

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING MEETING
Library of Nock Middle School, 70 Low Street, Newburyport
Tuesday, April 27, 2021**

Meeting Convened at 6:33 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided

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

Absent: Sheila Spalding

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the Public Hearing meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present except **Sheila Spalding**.

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

FY22 BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher gave an overview and explanation of the FY22 Proposed Budget.

Bruce Menin asked **Superintendent Gallagher** if he had a vision for the district.

Superintendent Gallagher said once ESSER III funding is formulated we will have a plan.

Sean Reardon asked about ESSER II.

Superintendent Gallagher said we were very conservative with ESSER II.

Sean Reardon asked if they would get a list.

Superintendent Gallagher said we will have a 5-year plan.

David Hochheiser asked about:

- The two positions in the sixth grade; are teachers being moved from Spanish I to Spanish II? **Superintendent Gallagher** explained that the focus is on one language - do it well - then bring on another language.
- Adding a 6th grade position.
- Is there a goal by the end of Spanish 4 - will our kids be able to pass assessment? Answer - Yes.
- Is there a reason why we are not hiring a German teacher? Answer - Get Spanish right, then bring on another language. **Bruce Menin** added that this is in order to achieve efficiency.

Steve Cole said it is tough to learn a language. He asked the following:

- What does it look like - the teaching load for grade seven? Answer - it will change a little bit.
- Will the loads get a little smaller? Answer - Yes

Brian Callahan asked about:

- The College Counselor - will it be in? Answer - Yes

- What will the Bresnahan lose by not having a tech integrator? **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.
- It would be great to have all your wish lists in the budget.

Mayor Holaday asked:

- Is there any chance in using ESSER funding to fund these positions? **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.
- Where are we with the transportation contract? Nancy Lysik said we have a number of requests; we will know later. **Superintendent Gallagher** said we have money allocated for that.

Bruce Menin asked about the priority list.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Devlin, 3 Dexter Lane said he encouraged the Superintendent to pass a budget to increase educational opportunities for our students. He said you do not balance the city budget.

Jane Snow asked about district supplies, behavioral specialist - she asked for some background. **Superintendent Gallagher** said the behavioral specialist would oversee social emotional welfare and would work with others to provide support for students. It would be a district position.

Zeid, 192 Water Street said we should bring forward a full budget. He inquired re: School Choice - what is really the nature of that? He asked for an explanation.

Sarah Hall, 8 Arthur Welch Drive She stated in her email that although she was a big proponent of World Language learning she didn't think adding two 6th grade Spanish teachers was a worthwhile investment. A better use of funds for World Language would be to hire Explore teachers for weekly Spanish in grades K-6.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:21 PM

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Library of Nock Middle School, 70 Low Street, Newburyport
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

Meeting Convened at 7:23 PM

Mayor Donna Holaday / Brian Callahan Presided

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

Absent: Sheila Spalding

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:

Mayor Donna Holaday called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:23 PM. Roll call found all members present except **Sheila Spalding**.

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

SELECTION & APPOINTMENT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION AND THE BUSINESS MANAGER:

Superintendent Gallagher said there were 16 applicants for the **Business Manager** position. They interviewed 6. **Superintendent Gallagher** said **Steve Cole** was the chair for this Committee. He gave the extensive background of **Mr. Philip Littlehale** who was the choice of the Committee.

Steve Cole said this was an exhaustive process; all candidates were well qualified.

Mayor Holaday welcomed **Mr. Littlehale** and stated she was excited to begin working with him. **Superintendent Gallagher** introduced **Mr. Littlehale** to the Committee. All those present gave him a standing ovation.

Mr. Littlehale stated he was excited to begin working in the Newburyport District. It was closer to his home and he had been looking for a smaller district.

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Holaday** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To approve the hiring of **Mr. Philip Littlehale** for the position of Business Manager.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Superintendent Gallagher said there were 66 applicants for the **Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction** position. 8 were interviewed and 3 were selected for the final interview. **Superintendent Gallagher** gave the extensive background of **Ms. Lisa Marie Ippolito** who was the choice of the selection committee.

Superintendent Gallagher introduced **Ms. Ippolito** to the Committee. All those present gave her a standing ovation.

Ms. Ippolito said she was very excited to begin working in the Newburyport District.

Bruce Menin welcomed her to Newburyport. He asked her to talk about her teaching experience. **Ms. Ippolito** explained.

David Hochheiser asked how did she think we could include the community in curriculum?

Ms. Ippolito explained stating among other things we could have a Math Night and a Stem Night.

Motion

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

VOTED: To approve the hiring of **Ms. Lisa Marie Ippolito** for the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

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.
\$8,310.46

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

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.
\$268,580.65

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor to make payment and deduct the funds from the school's account.
\$14,279,85

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote.

Minutes:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Public School Budget Forum and the Business Meeting minutes of Monday, April 5, 2021, as amended.

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

BRING CHANGE TO MIND CLUB REQUEST FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the request to open a student activity account at the High School for the Bring Change to Mind Club.

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Restraint & Behavior Support Procedures & Policy (JKAA)

Superintendent Gallagher explained that the original JKAA policy "Corporal Restraint of Students" needed to be rewritten as a result of the Tiered Focused Monitoring recently completed by DESE. The JKAA policy will now be known as the "Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Procedures".

Motion

On a motion by **David Hochheiser** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve the change of the original JKAA policy "Corporal Restraint of Students" now be known as the "Physical Restraint Prevention and Behavior Support Procedures".

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Acceptance of the Ethics Policy (BCB) and Operating Principles & Norms of Interaction Policy (BCC/BCD)

This was put off until the next School Committee meeting.

SCHOOL CHOICE UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher provided an update regarding school choice possibilities for the district in 2021-2022. He stated they are still looking at numbers. They are as follows:

- K - hold off
- 2 - hold off
- 4 - add 10 slots
- 6 add 10 slots
- 7 add 10 slots
- 9 15 - 20 slots

Numbers may change.

SUPERINTENDENT SEAN GALLAGHER'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher provided an update regarding in-person learning at the Nock Middle School and the High School.

Middle School - April 12 (4 days). This week there will be 5 days.

High School - Principal Wulf is working on this. Lunch areas - Clipper Block

Mayor Holaday inquired about pool testing. **Superintendent Gallagher** there have been over 1,000 tested.

David Hochheiser asked the following:

- What percentage of kids came back to the High School? **Superintendent Gallagher** said he will get the data.
- Are we maintaining remote learning? Answer - Yes
- Are we promoting vaccinations for High School students? Answer - Yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brian Callahan spoke about the upcoming election in November. 4 of the School Committee up for election. We should put together an orientation packet for new members.

Sean Reardon said we should push out our agenda - promote our meetings more.

David Hochheiser said we should promote getting vaccinated.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

On a motion by **Sean Reardon** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:15 PM.

Motion Passed

Sheila Spalding absent for vote