

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Nock Middle School Library, 70 Low Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, November 1, 2021**

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

Present: Mayor Donna Holaday, Brian Callahan, Bruce Menin, David Hochheiser, Sheila Spalding, Steve Cole

Absent: Sean Reardon

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present except Sean Reardon.

At this time Vice-Chairman Brian Callahan assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Cronin, Shandel Drive He spoke about Critical Race Theory

Charles Grossman, 2 Cutting Drive He spoke about the summer reading list.

Katie Cardie (remote), Merrimac St. She spoke about COVID practices

Hayley Knutsen, 7 Columbus Ave. She thanked those concerned for the Halloween Parade and being masked outside.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

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

Warrant 8040 \$ 289,209.31

A-Warrant 7,354.49

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

MINUTES:

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: to approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday,
October 18, 2021 as amended.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

STUDENT AWARDS:

Superintendent Gallagher presented the following awards:

- The **Certificate of Academic Excellence**. The Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's (MASS) designed this award for academic excellence and to be given each year to a high school senior who had distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career. This year's recipient is: **Charles Grossman**
- The **Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning** is offered to NESDEC-affiliated school districts in New England by the National School Development Council (NSDC). This award is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort, and who have also served as positive role models for the student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment. The following seniors are the 2021-2022 recipients of this award: **Olivia D'Ambrosio, Lila Gridley, Avi Patel and Owen Roberts.**

COVID UPDATE:

District Nurse Leader Lauren McDonald provided an update on COVID vaccinations and the upcoming 5-11-year-old eligibility, and protocols as follows:

- COVID Mitigation Strategies
- NPS COVID Testing Program
- COVID Vaccination
- COVID Vaccination Status
- COVID Vaccination Clinic

Mayor Holaday spoke about the Bresnahan Parade, mask optional and the field trip for apple picking.

David Hochheiser asked about the percentage - what grades?

A question was asked: Should students who have had COVID get Vaccinated? Answer - Yes

Superintendent Gallagher said that during the Bresnahan parade the time outside was very brief - students marched in their classrooms.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representatives Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser reported on the following:

- National Honor Society Blood Drive - At the October 15 Blood Drive, 28 pints were collected which translates into helping 84 people.
- Mayor Debate at NHS - On Tuesday, October 19, mayoral candidates Sean Reardon and Charlie Tontar participated in a debate at NHS.
- Learning How to Have a Dialogue - On Friday, October 22 high school teachers engaged students in an activity that modeled foundational skills of dialogue. There will be 5 other activities across the school year to practice and use these skills.
- Showcase Night – will be held on Thursday, December 2nd. This is an opportunity for middle school families to come to the high school, talk with our teachers and students, and see everything we have to offer. The event will take place from 6:00 - 7:30 PM and is structured as an open house. Tours will be given by students throughout the

showcase and high school faculty will be in the first-floor spaces to answer questions about the academic and extracurricular program.

- Sports News

Nock Middle School: Cross Country Girls won and Boys are undefeated. Luke Macissac broke the course record by 4 seconds.

NHS:

Boys Soccer (16-1-1) Cape Ann League Kinney Champions - qualified for MIAA tournament

Girls Soccer (12-2-4) Cape Ann League Kinney Champions - qualified for MIAA tournament

Volleyball (9-11) Cape Ann League Kinney Champions - qualified for MIAA tournament

Boys Cross Country (5-0) Cape Ann League Kinney Champions - CAL Open Champions - qualified for MIAA State Meet

Football (4-4) - qualified for MIAA tournament

Field Hockey (5-7-3) - qualified for MIAA tournament

Girls Cross Country (4-1) - qualified for MIAA State Meet

Golf (11-3) - finished the season #4 at MIAA state match

MIAA tournament information will be released over the next two days. We anticipate at least three of our teams hosting first round games.

SEPAC PRESENTATION:

Co-Chair Lauren Hajjar provided an overview of the Newburyport Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC).

Superintendent Gallagher said they did a great job for all students. We are looking to grow this organization. There will be guest speakers.

CLASS OF 2025 STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT REQUEST:

Review and discussion of the Class of 2025 application request for a student activity account.

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To waive procedures because it was not on agenda for a possible vote.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Mayor Holaday** it was

VOTED: To approve the request of the Class of 2025 for a student activity account.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE:

Steve Cole reported on the Finance subcommittee:

- Schedule of FY22 Subcommittee meetings
- FY21 Update
- Fundraising

David Hochheiser stated he was amazed at how much money parents have to put up. **Steve Cole** said parents should keep track as to how much money they spend on School Activities.

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Sheila Spalding outlined the following:

New School Committee Member Orientation Policy (BIA) - revision - 2nd reading

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve the New School Committee Member Orientation Policy (BIA) - Revision.

Amend to add - Robert's Rules of Order - Executive Session Meeting:

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Holaday	- Yes
Brian Callahan	- Yes
Bruce Menin	- Yes
David Hochheiser	- Yes
Sheila Spalding	- Yes
Steve Cole	- Yes

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

Bruce Menin commented on the Open Meeting Law

David Hochheiser commented on the Conflict of Interest - certificate - going to the MASC meeting.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To include amendments Sec. B copy of Open Meeting Law, Roberts Rules of Order and educational materials from Attorney General Office.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

School Year / Calendar Policy (IC) - revision

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve the School Year / Calendar Policy (IC) - revision policy.

This motion was tabled.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- MSBA Walkthrough - 19th Virtual Meeting - Thursday, October 21 - Sr. Study Team came to the High School and toured the facility; **Mayor Holaday** spoke to the MSBA.
- District Attorney Blodgett's Meeting - Round Table discussion - 20 other Superintendent's listened to challenges, staffing shortages, and political climate.
David Hochheiser asked if they discussed teacher stress?
November 10 - email was sent out - Parent/Guardian Group
- Parent's Strategic Planning Forum - it was a great turnout.
- Costume Parades - Friday the 29th - it was awesome - great enthusiasm.
- Upcoming Dates: Nock - November 3
 Molin - November 4
 NHA - November 10
 City Council - November 16

Mayor Holaday said the Joint Meeting met this AM.

NEW BUSINESS:

David Hochheiser asked about Midterm week at NHS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:10 PM for the purpose of discussion possible Litigation and legal matters. The Committee will not reconvene to Open Session.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote