennis courts on unused field space at the Nock.

Motion:

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

VOTED: that the School Committee vote in support of Friends of Newburyport Tennis to begin fundraising for tennis courts on the Nock school property.

Motion Passed

Sarah Hall absent

SECURITY UPGRADES

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed various security upgrades in progress and/or recently completed throughout the district. He also provided an update regarding several upgrades being done in each facility (i.e. lighting, fencing, elevator), as well as safety inspections and services completed over the summer.
- Juliet Walker suggested that a special projects page be added to the website as it would be useful to keep track of work being done in the district (i.e. gym roof, integrated arts space project etc).

IPAD PROGRAM UPDATE

- Lisa Furlong, Director of Communications & Technology, stated that 400 iPads have been ordered and approximately 80 iPads still need to be picked up by students. Currently, there are only three on a waitlist. She also provided an update regarding the summer professional development workshops, the new ticketing system and the updated iPad Management information on the Technology page of the district's website.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

- Brian Callahan stated the committee met on Friday, August 18th, and primarily discussed Athletic fundraising, revising the fundraising permission form and using "forms" rather than a form to create an electronic database. It was suggested that the School Committee be given a monthly update on fundraising requests, as well as possibly having an online fundraising database and quarterly audits.
- Brian Callahan and Business Manager Phil Littlehale agreed that a warrant summary page can will be included in the packet, and a detailed warrant report will be available electronically for viewing and signatures.
- Juliet Walker would like to see a periodic summary of fundraising. In addition, she will send the fundraising policies to Brian (policies KCE and KHA).

Policy Subcommittee:

- The next group of revised policies will be ready for a first reading by the School Committee at the September 5th meeting. The Policy Subcommittee will meet next on September 11th.
- Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes to policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings. (second reading). The last sentence in bullet three requires no changes. The last three words in bullet four need to be removed. Juliet stated that Sarah Hall will develop a statement to be read at the beginning of public comment.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Steve Cole it was proposed

VOTED: to adopt the new policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings as presented with revision to bullet #4 (remove the last words, “*or contains obscenities*”).

Motion Passed

Sarah Hall absent

Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee:

- Bruce Menin reported the evaluations have been submitted and are completed. Bruce will meet with Assistant Superintendent LisaMarie Ippolito to tabulate the comments and ratings in preparation of the next meeting on September 5th.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher shared information regarding the upcoming 3-day Leadership Retreat and New Teacher Mentoring program, as well as staff professional development and various student programs that took place over the summer.
- The custodian and maintenance departments have worked all summer preparing the school buildings and grounds for the new school year, and the Superintendent thanked them for their efforts and hard work.
- He invited the School Committee to the opening day assembly for staff at 8 a.m. in the Nock auditorium on September 5th. The keynote speaker will be Rick Wormeli, nationally board certified teacher, presenter and well-known author.
- The Superintendent will provide a hiring update at the September 5th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Mayor Sean Reardon announced that Mr. Haviland, Newburyport representative for the Whittier School Committee, submitted his resignation letter.

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 7:23 PM.

Motion Passed

Sarah Hall absent