

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
April 5, 2021**

Meeting Convened at 7:07 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:07 PM. Roll Call found all members present.

At this point Vice-Chairman **Brian Callahan** assumed chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motions:

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:
\$11,960.41

Roll Call Vote:

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

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:
\$337,657.15

Roll Call Vote:

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

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 to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$14,366.07

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Tuesday, March 9, 2021, as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Meeting minutes of Monday, March 15, 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Superintendent Gallagher presented the Capital Improvement Projects for the School District which consisted of the following:

- **Project Detail Sheets**
 - NHS-Addition, Renovation & Roof Replacement
 - NHS-Engineering Services
 - NHS-Bleacher Seat Replacement
 - NHS-Exterior Painting
 - Toro Groundskeeper 3500-D
 - NHS-Energy Reduction Projects
 - Pick-Up Truck with Plow
 - NHS-Furniture Replacement
 - Nock Molin - Walkway/Sidewalk Repairs and Repaving
 - NHS-Carpet Replacement
 - NHS School Auditorium Plaster Repairs
 - Nock Molin-Tennis Court Renovation
 - Nock Molin-Furniture Replacement
 - Nock Molin-Gym & Auditorium Roof Replacement
 - NHS-Ground Floor Vestibules

Mayor Holaday explained the Statement of Interest that is being worked on.

David Hochheiser questioned:

- snowblower detail - will it be shared between buildings?
Superintendent Gallagher explained that it will be used to clear the huge piles of snow at the buildings.
- Field cutter - status of field responsibility
Superintendent Gallagher explained that we have a good working relationship with the city. A grounds person has been hired and will be instrumental with facilities.

Sean Reardon inquired regarding:

- Bleachers - funded by ESSER funds?
Superintendent Gallagher allocated LEA funds
- Truck - is it used throughout the year - what does it do?
Superintendent Gallagher said yes it will be used throughout the year - landscaping - Used on a daily basis.

Sheila Spalding inquired regarding:

- LED lights - these are warm and flicker free - are they using these?
Superintendent Gallagher said yes they are.
- Carpeting replacement - she suggested they be replaced with linoleum - it is easier to maintain and cheaper.
Superintendent Gallagher said Steve Bergholm is looking into this.
- Solar panels - how old?
Steve Cole said they were purchased in 2008.

Brian Callahan asked what were they voting on?

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Sheila Spalding** it was

VOTED: To approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan as submitted by the Schools.

Roll Call Vote:

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

2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Brian Callahan outlined the calendar.

Superintendent Gallagher explained this was a very similar calendar that was done a couple of years ago.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as submitted by
Superintendent Gallagher.

Mayor Holaday questioned the professional development in November - is that an early release?

Superintendent Gallagher explained.

David Hochheiser asked in the Fall could we have a conversation re: school closing down for midterms?

Sean Reardon questioned the February early release day.

Superintendent Gallagher explained re: the large amount of absences.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE UPDATE:

Mayor Holaday provided an update for the community dialogue public forum regarding the naming of the Nock School and the thin blue line flag display. She explained there has been a meeting of a diverse group of people via Zoom. Topics include:

- Three trainings
- Racism in our community
- Thin blue line flag
- 40's event
- Human Rights - DEA

Sean Reardon thanked the Mayor for her work on this.

David Hochheiser questioned the thin blue line.

Mayor Holaday explained there have been community concerns as to why the flag was flying outside the police station. She commented on the anti-semantic incident in Duxbury.

Brian Callahan said he has received an email re: Holocaust film.

Steve Cole spoke of Anna Smolowitz' play.

David Hochheiser questioned play.

Superintendent Gallagher explained.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- 66 applicants are now down to 3
- Business Manager - 3 new candidates
- Nursing Staff and assistants - testing - developed comprehensive testing - tested over 1,000 - negative - 1,00 again this week.
- Teachers - Staff - First shot given - 2nd shot this week.

Mayor Holaday inquired how things are going - in person learning?

Superintendent Gallagher spoke about bringing students back - it is going very well. Arrival and dismissal problems have developed as parents are reluctant to have students ride the bus so this has doubled the amount of cars at the schools.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:59 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed Unanimously