

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING & RETREAT

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

Monday, August 7, 2023

BUSINESS MEETING

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Brian Callahan, Steve Cole and Breanna Higgins

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 4:07 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the June 5, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed

Warrants:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
Following Warrant:

Warrant 8092 FY23	\$121,046.99
<u>A-Warrant</u>	<u>\$ 18,521.93</u>
	\$139,568.92

Motion Passed

School Choice - Kindergarten:

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher reported that kindergarten enrollments continued to increase. There were 141 enrolled as of August 4th and the office was awaiting paperwork for 2 more. This is one of the largest kindergarten classes NPS has had in several years. There are 8 kindergarten teachers, and he would like to keep the class sizes down (under 18).
- As kindergarten moves to grade 1 in 2024-2025, the district will need to monitor enrollment #'s as the district typically has a bump up of 5 – 10 additional enrollments.
- After discussion, it was recommended not to open school choice for kindergarten.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
at 4:26PM.

Motion Passed

SUMMER RETREAT

Welcome / Opening Comments / Introductions

Mayor Reardon and Vice Chair Sarah Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Strategic Goals Update – Superintendent’s Goals

- Superintendent Gallagher presented the 2023-2024 Strategic Goals Update, which included a review of highlights in the 2022-2023 District Goals report. The presentation also included a draft of the Detailed Goal Report and links to various 2022-2023 district reports.
- The Superintendent will obtain #'s of how many students had dual enrollment credits, and how many actually transferred over.
- Juliet Walker would like to know which goals are not completed, as well as when the next goals will be mapped out. (i.e. 2024 and 2025). The Superintendent will provide information on incomplete goals in September.
- Breanna Higgins feels it would be helpful if the goals were measurable, as well as knowing where they are in the cycle.
- Juliet Walker suggested the Detailed Goal Report would be easier to read in a bullet-format.
- Superintendent Gallagher would like to provide updates during the year to the School Committee (i.e. via the meeting packet, a newsletter, or a memo).

School Committee Goals

- The committee brainstormed goal ideas (list attached), will match the ideas to the Strategic Plan, then vote on goals.
- Breanna Higgins suggested that the Chair could periodically report on the goals at the start of a meeting.
- Bruce Menin suggested goals could also be part of a subcommittee report.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Update

- Sample evidence materials have been added into the Google School Committee Classroom by Superintendent Gallagher during the year (i.e. weekly Friday Memos, newsletters, budget, etc.). He will double check for any missing dates.
- A link to the online evaluation survey was emailed to members, and data will be compiled once everyone is finished.
- Evaluation results will be discussed in executive session at the September 5th meeting.

Assessment Data Presentation Planning

- LisaMarie Ippolito has an assessment calendar that could be helpful for planning.
- Presentations should be done three times per year: beginning (early October), middle (after MLK), and end (last meeting in June).
- Members would like to see:
 - What are teachers doing with the data? What adjustments are leaders making?
 - Have an example that follows a student throughout the year.
 - Be transparent about concerns, and let people know what is being worked on.
 - Have presentations before the budget.
 - Share the whole assessment report, but present only what is most important.

Review Process for Warrant Approval

- When voting to approve the warrant, members shouldn't be seeing the warrant for the first time at the meeting. Juliet Walker suggested reviewing the warrant electronically.
- Phil Littlehale will talk with the staff to try closing the warrant by Thursday so it can be viewed before Monday.
- Brian Callahan suggested voting on all three #'s at once.

Public Comment At School Committee Meetings Policy (BEDH)

- Suggestions:
 - A public comment sign-in sheet that includes a "topic" column.
 - A blurb on the sign-in sheet, rather than reading it at the beginning of public comment
 - Switch the order of Recognitions and Public Comment
 - Consult Dorothy Presser as to when/how School Committee should respond to and/or address public comments.
- In paragraph # 3, remove the 1st sentence. Begin with the 2nd sentence that reads *Topics for public comment should be limited to those items with the School Committee's scope of authority.* Juliet Walker will verify the last two lines in paragraph #3 of the policy.
- The policy will be presented again at the next school committee meeting.

Community Budget Input Ideas

- Utilize School Councils
- Tell parents what the School Improvement Plan (SIP) does
- Needs a focused dialogue
- Hold a budget public forum using the strategic plan to see the priorities
- School-specific parent survey
- Conduct budget workshops (i.e. Saturday morning in the Nock Library)
- Hold a forum in September; divide schools amongst the school committee
- Engage companies and families without kids; ask them what they want to see.
- Include the Senior Center and Chamber of Commerce

Special Education

- Develop more focus groups
- Learn why people are not staying in jobs
- Ask parents what characteristics they are looking for; use those points when developing a job description

Miscellaneous

- Superintendent Gallagher invited all School Committee members to opening day assembly at the Nock on Tuesday, September 5th. He will send them background information regarding keynote speaker, Richard Wormeli.
- Make sure *all* staff communicate on strategies.
- How do coaches speed up about NPS policies?