

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

**Senior/Community Center
Meeting Convened at 6:35 PM**

Mayor Donna Holaday / Bruce Menin Presided

Present: Nick deKanter, Steve Cole, Bruce Menin, Mayor Donna Holaday, David Hochheiser (arrived at 7:09), Sean Reardon, and Brian Callahan

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:35 PM. Roll Call found all members present except **David Hochheiser** who arrived at 7:09 PM. All those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

At this point **Bruce Menin** took over chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

Bruce Menin stated that after twelve years of service to the District **Nick deKanter** would be attending his last meeting this evening.

Mayor Holaday read a Proclamation and all those in attendance gave **Nick deKanter** a standing ovation.

Sean Reardon thanked **Mr. deKanter** and stated that everyone valued his service.

Steve Cole stated he appreciated all the hard work that **Mr. deKanter** had put in over the years.

Bruce Menin said that Newburyport was a better district because of him. He presented a book to **Mr. deKanter**.

Nick deKanter thanked everyone for their kind words and stated he had enjoyed being on the School Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bruce Menin asked people to come forward to make a public comment:

- _____, 27 1/2 Jefferson Street, _____ She thanked the Task Force for their proposal, and spoke regarding the Val/Sal proposal.
- Paul Acquaviva, 62 Bromfield Street, _____ He thanked **Nick deKanter** for his dedicated service to the District, and thanked the Task Force for their efforts.
- D. C. Gagnon, 5 Tracy Street, _____ He stated he liked the multiple speakers. He stated the Val/Sal has to be academic achievement - "Give academic Achievement their recognition".
- Julie Gagnon, 5 Tracy Street, _____ She thanked the Task Force - the community voiced their opinion - keep the Val/Sal the top 2 students.
- Colleen McElings, 197 High Street, _____ She congratulated **Nick deKanter** on his service to the District. She stated they should keep the Val/Sal with the weighted GPA - academic excellence.

- Matt Langley, 17 Lincoln Street, He stated he supported the findings of the Task Force

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

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 warrant.
\$27,479.92.

Motion Passed

David Hochheiser 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 to make payment And deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$14,485.61

Motion Passed

David Hochheiser 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.
\$445,296.70

Motion Passed

David Hochheiser absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by **Nick deKanter** and seconded by **Sean Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, November 4, 2019.

Motion Passed

David Hochheiser absent for vote

STUDENT & STAFF RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher recognized the following people:

- Briana Ferullo, NHS Athletic Trainer was recognized for her high quality of care provided in looking after the safety and well-being of the student athletics.
- Samuel Cooper (gr 11) and seniors Julianne Heath, Annemarie Noe, and Sophia Scali who presented an excellent lesson on healthy lungs along with strategies to avoid vaping to the 5th grade students. All of this happens under the watchful eye of Jill Moran.
- NHS Science Teacher Jill Moran who helped design the lesson, organized materials and created a google evaluation survey. Jill also runs the Anti-Defamation League, as well as the Interact Club after school. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty and

creating such a rich experience for both the 5th grade student, but also the NHS student leaders.

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Peter D'Ambrosio brought the Committee members up-to-date on recent happenings at Newburyport High School:

- We recently had a Winter Concert with beautiful performances from our Concert Band, Choir and Orchestra.
- The High School had a very strong turnout for Showcase Night on December 4. This event shows what the high school has to offer and helps with Middle to High School transition. Future NHS students were given a tour of the High School by current students. They were able to meet teachers and begin the transition to the High School.
- This Friday, the High School has its next Recognition Rally where we will recognize student achievement.
- This Wednesday, the National Honor Society is hosting a Blood Drive through the Red Cross. Many students are registered to donate blood.
- The Art Honor Society also had a very successful art auction on December 7. They are hosting a fundraiser at Flatbread Pizza tomorrow evening. If you are in the mood for pizza make sure you go there.
- Finally, Winter sports has officially begun:
 - Indoor track boys/girls teams beat Masco.
 - Basketball has their annual holiday tournament coming up.
- He thanked **Nick deKanter** for his service. It was an honor to serve on this Committee with him.
- He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRIP UPDATE:

This trip has previously been approved by the School Committee, however, the itinerary has changed. Aileen Maconi provided an update that included a community service opportunity in Boca Chica. She stated this has turned out to be a more robust trip.

VAL/SAL UPDATE:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher gave an update on the process from the beginning.

High School Principal Andy Wulf and the Student Task Force presented a summary of the Task Force Proposal:

Using the values identified through the on-line input, in person dialogue, and student council advisory, the Task Force proposed the following:

- Retain the former definitions of Valedictorian and Salutatorian as defined in the 2018-19 Clipper's Compass.
- Recognize the student Valedictorian, Salutatorian and the students with the top 5% highest GPAs at the Honors Celebration. The purpose of this event is to celebrate academic achievement.
- Use the values of Academic Achievement, Leadership, Character, Service and Intellectual Curiosity to develop criteria for graduation speakers.

Senior Student Speakers and Recognitions:

- **April: Honors Celebration:** The task force is proposing that the Valedictorian and Salutatorian be invited to deliver speeches at the ceremony so they can convey the value of scholarship to the underclassmen earning academic keys.
- **May: North Shore Honor Scholars Recognition Dinner:** This event is organized by the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and recognizes students in the top 5 percent of their classes from schools on the Northshore. Last year's event recognized 362 students in the presence of 1,000 parents.
- **Senior Week**
 - Vespers:** A theme for this ceremony is decided by the class officers and class advisors. The theme is shared with the senior class a month before the ceremony and seniors can draft a proposal to speak. Four to six students are selected by the advisors and class officers to speak at the ceremony.
 - Ivy Day:** Teachers nominate students to serve as the Ivy Day Orator. With each Nomination, teachers provide a rationale for how the nominated students represent the Clipper Values. A teacher panel uses the nominations to select the student who will deliver the Ivy Day oration.
 - Graduation:** The task force is proposing that graduation have 3 student speakers who represent scholarship, service, leadership, character, and intellectual curiosity. All seniors will be invited to complete an application. The application will ask students to explain how they exemplify scholarship, service, character, leadership and intellectual curiosity. In addition, student applicants will share the message they want to convey in their speech. A committee of teachers, administrators, and the class officers will review the applications and decide on the 3 speakers.

Discussion:

Sean Reardon inquired if speakers Val/Sal would not be at graduation.

Bruce Menin asked for identities of speakers at graduation. Were these decisions by teachers?

David Hochheiser asked someone to speak as to how Val/Sal would be chosen. He stated the spread between the top 5% is decimals. He inquired about the top 5% night at the North Shore Chamber of Commerce. Is this new? Answer - no the 2nd year. He asked why, after we decided not to name the top 10 are we now naming the top 5%.

Steve Cole stated this is because of the task force work

Mayor Holaday commended all of the task force.

Nick deKanter spoke re: not naming the top 10. The top 5% takes it to a new level. We need to listen to possible changes in the future.

Sean Reardon thanked the task force.

Brian Callahan asked if this was the final proposal.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To suspend the rules to allow the first reading of the proposal.

Roll Call Vote:

Steve Cole	Yes
Mayor Holaday	Yes
Sean Reardon	Yes
David Hochheiser	Yes
Nick deKanter	Yes
Bruce Menin	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the first reading for the policy of Valedictorian/
Salutatorian.

David Hochheiser said he deeply regrets turning something academic into competitive. He does not agree with the definition. He said he does not like the flavor of this. There should have been a discussion on the North Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Steve Cole stated that 7 people spoke in favor of the task force, 6 wanted the Val/Sal to speak at graduation.

Nick deKanter said we need to understand the definition between competition and recognition.

Bruce Menin said he will support the proposal and asked if there were any other things that needed to be worked out.

Principal Wulf said a few small details.

Roll Call Vote:

Bruce Menin	Yes
Nick deKanter	Yes
David Hochheiser	Yes
Mayor Holaday	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Sean Reardon	Yes
Steve Cole	Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

LEO'S CLUB STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT REQUEST:

The Leo's Club is an established, long-standing club at the High School that has requested a student activity account.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To establish a Leo's Club Activity Account at the High School.

Motion Passed Unanimously

MCAS PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Gallagher gave an overview of the 2019 District Assessment & Accountability Report which consisted of the following:

- History of Assessment & Accountability
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Brief Overview
- What is the Next-Generation MCAS?
- Scores were released this Fall for the Spring 2019 Exams
- Parent/Guardian Report Sample
- Legacy Reporting Vs. Next Generation Reporting
- Statewide Results for Grades 3-8 ELA & Math
- Why did my child score proficient on the older MCAS but only partially meeting expectations this year?
- DESE - Looking beyond the scores
- New DESE Accountability System - What is the Accountability System?
- New DESE Accountability System - How are School Classified?
- New DESE Accountability System
- District MCAS Assessment Breakdown Summary
- MCAS Assessment ELA Grades 3-8 Breakdown - Next Generation MCAS Results Spring 2019
- MCAS Assessment Math Grades 3-8 Breakdown - Next Generation MCAS Results Spring 2019
- MCAS Assessment Science Grades 3-8 Breakdown - Next Generation MCAS Results Spring 2019
- MCAS Assessment ELA Grade 10 Breakdown - Next Generation MCAS Results Spring 2019
- MCAS Assessment Math Grade 10 Breakdown - Next Generation MCAS Results Spring 2019
- Sample ELA - NHS Next Gen. MCAS Assessment Breakdown
- Sample ELA - Nock MCAS Assessment Breakdown (GR, 8)
- MCAS Confidential Report Names
- Legacy Version: Detailed Data Analysis Example

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RETREAT FOLLOW-UP:

Bruce Menin mentioned some agenda items - District Review framed by goals. He stated at the next School Committee meeting they should discuss goals.

Mayor Holaday mentioned an Ad Hoc Committee.

Sean Reardon said they should look at common goals by January 21.

Bruce Menin asked if someone on the Committee would be willing to look at some letters.

Mayor Holaday volunteered.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ANGELA BIK'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik reported on the following:

- Skills-based Teaching & Learning (planning the course for Cohort 3 and follow up time with Billie Donegan for Cohorts 1 & 2)

Bruce Menin said he will have Ms. Donegan speak.

David Hochheiser suggested bringing her with some teachers.

- CACE Conference details (focus of this year's conference who attended, etc)
Title 1 Conference - speakers

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- Interim positions (Patricia Lally/Interim Bresnahan Principal and Deb O'Connor/ Interim Director of Pupil Services)
- Weather Protocols - this is a collaboration and a lot of work at night
- NHS Blended Learning Committee Update - best practices - good use - sustainable for District

David Hochheiser asked if the Committee could get an update.

- Homework Committee - Group staff/faculty - impressed with the quality of conversation
- Color Day - great day
- Football Team - they won on Thanksgiving
- NEF Auction - great night - they raised a lot of money
- Dual Enrollment - will report at next meeting

He thanked **Nick deKanter** for his service and dedication to the Newburyport School System.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no reports at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion:

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Nick deKanter** it was

- VOTED:** To adjourn to Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective bargaining or litigation, and not to reconvene in Open Session
At 9:06 PM.