

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

Monday, September 16, 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

Moray Wilson, 13 Lucey Drive
Sara Collins, 39 Daniel Lucey Way
Laura Wentworth, 11 Willow Avenue

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 8129	\$426,655.37
Warrant 8130	\$ 1,833.37
A-Warrant	\$ <u>8,623.88</u>
	\$437,112.62

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the June 17, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon abstained

Student Representative Report

Theo Roberts presented the student report which included composting at the Bresnahan, an announcement of the new book vending machine at the Molin, a recent visit from a NE Patriot's player at a Nock student assembly, and the high school's recent German exchange trip. (attached)

Overnight Field Trip Grade 8 – Philadelphia

Principal Nick Markos reviewed the proposed purpose, itinerary and cost for the grade 8 overnight trip to Philadelphia scheduled for May 2025. Accessibility for some activities is still being worked out. The date of the trip will be just before or after Memorial Day weekend. Two fundraisers are being planned to help offset costs. Committee members inquired about why students do not attend, financial assistance and accessibility to all activities for all students.

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Juliet Walker it was

VOTED: to approve the overnight field trip to Philadelphia in accordance with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

NHS Overnight Field Trip New York City

Principal Andy Wulf reviewed the proposed purpose, itinerary and cost for the high school overnight trip to New York City scheduled for February 2025. He also reviewed participation and financial numbers of past overnight trips. Committee members inquired about outreach, scholarships and financial assistance, dietary needs and accessibility needs for all students.

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to approve the overnight field trip to New York City in accordance with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

Nock Music Lab Update

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided an update regarding the recent renovations to the Nock Music Lab. He thanked the NEF for sponsoring over \$50K for new technology in the music lab. The Superintendent also thanked James McSweeney and Matt Gallant for their work installing the new counters. Pictures showed the new teacher station at the front of the class, along with nice wide aisles that can accommodate a wheel chair. He also thanked the high school summer help for the great job they did painting the room.
- Juliet Walker commented, that in the future, it would be helpful to also learn how these types of investments benefit the district (i.e. quantify # of students benefitted, any increase in music classes, performance etc.)

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan reported that FINCOM's next meeting will be held on October 17. They will discuss NYS agreement with Athletics (i.e. rental fees).

Policy Subcommittee

Juliet Walker reviewed proposed first reading changes to policies DBJ, GBEBD, JJE, JJF, and KF. All will move forward for a 2nd reading except as follows:

- JJF – Student Activity Accounts policy hold until Phil Littlehale receives feedback from consultants, and discuss at the October 17th FINCOM meeting.
- Item 14 in Policy KF-R (field use hours) can be waived. Juliet Walker will bring this forward at the next meeting. Brian Callahan mentioned an old sign on Summit Place that would need to be taken down (i.e. field hours).
- Brian Callahan suggested rental fee schedules (mentioned in item #7 on Policy KF - Community Use of School Facilities) could be reviewed at the beginning of each year. Mayor Reardon suggested fees could be part of the budget process.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall explained that the School Committee Facebook page has not been used in approximately two years. Though the page is inactive, previous content is subject to Open Meeting Laws. Brian Callahan archived the records.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve deletion of the School Committee Facebook account in accordance with Policy BHE-R Communications.

Motion Passed

Superintendent's Report

Data Overview: Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong explained a team of twenty-two stakeholders has been created and will establish an evaluation process. Through several phases they will determine what can be done differently, define data they have and how it can be used, determine how to communicate data etc. The team hopes to present at the November 18th SC meeting. Juliet Walker suggested having a discussion about bringing back CISL at the January retreat.

Enrollments: Superintendent Gallagher stated 2,155 students were currently enrolled, which includes 53 new students enrolled under the School Choice program.

Bus Transportation Update: The Superintendent reported that transportation for opening days was flawless this year. The new company, Coach, was super responsive to all requests. Juliet Walker requested the # of bus passes issued, # of riders and # of buses be provided at a future meeting.

New Business

GoFan: - Juliet Walker requested additional information about this app (i.e. What is the cost to the district? Can cash be used? Does MIAA allow cash at playoff games?)

- Superintendent Gallagher reported that a hybrid method of GoFan is being used, so that people can use the app or pay cash.
- Brian Callahan suggested another email be sent to the district clarifying that cash will be accepted at the games.
- Juliet Walker suggested free passes to all games and theatre events for NPS students.
- Andy Boger and Brian Callahan would like to see detailed numbers related to total gate fees etc. at a future meeting.
- Breanna Higgins and Mayor Sean Reardon are both in favor of writing a letter to MIAA that they are not in support of this app.

Hybrid Meetings: Brian Callahan explained that new equipment would be required in order to run hybrid meetings (i.e. microphones (appx \$350), hub (appx \$100) and the latest OWL equipment would need to be tested). In addition, a person needs to be hired to run the equipment, which could cost appx. \$5,000 per year. NCMHub cannot be responsible for set up etc. Mayor Sean Reardon will talk to his new IT person for ideas.

After School Programming: Brian Callahan stated NYS recently completed their own survey regarding grade 4/5 after school care. Brian suggested the district send out their own survey to learn what after school care needs parents are looking for. The Superintendent has previously talked to Andi Egmont regarding gym space, and will continue to work with her regarding after school programming.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:15 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

September 16, 2024

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The Bresnahan School has expanded their compost program, with landfill, recycling and composting bins along with a drainage system for liquids. Students in grades 1-3 have also started their literacy baseline assessments with DIBELS and iReady Math. The baseline data will help determine the course of the first intervention cycle.

The Molin School recently introduced a new book vending machine with funding from the NEF. 4th and 5th grade students are also starting their instrument and choral lessons this week.

The Nock School ended last week with an all-school assembly and welcomed former New England Patriots player and two-time Super Bowl champion, Devin Wyman. Wyman's visit was not just an awesome way to end the week but a powerful reminder of the impact that choices, friends and perseverance have on our goals. The assembly included a 45-minute speech and interaction session by Wyman, which the middle schoolers loved. A big thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this event. 7th graders will also be starting their place-based trips next week, beginning with Sandy Point State Reservation.

Lastly, 6 high school students embarked on a trip to Germany in June and July as a part of the German American Partnership Program. The students lived with their host families at our partner school in the Black Forest for three weeks while sharing their presentations on American culture and life with the school students. All had a great time expanding their knowledge of the German language and culture.