

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior / Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, August 22, 2022

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon (arrived at 6:35 PM), Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Brian Callahan, and Steve Cole
Absent: Bruce Menin and Sheila Spalding

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:34 PM. Roll call found all members present except **Bruce Menin and Sheila Spalding**. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kerri Glynn, 10 Salem Street - She commented on the curriculum - re: changes - learning for social justice - wants more transparency - staff led protocols.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES:

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To omit the Newburyport School Committee Community Forum section from the minutes as they were not part of the Business Meeting.

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Motion

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Brian Callahan** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday, June 6, 2022.

Motion Passed as amended

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the School Committee Business Zoom meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 29, 2022.

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ADMINISTRATION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher introduced the following new administrators:

- Mr. Wesley Pierce, Director of Student Services
- Leigh Curtis-Pare, Molin Elementary Assistant Principal
- Katy Parson, Nock Middle School Assistant Principal
- Pam Kealey, Director of Human Resources
- Tammie Titelbaum, Director of Food Services

HEALTH & COVID UPDATE:

Superintendent Gallagher provided an update regarding health and COVID related topics for the opening of school:

- COVID-19 cases reported during summer school
 - 4 Staff
 - 4 Students
- DESE/DPH Fall COVID Guidelines
- CLIA waiver applied for and orders written to enable NPS nurses to continue to test symptomatic individuals
- No further state support for testing supplies
 - BinaxNow ordered for symptomatic testing
 - Home testing program ended in June
- Successful COVID vaccination clinic August 16th
 - Over 150 vaccinated
 - Mostly 5-11-year-old children

DISTRICT WEBSITE UPDATE:

Lisa Furlong, Director of Technology & Communications provided a summary of the various changes recently made to the NPS district website, as well as future changes and new features that will become available. This is a multi-faceted plan.

Sarah Hall commented on forms and going paperless.

Juliet Walker said she appreciated the School Committee page. She asked when the presentation would be available. She suggested getting regular updates.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANT ASSOCIATION AND NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Superintendent Gallagher said the IA Association voted to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding on Tuesday, August 9, 2022. He thanked Ms. Hall for her efforts.

Sarah Hall said she was excited re: new hires - rate of pay

Steve Cole asked in terms of numbers what step do employees fall?

Motion:

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Juliet Walker** it was

VOTED: To approve the MOU between the Instructional Assistant Association and The Newburyport School Committee for the period September 1, 2022

- August 31, 2025.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Reardon	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Steve Cole	Yes

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan said the District seeks approval to create an account and accept donations for the Bresnahan Library in memory of Kim Dow, a longtime employee.

Motion:

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Juliet Walker** it was

VOTED: To create an account and accept donations for the Bresnahan Library in Memory of Kim Dow, a longtime employee.

Juliet Walker inquired if the School Committee has to accept every donation. Answer = No

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote

Transportation Advisory Committee:

Juliet Walker said they will be releasing a transportation survey and it will get to the School Committee in October. She commented on the electric vehicle grant.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent LisaMarie Ippolito provided an update for Curriculum Renewal, Advanced Academy Summer 2022, Professional Development Summer 2022 and Summer Curriculum proposals.

Curriculum renewal

This will be started in the Fall - effective instruction - a year long process.

Sarah Hall inquired re: timing.

Juliet Walker inquired re: the following:

- Time frame - Are they forecasting for the next 5 years?
- At the end of the first year will they be recommending forecasting?
- What is the role of the curriculum group?

Mayor Reardon said this is great and he hoped they have it posted somewhere. He asked for updates to the School Committee.

Brian Callahan inquired how they deal with increase in grades - series of tests?

Advanced Academy - Summer 2022

The purpose of the Advanced Academic Programming offers challenging learning experiences to meet the needs of advanced learners who have the ability to think, reason and problem solve at advanced levels and have the requisite high level academic skills to engage in advanced materials and projects.

Offerings for 22-23:

- TED Talk
- Wellness
- Making a Graphic Novel
- Electronic Texts
- Food Trends
- Farm to Table: Hands on Learning
- Code and Crafts

There were 4 to 10 students in each course.

Summer Curriculum Proposals

Fifty staff members participated.

Juliet Walker commented on the Advanced Learning Academy and the Summer Curriculum Proposals - she asked for further explanation on both.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher provided updates on the following:

- School Safety - participation of
NEMLIC - assist us
District Attorney Office
Police Department
Safety Committee
Campus Security
Partnering with Colleges/Universities
New hires training
FOB System upgrading
Visitor Pass System
4 fire drills
2 Alice drills
1 stay in place drill
3 safety meetings
See something - say something

Juliet Walker said these things are reflective of our time - she was appreciative.

Sarah Hall asked if there was a timeline for some of these things?

Mayor Reardon suggested doing another public meeting.

- Back to School Preparations
Staff did a great job
There will be a letter sent out to parents on Thursday
We are in a great spot
- Lunch Program
Funded through the State - free
- 2 Day Leadership Retreat
Met with Principals August 11
Vertical team
August 18 - Strategic Plan - District goals/Leadership goals/safety
- Mentoring day today

He thanked local businesses.

Juliet Walker commented on the Strategic Plan - when will there be an update to the School Committee. She inquired re: vacancies.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Reardon commented on CISL.

Sarah Hall said the next meeting will be Tuesday, September 6.

Superintendent Gallagher commented on a plaque for Bob LaFrance. He spoke re: NTA coaches' salaries - an MOU will be at the next meeting.

Mayor Reardon inquired re: the coaches' salaries.

Sarah Hall inquired as to what was the School Committee's role.

Juliet Walker commented on the understanding of fees.

Juliet Walker requested a report back.

Sarah Hall explained that there would be no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
at 8:03 PM.

Motion Passed

Bruce Menin absent for vote

Sheila Spalding absent for vote