

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

Monday, October 7, 2024

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Andrew Boger, Brian Callahan, Kathleen Shaw 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 point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

Public Comments

Meghan McDonald, 8 Salem Street / cell phones
Amy LeBlanc, 18 Woodman Way / MCAS
Mary Byrnes, 29 Wildwood Drive / cell phones
Deborah Mousley, 126 Merrimac Street / MCAS

Student Recognitions

The annual MASC Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence award was presented to senior Molly Grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8131	\$420,915.98
Warrant 8132	\$ 32,478.23
A-Warrant	\$ <u>6,030.94</u>
	\$459,425.15

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Student Representatives and Student Report

Madeleine Jackman (grade 11) and Logan MacKnight (grade 10) were introduced as new student representatives.

Theo Roberts presented the student report that included the Bresnahan's "walk to learn" program, the Nock's grade 7 trip to Sandy Point Reservation, as well as various academic and athletic achievements of Nock and NHS students. (attached)

Student Activity Account Request

The high school requested a new student activity account for Fine Arts, which will be used for monies raised from fundraising, field trip monies collected, and paying invoice for Fine Arts field trips.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to create a student activities account for Fine Arts in accordance to Policy JJF – Student Activity Account.

Motion Passed

NPS District Goals

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the status of the 2023-2024 district goals. He also explained the four areas of district goals for 2024-2025: Professional Learning, Student Learning, School Improvement and District Improvement.

Breanna Higgins and Juliet Walker would like to see more details on each goal that defines how success is measured.

Consideration of Free Admission to all School Sponsored Events for NPS Students

SC Members discussed whether or not there was an interest in free admission for students to attend school sponsored activities. Brian Callahan suggested the topic be discussed at the next FINCOM meeting.

Designate a MASC Conference Delegate

Motion:

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

VOTED: to nominate Sarah Hall as the official delegate at the MASC annual business meeting, and Juliet Walker as the alternative delegate.

Motion Passed

Review MASC Resolutions

Juliet Walker explained the amendment form, as well as the voting process followed at the MASC annual meeting. SC Members discussed MASC Resolutions 1 through 5, and voted as follows:

MASC Resolution 1: Development of an alternative to the high stakes MCAS test

Motion:

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

VOTED: to empower the delegate to consider the School Committee's discussion when voting on this resolution.

Motion Passed

MASC Resolution 2: Increase compulsory attendance age

Motion:

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

VOTED: to vote NO on Resolution #2.

Motion Passed

MASC Resolution 3: Safe storage of firearms

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Andy Boger it was

VOTED: to vote YES on Resolution #3.

Motion Passed

MASC Resolution 4: School bus stop arm surveillance act and enforcement penalties

Motion:

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

VOTED: to vote YES on Resolution #4.

Motion Passed

MASC Resolution 5: Aligning taxing authority with the required local contribution

Motion:

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

VOTED: to empower the delegate (Sarah Hall) to make a decision based on the School Committee's discussion.

Motion Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan reported that FINCOM's October 17th meeting has been rescheduled to October 10th.

Policy Subcommittee

Juliet Walker reviewed proposed second reading changes to policies DBJ, GBEED, JJE and KF.

Policy DBJ: Budget Transfer Authority

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes.

Motion Passed

Policy GBEBD Crowdfunding

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed changes.

Motion Passed

Policy JJE Student Fund-Raising

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Andy Boger it was

VOTED: to accept the new changes to the policy.

Motion Passed

Policy KF Community Use of School Facilities

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to accept the new version of the policy.

Motion Passed

Policy KF-R Rules for Use of Newburyport Public School Facilities

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to accept the new version of the policy with amendments (#3 – remove the list and add Facilities Director.)

Motion Passed

Communications Subcommittee

Andy Boger reported the committee met last week and talked about the budget process, as well as the structure of the upcoming budget forum.

Superintendent's Report

Bus Ridership: Superintendent Sean Gallagher reported bus ridership is currently 1,125 students.

GoFan: A summary of the GoFan app features was provided by Superintendent Gallagher. Juliet Walker is concerned that GoFan keeps \$1.00 per ticket sale, and there seems to be no method of printing a ticket. The Superintendent will look into this further, and FINCOM will look at the % of cash vrs credit vrs GoFan transactions.

CISL Dates: The first CISL meeting will take place on October 28th at 6:00PM.

Business Manager Update: Phil Littlehale has resigned to go to another district. Superintendent Sean Gallagher will coordinate a start date and transition plan.

Negotiations IBB Training Workshop: The NTA and NPS Administrative negotiation teams recently completed IBB training with facilitator Beth Kaake. The IA team are scheduled for training also.

New Business

SEPAC: Recently held a meeting online that was attended by five people. A survey will be going out, and they are working on a meet & greet for Special Education Administration.

Afterschool Care: Parents looking for afterschool care are encouraged to look into the program at the local Boys & Girls Club. In addition, the Superintendent is still speaking about afterschool care options with Andi Egmont.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Juliet Walker it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:42 PM and move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible contract negotiations and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in open session.

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote

School Committee Member	Vote
Mayor Sean Reardon	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes

Newburyport School Committee - Student Report

October 7, 2024

--

The Bresnahan School is currently building upon its goals of striving for excellence in teaching and learning by encouraging educators to experiment with new methods of exploration, research and material implementation. Notably, members of the 2nd grade team are piloting a “walk to learn” program during the literacy block this trimester. Members from the K through 5 teams are also attending a class on playful learning using the book *Pedagogy of Play* published by Harvard University. PE teachers are also outlining a new recess model in which students can choose activities that reflect their “zone” or mood level of the day. This might involve more mindful/calm activities or more energetic/playful activities. The Bresnahan is looking forward to evaluating the efficacy of all of these new education models.

7th Grade students at the Nock Middle School recently returned from their first PBE trip to the Sandy Point Reservation, where they worked alongside Mass Audubon to explore the wildlife and ecosystem. The next PBE trip will take place at Maudslay State Park next week. The Nock will also be hosting a Jack-O-Lantern night on October 29th to foster community enjoyment and celebration of the season. I would also like to congratulate the middle school Cross Country and Field Hockey teams on their hard work and dedication so far this athletic season.

On Thursday, the High School will administer the PSAT/NMSQT to all sophomores and juniors. I would like to thank the School Council, School Committee and NEF for their dedication to developing this program as a part of the high school’s post-secondary planning process. Additionally, three students from last year’s exam have been named Commended Students by the College Board and the National Merit Program due to their scoring in the top 3 percent of all test-takers. Congratulations to Andrew Hall, Callum Johnson and Cedar Schumacher!

Finally, the NHS Boys and Girls Varsity Athletic teams competed in the ALS Cup on Saturday, both winning against Pentucket! All athletic teams have also taken part in the ALS Ice Bucket challenge to help raise awareness and donations.