

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, December 5, 2022

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

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon

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 6:33 PM. Roll call found one member absent, **Mayor Sean Reardon**. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

STUDENT & STAFF RECOGNITION:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher recognized the following people:

- Jennifer Masone (grade 12) for diligently working to bring attention to destigmatizing mental health in schools and the community. She is one of the co-presidents of the high school's Bring Change to Mind Club at NHS that offers students a chance to feel comfortable talking about themselves and mental health issues inside and outside of school.
- Logan MacKnight (grade 8) has been nominated by the Nock staff to be the 2022 Ambassador to Project 351 for Newburyport. It is a state-wide leadership and service program where a student ambassador from each of the 351 cities and towns of Massachusetts work collaboratively to develop leadership skills and create positive change across the state within their school district.
- Jill Moran (NHS teacher and advisor to Interact Club) was recently recognized as a Robert C. Wood Memorial Hero by the Rotary for her work with the Interact Club. The award is given to those who exemplify the Rotary's vision of Helping others, putting service above self, and trying to do good in the world and having an impact in the community.

A short recess was taken.

NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION:

Superintendent Gallagher introduced the new Director/Supervisor of Nursing, Katherine Vozeolas.

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 8074 FY23
Warrant 8075 FY22
A-Warrant
\$382,021.82

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS students Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser provided the following report:

- **Nock Middle School news:**
Second round of student-led conversations will take place this week. There has been over 85% participation from students and families which is a 35% increase in attendance from previous parent conferences.
6th graders attended Project Adventure two weeks ago as a part of the Nock PBE initiatives.
Yoga and mindfulness and dance are being offered by Ms. Dwyer.
Weight training is being offered by Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Burgos will be offering its “workout of the day” after the holidays.
- **Bresnahan School News:**
Scholastic Book Fair is returning to the Bresnahan School in early December. This event is a major fundraiser for the school library.
School Safety Drills - Phase 1. In working with the youngest population of students, they are rolling out a series of safety drills. Phase 1 is a preliminary introduction to exiting the building in a safe way.
Holiday Arts: Music teacher Mr. Rulon-Miller will be taking third graders to the Senior Center to sing with the senior ukulele group, led by Mr. Brian Testa.
Our Bresnahan Artists, led by Ms. Pam Jamison, decorated life rings that are hung on the Custom Houses Maritime Tree.
- **Molin School News:** Northeast Passage is bringing wheelchairs and accessories to the school to facilitate and play a variety of familiar and novel games and sports. This will teach our students to consider that using a wheelchair while playing a sport requires skill and practice and is also challenging, athletic and fun.
- **High School News:** The High School Band is commended for their role in recent community events and parades. They will be showing off their talent along with the high school's orchestra next Monday at the annual winter concert, which begins at 7:00 PM. Ms. Moran has been recognized as a Robert C. Wood Memorial Hero by the Rotary Club.

This past weekend students in the theater program had a successful production of the show Tartuffe.

In partnership with the Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards, the high school will host an Environmental Open House on December 14. Students will be able to network with organizations and companies involved in the environmental field.

The high school currently has 2 holiday drives taking place - a food drive to support Newburyport Salvation Army Pantry and Creating Writing Class is running Poems for Pettengill House.

After a hiatus due to Covid, the GAPP exchange between Newburyport and our partner school in Waldkirch in the Black Forest is gearing up again. German students and their teachers in Waldkirch are already planning their visit in September, 2023, an exchange that has existed for 25 years.

The newly renovated Goethe-Institute (German cultural center) in Boston will soon have a visit by NHS German-language learners later this month.

- **Recognitions:**

The NHS Model United Nations team returned from their international competition at McGill University in Montreal. Theo Roberts was recognized by the Model UN Committee as an outstanding delegate.

NHS musicians Cedar Schumacher, trumpet and Evan Lagueux tenor voice will participate in the Northeastern Senior District music festival, to be held on Saturday January 7 at the New England Conservatory of Music.

Gabby Loughran received the Moynihan Lumber North Shore Student Athlete of the month.

Four of the Fall coaches have been named "Coach of the Year". Shawn Bleau (Boys Soccer) Kevin Sheridan (Girls Soccer) Lori Solazzo (Volleyball) Don Hennigar (Girls and Boys Cross Country).

The boys' soccer team made history by winning the Division 3 State Championship. This semester NHS has hosted 10 international students who have been a welcome addition to our Clipper family.

CHESS CLUB REQUEST FOR STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNT:

NHS Principal Wulf explained that this new club at the High School is requesting a student activity account:

Motion:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve the request by the Chess Club at NHS for a student activity account.

Juliet Walker inquired if it complied with policy. Answer – Yes.

Steve Cole inquired re: how to donate. Answer - contact NHS teacher Ken Cole.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

PROPOSED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - ICELAND 2024:

NHS Principal Wulf provided details for a proposed overnight field trip to Iceland during February vacation in 2024.

Brian Callahan said this would be an awesome trip.

Juliet Walker inquired re: cost. **Superintendent Gallagher** said \$4,000.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the overnight field trip to Iceland during February vacation 2024.

Bruce Menin said this will be a wonderful trip.

Juliet Walker commented on the cost of the trip and how we can make these trips more affordable.

Motion Passed

Sean Reardon absent for vote

APPLE 1:1 TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION:

Superintendent Gallagher, NHS Math teacher Kevin Sheridan and Principal Wulf provided an update on the NHS Apple 1:1 program.

Kevin Sheridan provided information regarding the following and gave a demonstration of same:

- Digital Tools
- Content Creation
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Supervision
- Innovation
- Camera System
- Possibilities

Superintendent Gallagher provided information regarding the following:

- Family Investment
- Scholarship support
- Year One Lease Program
- Program details
- Our goal is for every family to partner with NPS on this program.

Brian Callahan inquired what if they leave the district? Answer - they have the opportunity to buy it outright or pass the lease on to another family.

Breanna Higgins inquired over the benefits of the mobile carts.

Sarah Hall inquired if payments start in January?

Juliet Walker commented on the following:

- Scholarship needs
- Threshold
- Reach out to families

- If they don't buy in, can they still participate?

MCAS & INTERNAL ASSESSMENT - PART 1:

Dr. Tom Abrams, Bresnahan Principal Jamie Sokolowski and Molin Principal Tara Rossi provided assessment data for elementary grades including MCAS. (For further information, refer to the live presentation.)

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan said they have not met.

Policy Subcommittee

Juliet Walker said they will meet next week - they have a full plate - they will be discussing the transportation policy.

Joint Education Subcommittee

Bruce Menin said they met tonight for the last time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following;

- Ann Larson - program development - wonderful work going on.
- Phone System - NHS phone system is out of date - developing a new system by the end of year.
- Round 2 Nock - well received - end of year showcase - presented all their work.

Juliet Walker inquired re: budget process.

Brian Callahan inquired re: Choice next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the School Committee at 9:09 PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote