

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING  
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950  
Monday, January 18, 2022**

**Present:** Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Brian Callahan,  
Sheila Spalding, Bruce Menin, Steve Cole

**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 6:35 PM. Roll call found all members present,

At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**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 warrants:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Warrant 8040 | \$418,022.44    |
| A-Warrant    | 92,191.38       |
|              | <u>2,953.72</u> |
|              | \$513,167.54    |

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**MINUTES:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and file the following:  
SC Business meeting minutes of Monday, December 20, 2021.

**Motion Passed**

**Sarah Hall abstained**

**Juliet Walker abstained**

**NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:**

NHS student representatives Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser reported on the following:

From the High School

- The High School band performed to support the inauguration of our new Mayor Sean Reardon.

- The High School's College and Career Center recently formalized a partnership with the College Guidance Network. One of the services this organization provides is access to live webinars regarding the college planning process. The first webinar took place on Tuesday, January 11.
- Boys Indoor Track won the Kinney Division championship in the Cape Ann League.
- Girls Hockey is 4-2-1 and played on Saturday and have games this week.
- Boys Basketball is 5-4.
- Boys Hockey is 3-5-1.
- Both ski teams started the season last week.

From the Nock Middle School

- The Nock Orchestra is working with NCM Hub as they film their performances to broadcast on the Hub. They are also planning for an outdoor spring performance.

From the Bresnahan

- Students part of the Pre K program at the Bresnahan School have been making costumes and acting out different roles as they participate in the reader's program. This is part of a grant that allows students to bring children's literature to life.

From the Molin School

- Monday, January 24 through Friday, January 28 the Molin School will be focusing on one of our Molin Values: Kindness by participating in the Great Kindness Challenge which is presented by Kids for Peace, a California based global nonprofit. This Challenge started with 3 Carlsbad schools in 2012 and has grown into a worldwide kindness movement with nearly 17 million students participating in all 50 states and 115 countries.

### **DISTRICT'S REVISED COVID PROTOCOLS PRESENTATION:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** introduced members of the NPS Medical Advisory Team, Lauren McDonald, Jessica Lasky-Su, Mike Allard and Lars Lundgren, MD who presented recent revisions to the district's COVID Protocols which are available on the district's website:

<https://www.newburyport.k12.is/COVID-19-updated-January-7-2022/index.html>

This included the following:

- Health Office visits through January 13 = 9,682  
     COVID cases=- 423  
     Medication doses delivered = 2,434  
     Return to class rate = 90%  
     Parent Communications = 5,515
- COVID Mitigation Strategies  
     Vaccination, Distancing, Hand Hygiene Sanitizing, testing
- COVID Vaccination Status  
     79% NHS students  
     68% Nock Middle School students  
     46% Bresnahan School  
     54% Molin School students
- DESE COVID-19 Testing Recommendations  
     Current Symptomatic testing  
         Test and Stay  
     Updated Symptomatic Testing

Test & Stay - discontinued  
Weekly at home testing added

**Brian Callahan** asked concerning weekly testing - who? Answer: Everybody

**Sarah Hall** asked for a further explanation

**Sheila Spalding** inquired if there was an end date to testing

- Safety protocols/testing

**Sheila Spalding** asked if the school provides testing for students who are home for 5 days.

Answer: We can. We will replenish or test at school.

**Bruce Menin** thanked the members of the NPS Medical Advisory Team.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE & OVERVIEW:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** provided an update on the Strategic Plan and the Portrait of a Graduate which consisted of the following:

- Overview - Our planning is based on Amy Webb's Futurist Framework.
- Vision Portrait of a Graduate
- Overwhelmingly, participants recommended programming that allows our graduates to develop physical, social, and emotional wellness skills. Become literate across the disciplines, practice creation, innovation, collaboration and problem solving, engage civically and prepare for life after graduation.
- Strategy SCOG Analysis
- Tactics - District Goals, School Improvement Plans, Educator Goals
- Summary

**Bruce Menin** asked if this will impact the Budget Process. Answer: Yes.

**Juliet Walker** asked about future budget presentations.

### **SY22 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE REVISIONS:**

**Sarah Hall** spoke about modifying the meeting schedule to reflect the new meeting dates as follows:

- Updated inauguration date/time, along with cancellation of the January 4th meeting.
- New Retreat date on February 1, from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Senior/Community Center.
- Move Monday, February 28 to Tuesday, March 1, as well as Monday, April 25 to Tuesday, April 26 so as not to conflict with City Council meetings.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

**VOTED:** To approve the modifications to the SY22 School Committee Meeting Schedule as presented.

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

### **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:**

#### **Finance Subcommittee**

**Brian Callahan** reported they met and discussed fundraising for sports registration and Special Ed.

#### **Policy Subcommittee**

**Sheila Spalding** reported on this subcommittee.

## Joint Ed

**Bruce Menin** said they have not met, but will meet after the first School Committee meeting.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Upcoming negotiations between NTA, Inst. Assistants, AFSCME
- Afghanistan Students - 28 students in the follow grades

|          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| PreK - 3 | 12 students |
| 4-5      | 3 students  |
| 6-8      | 4 students  |
| NHS      | 9 students  |

Translators have been hired; proving very successful  
Teachers have been provided with professional development  
Full time health teacher has been hired

**Mayor Reardon** inquired regarding housing.

- Staff Development Day  
18 workshops - outside speakers as well as our own people  
Mini workshop  
Survey to staff - 100 commented  
Well organized - great day for the district
- Kindergarten - tuition free this year
- PreK - programming - will be discussing
- Mr. Littlehale is working on the budget
- Special Ed budgeting - will be presenting  
February 7 - snapshot overview of budget  
March 1 - budget presented

**Steve Cole** spoke re: FY23 Budget Forum April 4

**Sheila Spalding** said she appreciated the work done - let the community know about the challenges and cultural differences regarding the Afghanistan students.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING AGENDA:**

**Mayor Reardon** reported on the following:

- New Subcommittee Assignments
- MA State Ethics
- Operating Principles & Norms of Interaction

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:**

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee  
At 7:40 PM