

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee & Central Office
Business Meeting & Summer Workshop/Retreat

Monday, August 7, 2023

NHS Library

4:00 – 8:00PM

Business Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. *Consent Agenda (6-5-2023 minutes) (attached) – *possible Vote*
3. *School Choice - Kindergarten – *possible Vote*

*Possible Vote

Adjournment

Summer Workshop/Retreat Agenda:

1. Welcome & Opening Comments (Mayor Sean Reardon & Sarah Hall)
2. Strategic Plan Update <https://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/domain/18>
 - a. Superintendent's Goals
 - b. School Committee Goals
3. Superintendent's Evaluation Update
4. Assessment Data Presentation Planning
5. Review process for warrant approval
6. Public Comment At School Committee Meetings Policy (BEDH) (attached)
7. Community budget input - ideas

Adjourn - 8:00PM

Dinner at 5:30PM

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, June 5, 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.

At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Hochheiser, 2 Forrester Street: (1) Thank you to all the NHS staff who did extra work for the seniors related to scholarships, college and the admissions process. (2) He feels restricting public comment would be a step backwards; keep the door open. (3) Communication is important and receiving more than 2 emails per month from the School Committee would be a step forward. (4) Finally, he is in favor of reinstating the Foreign Language Committee and offering an AP Spanish course.

RECOGNITIONS:

On behalf of the Human Rights Commission, Bruce Menin shared the winners of the 19th Annual Peace Prize awards: Gretalise Trefalt-Liu and Cole Wilson (Bresnahan), Kernan Farrell and Brock Ritter (Molin), Zachary Bell and Juliette DePasqua (Nock), Sasha Leydon and Jasmine Al Khatib (NHS), Declan McCarty and Ailsa Carmisciano (IC), Cady Seaton (RVC), and adult winners Prince Boateng and The Wolfe Club.

Six retiring staff members were recognized for their many years of dedicated service to Newburyport Public Schools: Lauren Eramo, Michelle MacDougall, Dianna Ouellette, Janis Pollard, Anne Larnard, and Nancy Stanwood.

A short recess was held for congratulations and picture taking.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8086 FY23	\$462,263.85
A-Warrant	<u>\$263,783.70</u>
	\$726,047.55

Motion Passed

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the March 6, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the May 15, 2023 School Committee Business meeting with changes.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole abstained

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

Brian Callahan said they met on Thursday, May 18th. Athletic fundraising was discussed. They would like to have the ability to track funds and how they are spent. This will be discussed further at the next meeting on June 15th.

Policy Subcommittee:

The next meeting will be held at 6PM on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 in the Nock Library. Policy sections G & H will be reviewed, as well as going back over sections D, E and F.

Policy BDE

Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes to policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee (second reading).

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to Policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee as presented.

Motion Passed

Policy BEDH

Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes to rules 1 & 3 of policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings (second reading).

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings as presented.

The proposed changes to the language in rules 1 and 3 policy BEDH were discussed, along with suggestions and possible legalities.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to modify the previous motion to table changes to policy BEDH – Public Comment at School Committee Meetings to a future meeting until they can obtain additional input from legal counsel.

Policy CBI

Juliet Walker and Bruce Menin explained the proposed changes to policy CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent (second reading).

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes to policy CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent.

Motion Passed

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:

Sailbot: The 15th Annual Sailbot Competition is underway and is being hosted by Newburyport High School at Lake Attitash in Amesbury. Sean Gallagher reviewed the list of participants, as well as some of the events.

K-8 Assessment Data Follow Up: Sean Gallagher provided a brief summary of answers to follow up questions related to the District’s recent K-8 Assessment Data presentation. The follow up question list will be posted on the website with the assessment presentation.

Technology Update: The iPad 1:1 Program is going well. The Superintendent reported that over 350 NHS students are currently participating, along with 15 staff members. Several professional development activities are scheduled for the summer. In addition, a tech integrator position has been advertised. The Superintendent would like to complete a family technology survey next year. It was suggested that a technology presentation be provided at the first school committee meeting that covers safety features, as well as each school’s technology policies.

School Choice Update: Overall, 55 of 77 school choice slots have been filled as of June 1, 2023. At this time there are currently no plans to offer school choice or tuition paid programs for either kindergarten or City employees for the 2023-2024 school year. Superintendent Gallagher stated kindergarten enrollments typically occur throughout the summer months. He will monitor those numbers, as well as first grade enrollments.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cancel the School Committee Business meeting on June 20, 2023 as the City Council has scheduled a special meeting the same evening to vote on the budget.
- The School Committee Retreat will be held on Monday, August 7, 2023 from 4PM-8PM. Send any agenda ideas to Sarah Hall.
- Superintendent Sean Gallagher thanked everyone involved for the amazing rally of help to complete all the facility, streaming and sound preparations needed for the indoor graduation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:35 PM.

Motion Passed

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Section B: School Committee Governance and Operations

File: BEDH

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee encourages public attendance at and participation in its meetings and will designate time in each agenda for public comment.

In order that all citizens who wish to be heard before the Committee have a chance and to ensure the ability of the Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals or group representatives will be invited to address the Committee. The Chairperson shall determine the length of the public participation segment and read the following statement:

The School Committee invites members of the public to offer Public Comment, a welcome and important part of our work. Speakers are allowed up to two minutes for comments. Comments longer than two minutes may be submitted to the district office in writing for inclusion into the minutes of the meeting.

We expect and encourage civility; any remarks that are defamatory or abusive are always considered out of order and the Chairperson may terminate an individual's privilege of address on that basis. We ask all speakers to respect the following guidelines:

- Speakers may offer objective criticism of and/or ideas for school operations and programs on the agenda.**
- **Please refrain from complaints about specific school personnel or members of the school community.**
- **Finally, we request that no student names or any identifying information be offered as that would violate the student's right to privacy.**

Thank you.

2. Speakers will be allowed two (2) minutes to present their material. The presiding Chairperson may permit extension of this time limit.
3. Improper conduct and remarks will not be allowed. Defamatory or abusive remarks are always out of order. If a speaker persists in improper conduct or remarks, the Chairperson may terminate that individual's privilege of address.
4. All remarks will be addressed through the Chairperson of the meeting.
5. Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of the school operations and programs as concern them, but

in public sessions the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community. Under most circumstances, administrative channels are the proper means for disposition of legitimate complaints involving staff members.

- 6 Written comments longer than two (2) minutes may be presented to the Committee before or after the meeting for the Committee members' review and consideration at an appropriate time.

Sources:

MASC

Version Control

Action	Date
First Reading	7/22/2016
Second Reading	9/6/2016
Adopted	9/6/2016
Revised	8/3/2020
Revised	6/21/2021
Revised	12/20/21

Proposed insertions shown in **bold**, deletions shown in ~~strike through~~.

PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All regular and special meetings of the School Committee shall be open to the public. Executive sessions will be held only as prescribed by the Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The School Committee desires individuals to attend its meetings so that they may become better acquainted with the operations and the programs of our local public schools. In addition, the Committee would like the opportunity to hear public comment.

Public comment is not a discussion, debate, or dialogue between individuals and the School Committee. It is an individual's opportunity to express an opinion on issues within the School Committee's authority.

To ensure the ability of the School Committee to conduct the District's business in an orderly manner, the following rules and procedures are adopted:

1. At the start of each regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, individuals will sign in for an opportunity to speak during public comment. ~~The public comment segment shall not exceed 15 minutes.~~ All speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner
2. Speakers will be allowed up to two (2) minutes to present their material and must begin their comments by stating their name and city/town. The presiding Chair may permit extension of this time limit, in extenuating circumstances.
3. ~~Topics for discussion should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority.~~ **Topics for public comment should be limited to those items within the School Committee's scope of authority and ideally will address items on the business meeting agenda.** The authority of the School Committee primarily concerns the review and approval of the budget of the district's public schools, the performance of the Superintendent, and the educational goals and policies of the district's public schools. Comments and complaints regarding school personnel (apart from the Superintendent) or students are generally prohibited unless those comments and complaints concern matters within the scope of School Committee authority.
4. The Chair of the meeting, after a warning, reserves the right to terminate speech which is not constitutionally protected because it constitutes true threats that are likely to provoke a violent reaction and cause a breach of the peace, or incitement to imminent lawless conduct, or contains obscenities.
5. Written comments longer than two (2) minutes may be presented to the presiding Chair before or after the meeting. All remarks will be addressed through the Chair of the meeting. Comments made during the public comment portion of the meeting do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Newburyport School Committee.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 30A: 18-25

CROSS REFS: BE, SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
BEC, EXECUTIVE SESSIONS
BEDA, NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS