

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee Business Meeting 6:30PM

Monday, February 3, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda February 3, 2025
SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes February 3, 2025
SC Warrant February 3, 2025
SC Business Meeting Minutes January 21, 2025
2024-2025 High School Athletic User Fees
Policy JQ - Student Fees Fines and Charges
Proposed Business Manager Hiring Process
Policy BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee
DRAFT 2025-2026 School Calendar
Policy IC/ICA School Year Calendar
Superintendent's Report

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:30PM

High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85348840093?pwd=tvkil0RbQ5dak17y6tJbrOyXzsqrhP.1>

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant 2/3/25 – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 1/21/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. *2024-2025 High School Athletic Fees – *possible Vote*
6. Student Representative Report
7. Newburyport’s Whittier School Committee Reps - Check-in
8. NHS Cell Phone Follow Up - Principal Andy Wulf will
9. *Proposed Business Manager Hiring Process Discussion – Juliet Walker – *possible Vote*
10. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
 - e. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mayor Sean Reardon
11. Review 2025-2026 School Calendar - DRAFT
12. Superintendent’s Report
13. New Business
14. Executive Session – *Vote*
for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

Adjournment

*Possible Vote

** The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session**, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations, collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting
Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:30PM
High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

AGENDA NOTES

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85348840093?pwd=tvkil0RbQ5dak17y6tJbrOyXzsqrhP.1>

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or stream via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

3. **Warrant 2-3-25 – possible Vote*
4. **Meeting Minutes 1-21-2025 – possible Vote*
5. **2024-2025 High School Athletic Fees – possible Vote*
The high school is requesting approval to increase the user fee for both Boys & Girls Ski to \$300. In addition, NHS is seeking approval of the 2024-2025 athletic user fee list in accordance with Policy JQ – Student Fees, Fines and Charges (attached).
6. *Student Representative Report: NHS student representative will provide the report.*
7. *Newburyport’s Whittier School Committee Reps - Check-in*
Brett Murphy and Mary DeLai, Newburyport’s representatives on the Whittier Regional School Committee, will provide an update regarding recent school business.
8. *NHS Cell Phone Follow Up - Principal Andy Wulf will present an update of the work being done at the high school over the past few months related to cell phone policies, as well as self-regulation in relation to cell phones. Three high school students will share their personal efforts to control cell phone use: Gregory D’Ambrosio, Emerson Leahy and Tyler Chorebanian.*
9. **Proposed Business Manager Hiring Process Discussion - Juliet Walker– possible Vote*
The School Committee will review and discuss a draft business manager hiring process, along with a proposal to create an Advisory Committee to assist with the hiring process. Creating an advisory committee would require a vote, in accordance with Policy BDF – Advisory Committees to the School Committee. (attached)
10. *Subcommittee Updates*
 - a. *Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan*
 - b. *Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw*
 - c. *Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall*
 - d. *Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins*
 - e. *Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mayor Sean Reardon*
11. *Review 2025-2026 School Calendar – DRAFT (attached)*

*** continued – next page ***

Continued –

12. Superintendent's Report: *AD Hiring Process Update, FY 26 Budget Update, MASS Refugee Support Webinar, and MASS Winter Conference*

13. New Business

14. Executive Session – *Vote for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.*

- FYI: Upcoming Dates:**
- ✓ **NHS School Council meeting:** Tuesday, February 4 @ 5:00PM
 - ✓ **Early Release Day** – Friday, February 7
 - ✓ **Policy Subcommittee meeting:** Monday, February 10 @ 7:00PM
 - ✓ **Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting:** Tuesday, February 11 @ 6:30PM
 - ✓ **FINCOM meeting:** Thursday, February 13 @ 9:30AM
 - ✓ **Winter Break:** February 17 through February 21
 - ✓ **Bresnahan School Council meeting:** Tuesday, February 25 @ 8:10AM
 - ✓ **School Committee Business meeting:** Monday, February 25 @ 6:30PM
 - ✓ **Communications Subcommittee meeting:** Thursday, February 27 @ 5:00PM

*Possible Vote

School
Committee
Warrant

FY25-WARRANT 8141

A-Warrant

February 3, 2025

Warrant 8141	\$ 140,372.08
A-Warrant	\$ 13,138.94

TOTAL of Warrant	\$ 153,511.02
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NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Kathleen Shaw, Brian Callahan, Andy Boger and Breanna Higgins

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

Public Comments: none

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants / Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the consent agenda which includes the Warrant and the minutes from the January 6, 2025 School Committee meeting.

Warrant 8140	\$825,570.21
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Motion Passed

Student Representative Report

Logan MacKnight presented the student report that included mid-year assessments at the Bresnahan, Molin field trips, the Career Speaker Series at the Nock, and the announcement of this year's Portrait of a Graduate ambassadors.

Athletic Director Hiring Process Update

Human Resources Director Pam Kealey described the various steps of the hiring process that she and Principal Wulf have followed, including providing names of members, describing roles of the screening committee, explaining the interview process, and the set up / participants of the community interview forum. Of 20 applicants, four finalists were announced: Aaron Abood of Winnacunnet, Anna DeVitto of Fontbonne Academy, Richie Pace of NHS, and Steven Burndett of Wilbraham. They hope to complete the process by the end of January.

MSBA Accelerated Repair Program Update

Facilities Director James McSweeney reviewed the next steps in the accelerated repair program involving the roofs at the High School and Nock Middle School. He stated two virtual meetings will be held prior to site visits at all four schools at the end of February. James is in the process of collecting data to complete MSBA's spreadsheets that will be needed for the school survey and site visits.

Playful Learning Grant

Superintendent Sean Gallagher announced that DESE has awarded the district with \$175K for the Playful Learning Grant. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong explained this is an 18-month grant that focuses on incorporating more playful learning opportunities for grades PK thru Gr 3. Bresnahan teachers will participate in professional development workshops and also work with coaches to develop curriculum.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan reported the January 16th meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. He did meet with the Superintendent and James Antonelli regarding athletic fees and would like to see this topic on the next meeting agenda.

Policy Subcommittee: have not met

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated they will meet at 6:30PM on January 23rd in the Nock library.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they will meet at 6:30PM on January 27th in the Nock library.

Evaluation Subcommittee: have not met

Superintendent's Report

Cell Phone Use in Schools: Superintendent Sean Gallagher credited the high school with all the work they've done related to cell phone use, including student dialogues, assemblies and messaging. Principal Andy Wulf will provide a presentation at the next school committee meeting. Both staff and students at the Bresnahan, Molin and Nock continue collaborative efforts to maintain their "away for the day" policies.

Contract Negotiations Status: The negotiations process has begun for all three unions (NTA, IA and AFSCME). They are using an Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) technique. The Superintendent thanked the team members and school committee members for their support during these meetings. (Note: Two date corrections: Next NTA Negotiations meeting will be January 29th, and the next IA Negotiations meeting will be January 27th).

NHS Media Lab Update: Superintendent Gallagher thanked Facilities Director James McSweeney for his work on this project. He stated that James will serve as the General Contractor for the project, which will help expedite the project by a few weeks. The final design plans have been made, and they are working on technology equipment lists. James will speak with the high school's career counselor regarding Breanna Higgins' suggestion of NHS construction or engineering students possibly shadowing during this construction project.

Follow-up

Hybrid Meetings: A hybrid meeting option will be offered for the next meeting. Brian Callahan has the new equipment. Juliet Walker can help run a test with Superintendent Gallagher before the next meeting.

School Committee Retreat Notes: Juliet Walker explained the two sets of notes from the recent retreat. She asked everyone to review the School Committee Interim Goals on page 3.

New Business

- Brian Callahan attended the Budget & Finance Committee meeting and they voted for the water heater, 11-0.
- Superintendent Gallagher noted that the Human Rights Commission will hold a Holocaust Remembrance Day event in the Nock auditorium on January 22nd at 6:30PM.
- School Committee members will perform in the Community Talent show Saturday night (1/25).
- Kathleen Shaw reminded everyone to look at supports available in schools, as well as continue to support students and/or staff regarding gender identity.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:31PM.

Motion Passed

Student Report for School Committee

January 21, 2025

Submitted by: Logan MacKnight

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Mid-Year Assessment

Our students are diligently working on their mid-year DIBELS and iReady assessments in math and literacy. These assessments provide valuable, up-to-date data that enable our teachers to personalize instruction effectively and empower our interventionists to initiate a new cycle of targeted support.

Preschool & Kindergarten Information Night

Join us on **Thursday, January 30th**, for our Preschool and Kindergarten Information Night!

- **Preschool Session:** 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- **Kindergarten Session:** 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Families are invited to begin the evening with a classroom tour, followed by a brief informational session in the gym.

All registration details have been updated on our website. We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you Aiya Al Khatib

Thanks to the efforts of Aiya Al Khatib, NHS student, and her family, the Bresnahan NEF Book Vending Machine is full of new books for the new year! Aiya's book drive was incredibly successful and we appreciate the support of our wonderful community. Students at the Bresnahan earn a token to the NEF Book Vending Machine when they meet personal literacy learning goals. At this time, 300 Bresnahan Students have received a book!

Molin News:

Molin:

5th grade is going on a field trip to the Museum of Science as part of their study of the planets.

4th grade is going on a field trip to the Tsongas Industrial History Center to learn about the impact of human migration on culture and community over time.

Nock News:

Nock Career Speaker Series continues to be successful with our 3rd round of speakers on tap for this Thursday.

The Nock will be having a spirit week next week for students to have a little fun during the winter months-

Tech and Stage crew sign ups have begun for the Spring Musical production of Newsies.

High School News:

The following students served as this year's Portrait of a Graduate ambassadors during the Staff Development Day. These students presented their educational journeys to the entire NPS faculty. By hearing what lessons have inspired them and how educators have impacted them, our teachers are able to better understand what they can do to make learning powerful.

Thank you to **Alex Ames, Calleigh Curran, Colin Fuller, Ciara Geraghty, Cooper Grant, Brendan Grossman, Lizzy Homer, Charlotte Kealey, Sophie Lavallee, Emerson McCormick, Laney Pare, Theo Roberts, Kamilly Russi, Cedar Schumacher, Jose Velasquez-Perez, and Jalen Wise.**



**NEWBURYPORT HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC USER FEES
2024-2025**

SPORT	TIER	FEE	
Football	1	\$450	
Boys Hockey	1	\$450	
Girls Hockey	1	\$450	
Girls Soccer	2	\$300	
Boys Soccer	2	\$300	
Field Hockey	2	\$300	
Girls Basketball	2	\$300	
Boys Basketball	2	\$300	
Girls Lacrosse	2	\$300	
Boys Lacrosse	2	\$300	
Baseball	2	\$300	
Softball	2	\$300	
Volleyball	2	\$300	
Golf	2	\$300	
Girls Cross Country	3	\$250	
Boys Cross Country	3	\$250	
Girls Indoor Track	3	\$250	
Boys Indoor Track	3	\$250	
Girls Outdoor Track	3	\$250	
Boys Outdoor Track	3	\$250	
Girls Tennis	3	\$250	
Boys Tennis	3	\$250	
Cheer	3	\$250	
Boys Ski	3	\$250	** proposed increase: \$300
Girls Ski	3	\$250	** proposed increase: \$300

STUDENT FEES FINES AND CHARGES

The School Committee recognizes the need for student fees to fund certain school activities. It also recognizes that some students may not be able to pay these fees. While no student will be denied access due to an inability to pay fees, all students will be required to remit charges and fines.

A school may exact a fee or charge only upon Committee approval. The schools, however, may:

- Charge students enrolled in certain courses for the cost of materials used in projects that will become the property of the student.
- Charge for lost and damaged books, materials, supplies, and equipment.

Students who are indigent are exempt from paying fees. However, indigent students are not exempt from charges for lost and damaged books, locks, materials, supplies, and equipment.

All student fees and charges, both optional and required, will be listed and described annually in each school's student handbook or in some other written form and distributed to each student. The notice will advise students that fees are to be paid and of the penalties for their failure to pay them. Permissible penalties include the denial of participation in extra class activities and graduation exercises and activities while the student is enrolled in this District.

Any fee or charge due to any school in the District and not paid at the end of the school year will be carried forward to the next succeeding school year, as such debts are considered to be debts of the student to the District and not to a particular school.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:38 THROUGH 71:38F; 71:46G; 76:5
603 CMR 26:00

Adopted June 19, 2017

Proposal for Advisory Committee to assist with Hiring Process for School District Business Manager

Purpose: To advise Superintendent and School Committee on business manager hiring process and selection.

Roles/Responsibilities:

- Review job description
- Assist with job posting and advertising
- Assist with candidate screening
- Assist with candidate interviews
- Advise Superintendent and School Committee on final recommendation for hire

Proposed membership – 2 SC Members, 1 community member, up to 2 school administrative staff (selected by Superintendent), Superintendent, City Finance Director (or designated staff)

Duration: Up to 1-year or until position is filled

BDF - Advisory Committees to the School Committee

Adoption Date: 09/06/2016

Related Policies: JIB

The following general policies will govern the appointment and functioning of advisory committees to the School Committee other than the student advisory committee, which is governed by the terms of the Massachusetts General Laws.

1.

Advisory committees may be created by the School Committee to serve as task forces for special purposes or to provide continuing consultation in a particular area of activity. However, there will be no standing overall advisory committee to the School Committee.

2.

If an advisory committee is required by state or federal law, its composition and appointment will meet all the guidelines established for that particular type of committee.

3.

The composition of task forces and any other advisory committees will be broadly representative and take into consideration the specific tasks assigned to the committee. Members of the professional staff may be appointed to the committee as members or consultants, as found desirable.

4.

Appointments to such committees will be made by the Committee; appointment of staff members to such committees will be made by the School Committee upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

5.

Tenure of committee members will be one year only unless the member is reappointed.

6.

Each committee will be clearly instructed as to:

a.

The length of time each member is being asked to serve.

b.

The assignment the School Committee wishes the committee to fulfill and the extent and limitations of its responsibilities.

c.

The resources the School Committee will provide.

d.

The approximate dates on which the School Committee wishes to receive major reports.

e.

School Committee policies governing citizens, committees and the relationship of these committees to the School Committee as a whole, individual School Committee members, the Superintendent, and other members of the professional staff.

f.

Responsibilities for the release of information to the press.

7.

Recommendations of committees will be based upon research and fact.

8.

The School Committee possesses certain legal powers and prerogatives that cannot be delegated or surrendered to others. Therefore, all recommendations of an advisory committee must be submitted to the School Committee.

9. Advisory committees created under this policy are subject to the provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

The School Committee will have the sole power to dissolve any of its advisory committees and will reserve the right to exercise this power at any time during the life of any committee.

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 30A:18-25

CROSS REF.: JIB, Student Involvement in Decision-making

Policy References:

M.G.L. 30A:18-25

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Calendar 2025 - 2026



July							August							September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	H	5						1	2							
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	Pk-K	9	10	11	ER	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31		(0)	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				(19)
							31					(0)								

October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1							
5	6	7	8	9	ER	11	2	3	ER	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	ER	13
12	H	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	H	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	H	H	H	27
26	27	28	29	30	31	(22)	23	24	25	ER	H	H	29	28	V	V	H			(17)
							30					(17)								

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				H	V	3						ER	7							
4	5	6	7	8	SD	10	1	2	3	4	5	ER	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	H	20	21	22	23	24	15	H	V	V	V	V	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	ER	28
						(18)						(15)		29	30	31				(22)

April							May							June							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	ER	4							1	2							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	ER	9	⑦	8	9	10	11	Pk-K	13	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	PLD	[18]	H	20	
19	H	V	V	V	V	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	[22]	[23]	[24]	[25]	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30		(17)	24	H	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				(13)	
							31					(20)									

T = Teachers First Day **FDS** = First Day for Students
ER = Early Release **LS** = Late Start
H = Holiday **V** = Vacation
SD = Staff Development Day **PLD** = Projected Last Day

Mon., Sept 1 Labor Day Holiday Observed
Tue., Sept 2 First Day of School for Teachers
Wed., Sept 3 Staff Development Day (no students)
Thur., Sept. 4 First Day Of School for GRADES 1-12
Monday, Sept. 8 First Day of School for Grades Pk-K
Oct. 13 NO SCHOOL - Indigenous People Day Observed
Nov. 11 NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day Observed
Nov. 27 & 28 NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Break
December 24 thru January 2 NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break
January 5 SCHOOL RESUMES
Jan. 9 - NO SCHOOL for Students - Staff Development Day
January 19 NO SCHOOL - MLK, Jr. Holiday Observed
February 16 thru 20 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break
April 3 1/2 Day AFSCME Union (GOOD FRIDAY)
April 20 thru 24 NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
May 25 NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day Observed
June 7 Graduation Day - Class of 2026
June 12 Projected Last Day (Preschool & Kindergarten)
June 17 Projected Last Day (Grades 1-12) - Early Release Day
June 18 Projected Last Day (Teachers)
June 18, 22, 23, 24 and 25 Snow Make-up Days - [if needed]
June 19 NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth Observed

ER - Early Release Days (for staff development)
 September 12, October 10, November 4, December 12,
 February 6, March 27, April 3, May 8, and June 5

ER - OTHER EARLY RELEASE DAYS (staff & students)
 Wednesday, November 26 Thanksgiving Break

G = Graduation Day - on Sunday, June 7th @ 11AM

(180 days - students) (184 days - teachers)

1st draft - February 3, 2025

IC/ICA: SCHOOL YEAR / CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval annually. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:

1. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in regulation. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
2. Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in regulation. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; in service days; and parent conferences.

Newburyport School Calendars will always follow these guidelines with regards to setting a starting date for school:

- The Friday before Labor Day will always be a no-student day and a non-work day for educators.
- Before the full beginning of the year, time will be set up to allow students in transition years (1, 4, 6, and 9) time in their new buildings to become acclimated before all students arrive.
- New-teacher orientation and otherwise stipended days are not considered “regular faculty days” and can therefore take place outside of this policy.
- In years when Labor Day falls between September 1- 4, school will start after Labor Day,
 - o Regular faculty days will also start after Labor Day unless specifically requested for approval by the Superintendent and applicable labor unions.
 - o All students grades 1-12 will have at least 1 complete school day during this first week of programming.

- In years when Labor Day falls between September 5-7, we will start school during the week before Labor Day.
- Regular faculty days will not start before the Monday before Labor Day.
- All students grades 1-12 will have at least one complete school day during this first week of programming.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 4:7; 69:1g; 71:1; 71:4A; 71:73; 136:12
603 CMR 27.00

Adopted: 06/19/2017

Revised: 6/19/2017, 12/06/2021, 11/20/23

School Committee
Feb 3, 2025

Superintendent's Report



Athletic Director Search

The four finalists had a follow up interview with the High School Administrative Team this week which included Principal Wulf, NHS Guidance Director Lauren Gee, NHS Associate Principal Mike Testa, Dean of Specialized Programming, Interim Athletic Director Jim Antonelli, Nock Principal Nick Markos and Marshall Simons. Principal Wulf will be making his final recommendation of hire to the Superintendent this week.

FY-2026 Budget Update

We are making progress in negotiations which will assist with our budget preparations in the upcoming weeks.

- Grants: As I stated in the joint meeting in November, we are concerned about both the federal and state funding. Last week the unprecedented freeze on all federal funding across the nation was concerning, although it was lifted after a few days. The potential cuts to those essential grant resources is still a reality that we may need to deal with this budget season.
- Chapter 70: Preliminary Chapter 70 funding was presented last week and at this time, according to the Governor's proposed budget, Newburyport will receive:

FY26 - \$6,040,160 an increase of \$152,775 from FY25 - \$5,887,385

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents - Refugee Support Webinar

The M.A.S.S. sponsored a refugee support webinar regarding schools' rights and responsibilities as it relates to changes in federal immigration policies. Superintendents and district leaders throughout the state have been hearing concerns from families, children, staff and community members regarding the changes and the potential impact on school and communities at large.

- The webinar included but was not limited to Superintendents / Asst. Superintendents and school leaders, the Attorney General, Immigration Attorneys and other state officials. This was a helpful webinar as school districts adapt to the quickly changing landscape on these critical issues that impact communities and families.

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents - Winter Conference

The M.A.S.S. held their winter conference on January 23, 2025. The agenda consisted:

- Welcoming remarks by Armand Pires, M.A.S.S. President
- Attorney General Andra Joy Campbell presented and reviewed Social Media Toolkit
- Keynote: Dr. Jill Walsh (Boston University) student mental health / social media
- Keynote: Dr. Cythia Breazeal (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) Embracing the potential / opportunities of Artificial Intelligence in schools
- Final Remarks: Jeff Riley (Former Commissioner) Day of Artificial Intelligence Opportunities, Revere Superintendent Dianne Kelly Recognition / Acting Commissioner Johnston