

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

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

Meeting Convened at 7:00 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided

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

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 7:00 PM. Roll call found all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ralph Orlando, 4 William Hall Drive – He stated he liked the meeting starting at 7:00 PM. He suggested the agenda go back to two Public Comment sessions.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motions:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$2,542.45

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$36,232.24

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$295,812.41

Motion Passed Unanimously

Minutes:

On a motion by **Sean Reardon** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, June 21, 2021.

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Face Coverings Police (EBCFA) - first reading:

The Committee had been provided a copy of the Face Coverings Policy.

Bruce Menin said this policy reflects what they had hoped to accomplish.

Mayor Holaday stated she hoped this policy would be short lived and suggested the Committee evaluate this policy on a monthly basis.

Sean Reardon suggested adding some wording to the policy.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE:

Minutes of 8/6/2021

Sean Reardon asked if fundraising would be brought up at the next meeting.

Bruce Menin inquired if the Committee had to approve Subcommittee minutes.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Finance Subcommittee Meeting minutes of Thursday, August 6, 2021.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDENT NEWSPAPER PROPOSAL:

Keith Eddings discussed a proposal for a student newspaper in the elementary and/or middle schools. He distributed a copy of a newspaper to the Committee. He stated the approximate cost for 500 copies would be \$1,000.

Brian Callahan said he would put Mr. Eddings in touch with Andy Edgemont.

SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION 2020-2021 DISCUSSION:

Bruce Menin read the ratings which had been submitted by Committee members. He stated that according to the ratings this Superintendent had demonstrated proficiency.

Mayor Holaday stated this was made easier for the Committee because of the Superintendent memos which he had submitted.

Brian Callahan said the Superintendent has shown strength of communication and thanked the Superintendent.

Bruce Menin said he was impressed by the respectful and civil manner in which the Superintendent had dealt with contract negotiations.

Steve Cole commented on the Superintendent's high standards.

David Hochheiser said he was happy to see the following on the agenda: Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life.

Sean Reardon said he was glad to have the Superintendent lead us through the next few years.

Superintendent Gallagher said he appreciated all the comments and he was honored to represent Newburyport. He thanked the Committee for their support.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 7:50 PM for the purpose of discussing possible contract negotiations and legal matters.
The Committee will return to Open Session.

Motion Passes Unanimously

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION:

The Committee returned to Open Session at 7:59 PM.

SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT AND OTHER ITEMS:

Mayor Holaday read the items contained in the Superintendent's contract:

- Extension of two years
- 3% contract increase
- 3% contract increase in final year of contract

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve **Superintendent Sean Gallagher's** contract as presented.

Roll Call Vote:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- First two days - Professional Development
- Feedback

- Grades 1 - 12 Wednesday - was upbeat and energetic
- More bus riders this year
- Walkers - their safety
- This is the second year of a later start
- Language program grades 6 - 8
- NHS class assemblies
- Athletics are underway - 412 athletes participating
- Extracurricular
- Nock Welcomed students back
- Student data charts
- Bresnahan - pre K - K to start tomorrow morning
- Grades 1 - 3 back in school
- Nursing Team - standing ovation
- Vaccination Clinic - September 9 at the Nock School parking lot for 12 years and older
Sean Reardon asked if vaccination numbers were available.
- Student Life - Ad Hoc Committee - **Assistant Superintendent Ippolito** formulated the Committee - meeting held on August 24.
October - MCAS Data
November - School Improvement - Professional Development Plans
December - Literacy Focus

NEW BUSINESS:

David Hochheiser suggested making public presentations available on the website
Mayor Holaday asked if the website could be reworked? Answer - it is being worked on.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at
8:17 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously