

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

Monday, March 3, 2025

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Juliet Walker, Sarah Hall, and Andy Boger; (Breanna Higgins, Brian Callahan and Kathleen Shaw were absent)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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, Brian Callahan and Kathleen Shaw. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Juliet Walker took over.

Public Comments: none

Warrant:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$71,754.52 as presented.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins, Brian Callahan and Kathleen Shaw absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes from the February 25, 2025 School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins, Brian Callahan and Kathleen Shaw absent

Student Representative Report

Unable to attend; March 3rd report filed with meeting minutes.

FY2026 – FY2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Facilities Director James McSweeney explained the city's new online CIP program, including an explanation of how projects are graded and prioritized. Twelve items on the FY26 District Priorities list were briefly reviewed, and was followed by a slide show that included photos of each problem area. The school committee had an opportunity to ask various questions. SC members feel it would be beneficial to have more background about each project, including cost details and scoring. James will try to obtain this information from the new program to share with the School Committee.

FY26 Level of Service Budget Presentation

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the FY26 strategic priorities, focus areas, and budget assumptions, noting the district was still in negotiations with three unions, as well there is continued uncertainty with state/federal funding. The estimated LOS Budget listed the City Appropriation at 7.26% increase. Budget assumption details were reviewed, along with demographic trends related to enrollment, school choice, ELL, income, disabilities, and high needs students. Superintendent Gallagher also spoke of Chapter 70 and school choice funding effects on the budget.

The Superintendent stated that North Shore superintendents are actively looking at ways to possibly share special education costs. Juliet Walker suggested flagging budget line items with at-risk funding sources.

High School Competency Determination Policy – 1st read

Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Juliet Walker explained that the proposed Competency Determination Policy was created collaboratively with the NHS School Council, Teaching & Learning Subcommittee and Policy Subcommittee, and should be added as an addendum (IKF-R) to the existing Graduation Requirements Policy (IKF).

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Next meeting will be held at 8:00AM on March 13th.

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker noted the next meeting will be held on Monday, March 10 at 7:00pm.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall reported a meeting was held last week, and the main focus was planning the Joint City Council and FINCOM meeting that will be held on March 20th, time tentatively set for 5PM. Both Representative Dawne Shand and Representative Manny Cruz were invited. The Communications Subcommittee meeting originally scheduled for March 27th will be cancelled.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated a meeting is scheduled for March 6th at 7:30AM.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee: have not met

Superintendent's Report

AD Hiring Status: Superintendent Gallagher stated that a meeting was held with the finalist to discuss the contract. Principal Andy Wulf will be sending out an announcement.

School Choice Projections: Superintendent Gallagher stated discussions related to school choice projections will be discussed at the next meeting on March 17th.

New Business: none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:43PM.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins, Brian Callahan and Kathleen Shaw absent

Submitted via email by: Newburyport High School

Bresnahan News:

Responsibility Challenge:

Our amazing Bresnahan students met their goal of 1,000 Acts of Kindness in February! Thank you for spreading kindness throughout our school—you all made a difference!

Now, it's time for a new challenge! In March, we're focusing on Responsibility. Each grade will compete to see who can be the most responsible, earning "thumbs up" for responsible actions. Next week, we'll kick things off with a school-wide assembly to introduce our Responsibility Challenge!

A huge thank you to the parent volunteers helping to cut out our "thumbs up" cards—your support helps us live out our school values: *Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Responsible!*

Clipper Courses: The second round of Clipper Courses wraps up this week! A total of **120** students participated in the Winter session. Thank you to the Bresnahan staff for creating fun and meaningful after-school enrichment opportunities for our students.

Molin News:

March Madness: Both 4th and 5th graders are participating in the Molin version of March Madness. Each day, the classes read two picture books, and every 4th and 5th grader will vote to determine which picture book advances to the elite eight, the final four, and, by the end of the month, the championship. The grade levels read different books.

Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest: The Friday before break, a representative from the Tree Commission spoke with the 5th graders to talk about the Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest. This sparked a lot of interest, so all 5th grade classes will be given 2 hours to complete a poster (If students don't finish, they can take it home.) ALL posters need to be completed by Friday, March 7th.

Nock News:

Nock Middle School had a fantastic turnout for the annual March Madness kickoff assembly last Friday. The energy was high as students learned how to earn points for the month-long homeroom competition, with the winning class taking home the prestigious Clipper Cup.

A special thank you to the parents, faculty, and students who have joined the rosters for the March Madness Basketball Fundraiser and Community Event on Wednesday, March 26, at 6 PM. The school is looking forward to another great night of school spirit and community engagement. Rosters are set!

Additionally, college trips are set for the Nock. This week, the 7th graders will visit Merrimack College, while 6th graders will head to Endicott College, and 8th graders will tour Suffolk University later this month. These visits are an exciting opportunity to expose students to higher education as the school continues to support the district's Portrait of a Graduate.

High School News:

- Good luck to the Girls Basketball team who plays St. Mary's tonight. The boy's basketball team is at home tomorrow night Boston Latin Academy.
- Congratulations to Lucius Nelson who was selected to represent Newburyport at this year's Poetry Out Loud competition. The semifinals will be this weekend, March 8.

NHS Exterior

Brick & Masonry Repairs



NHS
Exterior

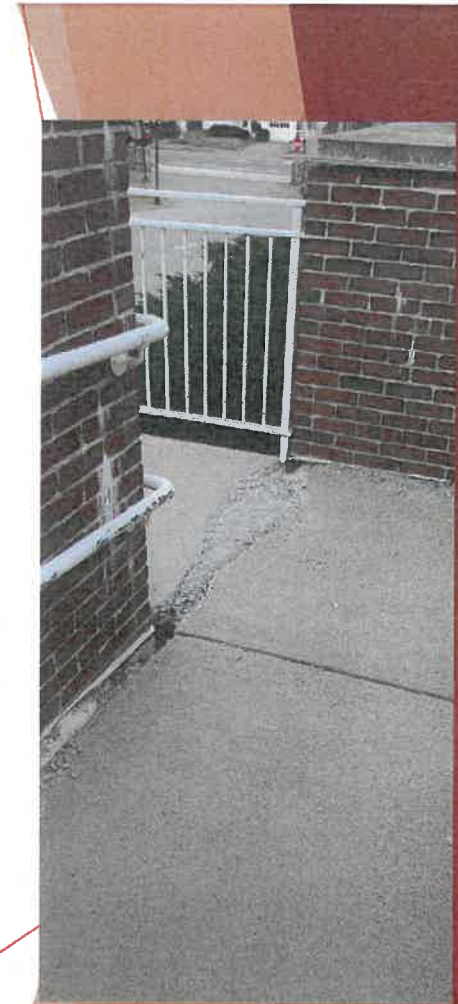


Brick
&
Masonry
Repairs



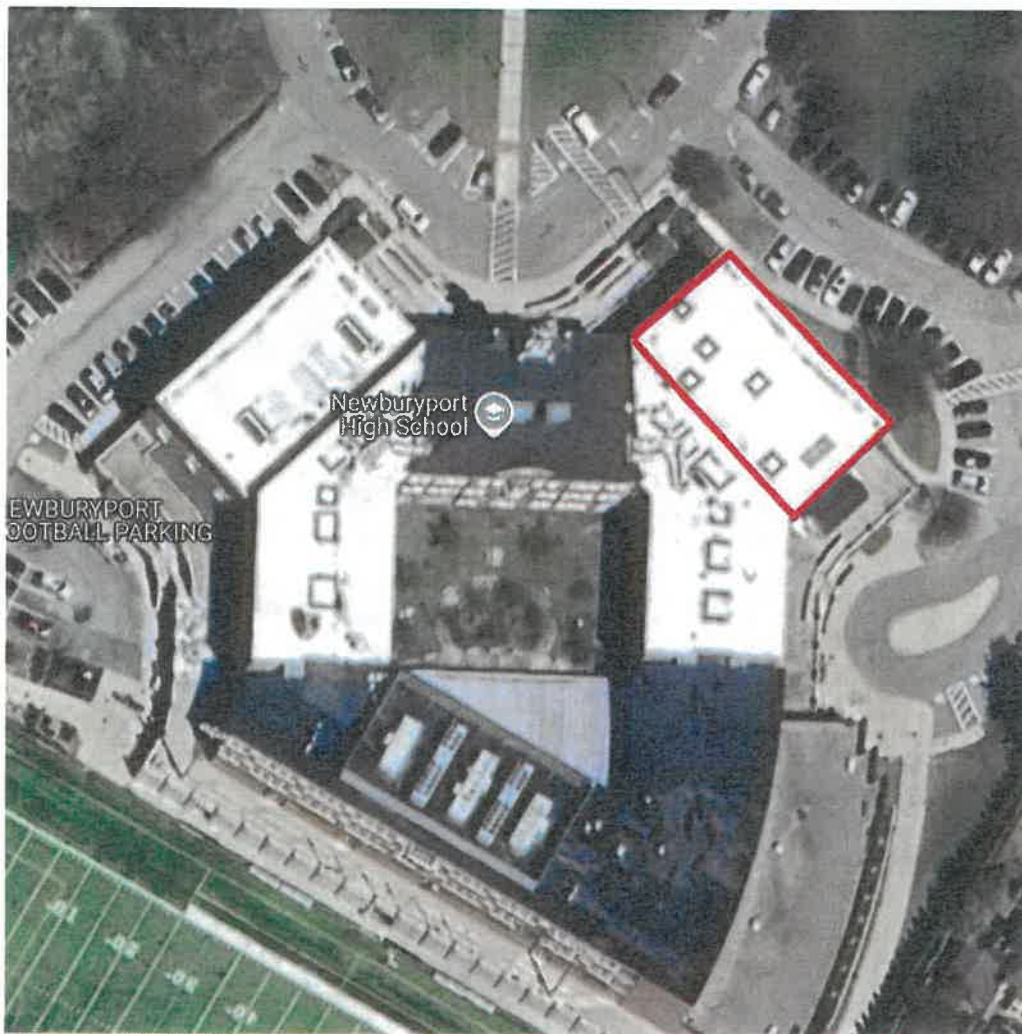
NHS
Exterior

Brick
&
Masonry
Repairs



NHS
Roof

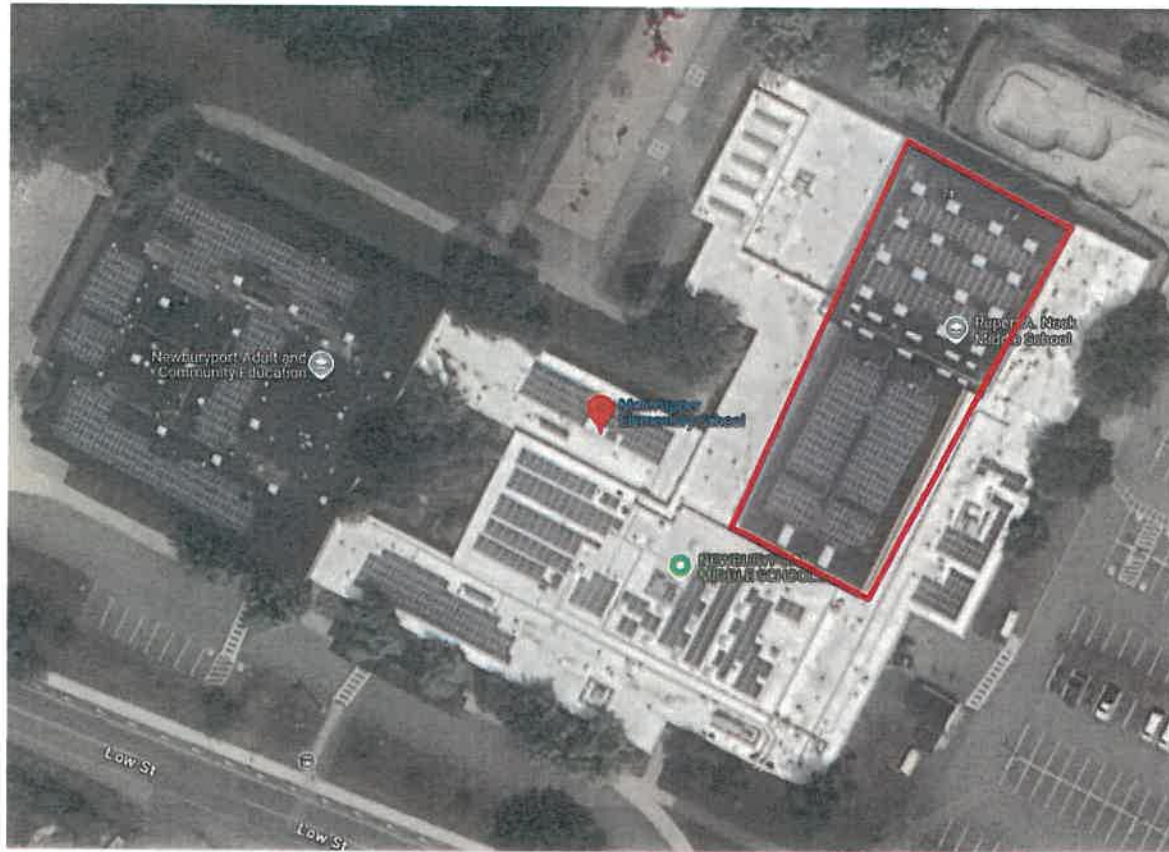
MSBA



Rupert
Nock
&
Edward
Molin

Roofs

MSBA



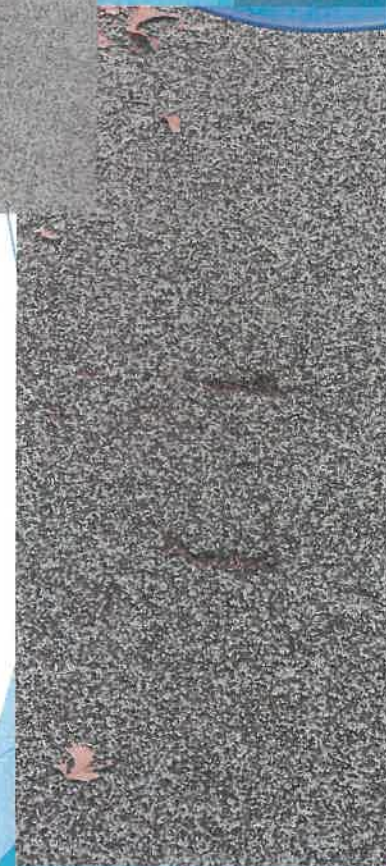
Molin Playground

Surfacing & Equipment Replacement



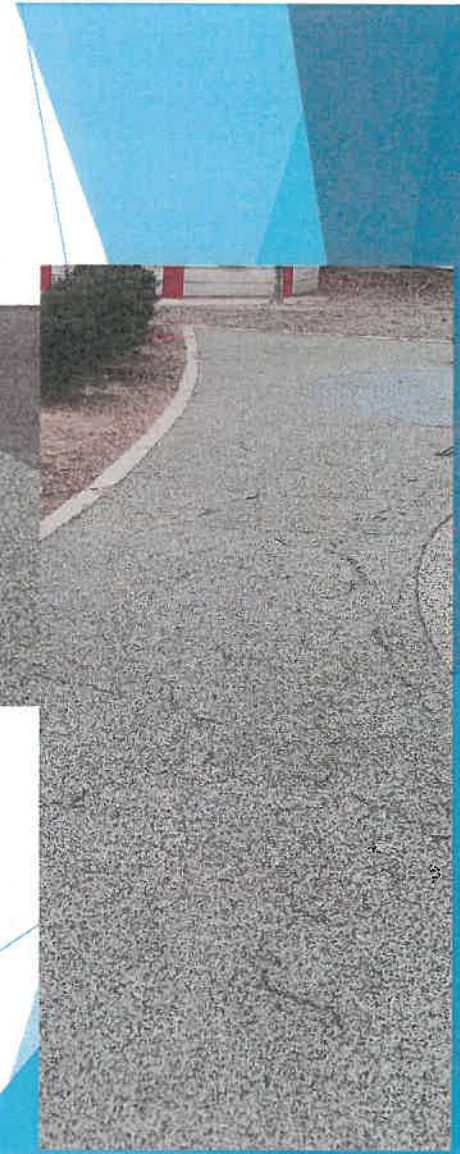
Bresnahan Playground

Rubber Surfacing



Bresnahan Playground

Rubber Surfacing



NHS
Flooring

Carpeting
&
Epoxy



Nock-Molin Playground

Repaving & Equipment Replacement



NHS Auditorium

Plaster Repairs



NHS Auditorium

Plaster Repairs



NHS Electrification

Heating System Boilers

