

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

Monday, June 17, 2024

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Andrew Boger, Brian Callahan, and Kathleen Shaw
Absent: 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, except Breanna Higgins. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

Public Comments

Crystal Eldridge, 12 Munroe Street

Special Recognition

On behalf of the district, Superintendent Sean Gallagher expressed his gratitude for Deb O'Connor's contributions to Newburyport Public Schools over the past five years.

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

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

Warrant 8119	\$295,249.95
A-Warrant	\$ <u>27,592.71</u>
	\$322,842.66

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Andy Boger it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2024 School Committee Business meeting with the following corrections: (1) fix Andy Boger’s name on all the votes and (2) add Sarah Hall’s last name to the statement on page 3 (communications).

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Student Representative Report

Lizzy Homer provided the student report which included Survivor Day at the Molin and Stewardship Projects completed by the NHS AP Environmental students.

Integrated Arts Video Lab Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher stated the district is excited to continue the partnership with the NEF on this project. Phase I focused on the redesign of the NHS video arts lab which will be on the first floor by the cafe. Bi-weekly meetings are being held with the architecture firm, Harriman, and will continue through the summer. Final plans are expected in August.

DESE Coordinated Review Presentation

Special Education Director Deb O’Connor presented the findings of the Tiered Focused Monitoring conducted by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). Deb explained the various steps in the process, including steps of the self-assessment phase, on-site verification, legal standings, and civil rights criteria. Ms. O’Connor explained the findings in the draft report and the corrective action plan.

Revise School Committee Meeting Schedule 2024-2025

Sarah Hall recommended revising the School Committee meeting calendar to move the Retreat from Monday, August 5 to Monday, August 19th, and keeping the August 5th date as a regular business meeting.

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to accept the revision to the school committee calendar.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan reported that FINCOM met on June 13. Minutes were approved and the bus contract, budget transfers, Class of 2024 Student Activity account and recent Budget-Finance City Council meeting were discussed. Brian Callahan and Juliet Walker will follow up with the Superintendent by next school year regarding any action items related to the Fundraising Report.

Policy Subcommittee

Juliet Walker stated they met on June 10th. They will have policy changes ready for a first reading by the first regular business meeting in August or by September. In addition, there may be discussions in the future regarding creating a policy for hosting off-school events. (i.e. athletic banquets)

Communications Subcommittee – no meeting

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sean Gallagher discussed the following:

English Language Learners Family Breakfast: The district EL team, Lisa Furlong and the Superintendent were able to gather with the EL families for breakfast at the high school. The Superintendent thanked the EL team for their efforts organizing this wonderful year end event.

NEF Ed Awards: Along with the announcement of the Ed Awards to business members, several NPS retirees were recognized by the NEF for their years of service to the school department.

End of Year Activities: The end of the school year was very busy with many activities such as Student Led Conferences at the Nock, the high school's Favorite Poem Project, display of AP History Group projects at the high school, 8th Grade Class Day, and the Molin awards.

Budget & Finance City Council Subcommittee meeting: The Superintendent thanked Facilities Director James McSweeney for his efforts preparing/presenting three items of the capital plan to the Budget & Finance Committee (911 system upgrade, AC upgrade in the Bresnahan server room, and maintenance truck replacement).

Greenlight Grant: Superintendent Gallagher thanked Dr. Anne Papagiotas, Jim Antonelli and Lisa Furlong for their efforts finalizing / submitting the grant application. He also thanked DA Paul Tucker for providing a letter of support. This grant is security upgrade related and applicants could receive up to \$500K. Results will not be known until September.

Harriman Architect: Meetings continue to be held bi-weekly. The Superintendent will share the 3D design visuals, costs and NEF contribution information once they become available.

New Business - none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:37 PM.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins

Student Report for School Committee

June 17, 2024

Submitted by: Lizzy Homer
Location – Senior Center

Molin News:

Survivor Day was a success! Thank you to all the volunteers.
Mrs. Kusser's 5th grade class won the PBIS Kickball Championship.

NHS News:

AP Environmental students wrapped up their Stewardship Projects. Students built and installed 4 finch birdhouses on Campus, planted a sugar maple on High St, and worked with elementary students on recycling and endangered species.

Sugar Maple: Finn and Silas Brennan, Josh Lucey, Casey Garinger and Connor McGovern

Birdhouses: Finn McNeil, Jackson Padden, JT Kench and Will Martellucci