

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUSINESS MEETING  
Monday, September 16, 2019**

**Senior Community Center  
Meeting Convened at 6:36 PM**

**Bruce Menin Presided**

**Present: Nick deKanter, Steve Cole, Bruce Menin, David Hochheiser, Sean Reardon,  
Brian Callahan**

**Absent: Mayor Donna Holaday**

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**Vice Chairman Bruce Menin** called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:36 PM. Roll Call found all members present except **Mayor Donna Holaday**. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment at this time.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Warrants:**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Nick deKanter** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.  
**\$4,912.20**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Nick deKanter** it was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.  
**\$18,939.49**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

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.  
**\$94,839.70**

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Nick deKanter** It was

**VOTED:** To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant.  
**\$352,785.66**

**Motion Passed**  
**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**STAFF/FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS:**

**Superintendent Sean Gallagher** called upon the School Principals to introduce new staff from their various schools. He thanked the administration for all their hard work over the summer.

**Bresnahan School:** *Ashley Buraczynski, Holly Curtis, Meghan Maloney, Vanessa Norton, Stefanie Pessolano*

**Nock School:** *Cynthia Curtis, Susan Guido, Eric Schildge, Kathleen Shepard, Kevin Stack*

**High School:** *Peter Brannen, Jennifer Conte, Shannon Johnson*

**STUDENT RECOGNITIONS:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** called upon the School Principals to introduce and recognize students that performed during Opening Day. He thanked the students for their performances. Each student was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

**Singers:** *Cedar Schumacher & Theo Roberts*

**Harmonelodys:** *Sienna LeClair, Chloe Raby, Ava Suchecki & Lily DeJordy (unable to attend)*

**Dancers:** *Hannah Weetman, Scout Moyer, Maeve Marino, Fiona Mahon*

A five minute break was taken at which time pictures of the students were taken.

**AFSCME AND IA CONTRACT:**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** To approve AFSCME and IA contracts.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:**

**Steve Cole** - Yes

**David Hochheiser** - Yes

**Brian Callahan** - Yes

**Nick deKanter** - Yes

**Sean Reardon** - Yes

**Bruce Menin** - Yes

**Motion Passed**  
**Mayor Holaday absent for vote**

**WORLD LANGUAGE PRESENTATION:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** introduced Professor Nicole Sherf, Department of World Languages & Cultures at Salem State University, who presented the research behind best practices in K-12

World Language instruction and explained how this relates with the work she is doing with teachers in our district. Her presentation included the following:

### **Newburyport World Languages**

- The Boston Globe reported on growing need for biliterate citizenry in MA based on New American Economy Report, - Which job seekers are in hot demand? Bilingual workers.
- The Language Educator (ACTFL) Aug/Sept 2019 - US businesses need more multilingual employees.
- High Future Demand on National Level
- ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2010
  - ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012
  - General Preface to the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012
  - ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines now aligned with workplace responsibilities
  - Two test to assess proficiency since 2007 - AVANT & LTI Language Testing International
  - California in 2010 - the Campaign for Biliteracy that we started in California is taking the country by storm
  - [www.sealofbiliteracy.org](http://www.sealofbiliteracy.org): 36 states and DC with State Seal of Biliteracy Process by 2019
  - MA Language Opportunity for our kids (LOOK Act) signed into law by Governor Baker on November 22, 2017
  - LOOK Act = Passed through cooperation of leaders of professional organizations for World Language, English Learners and Dual Language
  - Language Opportunity Coalition [www.sealofbiliteracy.org](http://www.sealofbiliteracy.org)
  - <http://www.doe.mass.edu/ell/biliteracy/>
  - ACTFL Proposed Targets/hours of instruction
- Almost 1,200 DESE Seals and Seals with Distinction were awarded in 2018-19 with another 500 LOC Biliteracy Attainment Awards
- 82 Districts Across MA Reported Seal of Biliteracy Data in June 2019
- Amazing Statewide Results of Seal of Biliteracy and LOOK Act
- How Does a District Participate in the Seal of Biliteracy? District Registers with DESE!
- How is Newburyport WL Progressing in Its Shift to Proficiency?
- I've completed two Departmental "Needs Assessments" based on work completed and faculty surveys and observations.
- The WL Department and I have been orienting to and practicing the use of ACFL's new 6 Core Practices.
- Results of our work together in the Spring of 2019
- How Did I Meet My Objectives for This Presentation?

**David Hochheiser** asked if it is our plan to add more teachers at Middle School. Answer - she would like to see it in Kindergarten.

**Bruce Menin** asked if he were to walk into a classroom, what would he see? Answer - a lot of interaction.

**Sean Reardon** questioned needs assessment; did she see teachers graduating towards shift.

**Bruce Menin** asked what did she see with technology towards this.

**Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik** asked a Spanish teacher to speak re: foreign language program working with Professor Sherf.

**Bruce Menin** asked if there were benchmarks we could reach. Answer - that is an area the World Language Dept. and Administration will be discussing.

**Angela Bik** stated they have met with Professor Sherf during the summer.

**Bruce Menin** said they will need to look at the Middle School re: this.

**Nick deKanter** said it is important to get instruction into the lower grades as soon as possible.

**David Hochheiser** spoke about a shift in learning language - 2-9 grades.

Professor Sherf was thanked for her presentation.

### **2019 - 2020 DISTRICT GOALS:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** presented his 2019-2020 District Goals. His presentation consisted of the following:

All students can learn and succeed but not on the same day in the same way.

#### **2019 - 2020 District Goals**

##### **Exceptional students getting exceptional results**

- I. Professional Learning Goal: Instructional Leadership
  - Key Action Steps
  - Benchmarks/Evidence of Progress
  - 2016-2020 Newburyport Strategic Plan (Strategies & Action Steps That Support Professional Practice Goal)
- II. Student Learning Goal: Support Measurable academic improvement. By June 2020, we will increase supports that improve student achievement for ALL students while closing existing achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students and students with learning disabilities.
  - Key Action Steps
  - Benchmarks/Evidence of Progress
  - 2016-2020 Newburyport Strategic Plan (Strategies & Action Steps that Support Student Learning Goal)
- III. School Improvement Goal: Professional Learning Communities. By June 2020, we will increase the ability of grade level and content specific professional learning communities to use student-friendly data cycles.
  - Key Action Steps
  - Benchmarks/Evidence of Progress
  - 2016-2020 Newburyport Strategic Plan (Strategies & Action Steps That Support School Improvement Goal)
- IV. District Improvement Goal: Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. By June 2020, we will have a system to provide a comprehensive, rigorous, equitable, and relevant curriculum that is aligned to the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks.
  - Key Action Steps
  - Benchmarks/Evidence of Progress

- 2016-2020 Newburyport Strategic Plan (Strategies & Action Steps That Support District Improvement Goal)

**David Hochheiser** said he appreciated the presentation, especially the Professional Learning Goals.

**Nick deKanter** said he likes that it showed us what it is you are working toward.

**Bruce Menin** said the presentation was very specific and had consistency.

**David Hochheiser** said re: Curriculum - enhancing community discussion - this will let us know what they think and will share ideas.

**Sean Reardon** said it would be nice to have some type of a forum. He thought the presentation was awesome and asked if they could get an update midyear.

### **SCHOOL COMMITTEE GOALS:**

**Bruce Menin** asked the Committee to discuss the process that they would need to accomplish this.

**Nick deKanter** stated that they have very solid district goals - how does this translate to School Committee Goals? That is a little bit as to what they need to discuss.

**Superintendent Gallagher** suggested that they have a retreat.

**David Hochheiser** asked the Superintendent if he had a working version as to what he wanted to accomplish this year, so the Committee could help him.

**Bruce Menin** said he would set a tentative meeting.

### **ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:**

**Assistant Superintendent Bik** reported on the following:

- Analytics Platform - Paul Miniutti, founder of the Analytics Platform has provided software development from Small Startups to Fortune 500 companies specializing in Data Analytics for Financial Industries for over 20 years. Two years ago, Paul started focusing on helping School Districts cost effectively analyze their data with the technology available to them in their Goggle Domain. Paul is currently working with over 20 School Districts in Massachusetts with more in the "Queue". All of the technology a District needs for Automated Data Collection and Real Time Dashboards for Performance and Growth Metrics are present within Google Domain - for free. There is no software to install or buy. He hopes to leverage this technology to implement their districts specific Analytics Platform.

**Bruce Menin** asked if it is possible to poll reports off of this - is there someone in District who can make changes.

**Sean Reardon** asked what the membership cost was. Answer \$7,500 - Mr. Miniutti wanted to make this affordable.

- Summer Curriculum Writing Overview - There are 73 projects - so much good work has been done. There are 125 teachers involved. This gives us a great jumping off point.

**David Hochheiser** asked if teachers were tracking standards based mapping? Answer - yes - very impressive

## **SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:**

**Superintendent Gallagher** reported on the following:

- Opening of School 1st week - It was a great opening - he rode the bus twice
- Transportation and construction issues - extra time was taken to get things squared away.
- Overview of Late Start work - He has met with parents, stakeholders and transportation the company. They are trying to make this cost neutral and not to impact arrival / dismissal times or athletics. He will present a plan at the October 7th meeting. A couple of community nights will be held to get impact.

**Steve Cole** asked if **Superintendent Gallagher** has had an opportunity to speak to other Superintendents? Answer - yes and the plan will not have a drastic input on athletics.

## **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance - Steve Cole** said they will meet Monday at 8:15 AM.

**Policy - Nick deKanter** said they met this evening. They discussed electronic communication to the community. The next meeting will be on Monday, October 21.

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

### **Motion**

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

**VOTED:** To accept the Superintendent's Entry Report as his Annual Report, July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019.

**David Hochheiser** inquired if the Committee should ask for a report at the beginning of the school year.

### **Motion Passed**

**Mayor Holiday absent for vote**

**Bruce Menin** stated at the October 7 meeting the Superintendent will present the Late Start Initiative. He also stated the Superintendent contract will be discussed at that meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

**VOTED:** To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 9:10 PM.