

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, November 18, 2024

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Brian Callahan, Kathleen Shaw, Andy Boger 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 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present, except late arrivals Andy Boger (6:35 PM) and Breanna Higgins (6:38 PM) All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

Public Comments: none

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8136	\$728,759.03
A-Warrant	\$ <u>12,023.92</u>
	\$740,782.95

Motion Passed

(note: Final vote was held to later in the meeting to allow all members time to review warrant details due to higher than usual total.)

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the November 4, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon abstained

Breanna Higgins absent for vote

Student Representative Report

Maddie Jackman presented the student report that included announcement of the Bresnahan Community Service Club, Discovery Friday’s at the Molin, high school auditions for Northeastern District and junior class workshops with Katie Greer. (report attached)

High School Water Heater Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Facilities Director James McSweeney explained the situation with the water heater. In summary, the 750 gallon, 20+ year old had failure to the internal combustion chamber, leaked everywhere and the water heater is not salvageable. James stated a replacement will cost appx. \$160K, which would include replacement, removing old heater, and labor/installation costs. As this falls under emergency protocols, a bid process is not required. Mayor Reardon suggested all department funds be exhausted prior to going to the City, and suggested using School Choice funds if they were available. Superintendent Sean Gallagher will check with legal to confirm if this project would be in compliance with use of School Choice funds.

MCAS Presentations

Superintendent Gallagher, Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong, Literacy Coordinator Dr. Tom Abrams, and Vertical Data Team members reviewed the spring 2024 MCAS Report. Building principals led the MCAS review for each school, along with their Instructional Leadership Team members. They began with a school-level overview, followed by specific action steps and teacher goals, as well as a review of accomplishments, weaknesses and action steps for each subject matter in various grade levels.

Business Manager Hiring Process

HR Director Pam Kealey discussed two types of hiring process options that the School Committee could follow, as well as ideas for the screening committee. She will include the proposed options and the business manager job description in the packet for the next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan reported the committee discussed athletic fees and plans to review the fees for next year. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12th.

Policy Subcommittee

2nd Read

Juliet Walker reviewed recommended revisions to existing policies KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools, and BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee members and presented a new policy EHAA – District Security Relating to Technology.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve policy KCD – Public Gifts to the Schools as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve policy BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt policy EHAA – District Security Relating to Technology as presented.

Motion Passed**1st Read**

Juliet Walker reviewed three new policies: EHB – Data and Records Retention, IJNDB – Use of Technology in Instruction and JICJ – Student Use of Technology in Schools.

Communications Subcommittee

Andy Boger reported the next meeting will be held on November 19, 2024.

Superintendent's Report

Wall of Fame: The Superintendent recently attended the Wall of Fame ceremony. Patrick McAniff and Harley Davis were this year's inductees.

Vertical Team Data Cycles: Superintendent Gallagher thanked the teachers and administrators on the Vertical Data Team for all their work and the tremendous collaboration on tonight's presentation.

Community and School Events: The Superintendent noted that the recent annual NEF auction was a great success. In addition, each of the schools did an amazing job honoring our local veterans at various assemblies.

Follow-up

MASC Resolutions & Conference Overview: Vice Chair Sarah Hall reported all ten resolutions passed. In addition, Andy Boger, Juliet Walker, and Sarah Hall shared highlights from various sessions they attended during the conference.

SEPAC: Kathleen Shaw reported there was nice attendance at SEPAC meeting held on November 14th. Elections for Co-chairs was held. The next meeting will be on December 10th.

Hybrid Meeting Format: Mayor Reardon stated January will be the target date to begin hybrid meetings, and that all city departments run their own meetings. Brian Callahan has tested the equipment and will bring the Owl and adapter to Central Office. The school district needs to pay for the additional Zoom licensure. The Mayor will find out where the city's Zoom recordings reside.

New Business:

Juliet Walker thanked all the teachers for the great job they do teaching the students, as well as the staff and administrators for all their support.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
at 9:31PM.

Motion Passed

Submitted by:

Location: NHS Library

Bresnahan News:

The Bresnahan Community Service Club is up and running with almost 40 3rd grade participants. Earlier this month, they met after-school with representatives from Our Neighbors Table to learn how they can help address food insecurity in our community. The Bresnahan Community Service Club is led by NHS Sophomore, Logan MacKnight (and supported by 3rd grade teacher, Marianne Gasbarro). We are wrapping up our first session of Clipper Courses. Sign ups for the next session will be communicated to families via Weekly Wednesday. We are proud to have apx 115 students benefit from our free, after school programming. 2nd graders are preparing for their Macy's Day Parade next Tuesday. After reading the book "Balloons over Broadway," and discussing traditions that families and communities have, students are working hard to create their own float representing traditions they cherish. 2nd Grade Families are invited to attend and watch the parade!

Molin News:

Molin students had the second Discovery Friday on the 15th (and will have on the 22nd). This month's Discovery activities focused on robotics and coding. We had high school students from the robotics club join in to lead and work with our 4th and 5th graders. We've noticed these Fridays give students a chance to shine and show their strengths in different ways. Molin is having a Fall Food and Toiletry drive to benefit Pettengill House and Newbury Food Pantry. Second Step lessons begin the week of December 2. The first unit is "Empathy and Skills for Learning".

High School News:

This past weekend the NHS music teachers brought 8 musicians to audition for the Northeastern district senior band, chorus, and orchestra festival. Five of our students were accepted, and will perform in a concert along with the best musicians from 70 area schools! Congratulations to Josh Burrell, Evan Lagueux, Sam Parr, Max Piotrowski, and Cedar

Schumacher. On behalf of Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Wulf, and the entire NHS staff, their music teachers Risa Anniccharico, Kathy Sheperd, and Steve Cohen congratulate these fantastic student musicians and their parents.

Last Thursday, Katie Greer spent the day with the juniors. Working with groups of about 40 students at a time, she helped them reflect on their social media habits while also learning of the dangers and legal implications that have resulted from inappropriate use of cellular devices. Her workshops supported instruction and dialogues teachers have facilitated with grade 11 students around the book, [Accountable](#), by Daska Slater.

If you didn't have a chance to see the Play That Goes Wrong this past weekend. There are 3 more showings at the high school. This Thursday and Friday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 2:00 PM.

Congratulations to the following student athletes who signed their letters of intent last week to the schools they have accepted.

- Reese Bromby - UMass Amherst - Lacrosse
- Lucy Buchmayr - Washington and Lee University - Track
- Edward Caron - St. Lawrence - Football
- Ciera Geraghty - Bates College - Field Hockey
- Alexis Greenblot - Marist University - Soccer
- Brian Lucey - St. Anselm - Lacrosse
- Evan Luekens - Roger Williams - Baseball
- Devin Stroope - US Naval Academy - Track