

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Newburyport High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Tuesday, September 6, 2022

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

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 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point **Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall** took over chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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 8050 \$ 278,027.35

Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher thanked all the athletes from various sports teams, as well as the Band teacher Steve Cohen and his musicians for providing music, greeting and cheering district staff as they entered the building and auditorium on Opening Day. He gave special recognition to Sarah Ann Hajjar, 7th grade student at the Nock Middle School, for her outstanding solo performance playing the fiddle on stage for the entire district staff in the Nock Auditorium on opening day.

OPENING WEEK UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher thanked **Mayor Reardon** for his attendance during opening week. He thanked all those who made opening week so successful. He introduced the building Principals who announced their new staff members.

- Bresnahan Principal Jamie Sokolowski and Assistant Principal Michael Munroe
- Molin Principal Tara Rossi and Assistant Principal Leigh Curtis-Pare
- Nock Principal Nick Markos and Assistant Principal Katy Parsons
- NHS Principal Andy Wulf and Assistant Principal Mike Testa

Mayor Reardon suggested getting a demo ready.

Juliet Walker asked for a breakdown of all new hires.

Superintendent Gallagher said Principals and new Assistant Principals have already formed a great bond. He thanked everyone for being so flexible and said this was a great school community.

OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP TO NEW YORK CITY:

Principal Andy Wulf provided information pertaining to the overnight Field Trip to NYC for the High School's Theater department in November 2022. He stated there were approximately 20 students interested in attending.

Sarah Hall inquired if there was a cap on students attending. Answer up to 30.

Juliet Walker asked what were the options of finance for students. Principal Wulf explained.

Brian Callahan commented on affordability.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the overnight field trip to New York City from November 5 to November 8, 2022.

Motion Passed Unanimously

LIONS CLUB MEMORIAL PLAQUE PROPOSAL:

The Newburyport Lions Club requested permission to mount a 14" x 16" wall plaque in the gym area of the High School in memory of Mr. Paul Kolman, a teacher for over 37 years, as well as a substitute teacher and football coach for Newburyport Public Schools. In addition, Paul sold tickets at the boys' basketball home games for over 35 years, and was a very active member of the Lions Club.

Brian Callahan talked about policy and recommended this request go to the Policy Subcommittee first.

Bruce Menin commented on naming space.

Juliet Walker said she appreciated this request but felt it should go to the Policy Subcommittee first.

Sarah Hall said this should be done the right way.

Bruce Menin commented on this being done in the past.

Mayor Reardon spoke about policy - he said he was 100% in favor of this.

Steve Cole suggested moving this forward tonight by amending the motion to acknowledge the request to the Lions Club and forwarding the request to the Policy Subcommittee.

Amended Motion:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Juliet Walker** to acknowledge the request by the Lions Club to mount a wall plaque in the gym area of the High School in memory of Mr. Paul Kolman and forward the request to the Policy Subcommittee for clarification.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they will meet on September 14.

Policy:

Sheila Spalding said they will meet on September 12th in the Nock Library.

Joint Education:

Bruce Menin said they will meet on Tuesday the 4th.

Transportation Advisory Committee:

Juliet Walker said the Committee sent a survey home and received 540 responses. They will meet next Tuesday (9/13).

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher provided updates on the following:

- School Choice - 69 slots were opened
23 acceptances
Grade 1 - 3
Grade 2 - 2
Grade 6 - 5
Grade 7 - 2
Grade 8 - 1
Grade 9 - 5
Grade 10 - 3
Grade 11 - 2
- International Students -
10 students have been accepted from 8 different countries in grades 11 and 12.

Bruce Menin inquired re: the students in grade 11 would be staying until grade 12. Answer - no this is good for only 1 year.

Superintendent Gallagher said there could be a total of 12 students.

Juliet Walker inquired if it was typical under School Choice for people to not respond and what were typical reasons. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

Brian Callahan inquired what effect this had on the budget. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

Sarah Hall inquired if someone was following up on people who had not responded after applying. Answer - Yes.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS

Subcommittee Chair **Bruce Menin** explained that he had developed a draft of the Superintendent's self-evaluation process tool to be used for the off-year between the bi-annual summative evaluation. He said this has been set up in Vector.

Sarah Hall inquired if there was a timeline. **Bruce Menin** said he would like it done in a timely manner.

Superintendent Gallagher commented on the self-evaluation.

Juliet Walker said this process gives them the opportunity for feedback.

Sarah Hall inquired what were the next steps.

Steve Cole commented on the performance evaluation of the Superintendent and said moving forward it would be made better by using Vector.

Bruce Menin suggested submitting the proposal to Policy.

Steve Cole inquired what do they need to get this done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To adjourn at 7:48 PM to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing contract negotiations, possible litigation and legal matters. The Committee will be returning to regular session.

Roll Call Vote

Mayor Reardon	- Yes
Sarah Hall	- Yes
Brian Callahan	- Yes
Juliet Walker	- Yes
Sheila Spalding	- Yes
Bruce Menin	- Yes
Steve Cole	- Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

The Committee returned to Regular Session at 8:10 PM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SALARY:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To recommend a 3% salary increase to **Superintendent Gallagher** retroactive to July 1.

Superintendent Gallagher gave his appreciation and commented that he intended to stay in his position until his retirement.

Various members of the Committee commented on the Superintendent's good work and that his leadership has been phenomenal.

Mayor Reardon	- Yes
Sarah Hall	- Yes
Brian Callahan	- Yes
Juliet Walker	- Yes
Sheila Spalding	- Yes
Bruce Menin	- Yes
Steve Cole	- Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Reardon commented on the October Public Safety Forum.
Curriculum Subcommittee 2nd meeting in October.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School
Committee at 8:16 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously