

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

Monday, May 20, 2024

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Andrew Boger, Kathleen Shaw and Breanna Higgins

Absent: Brian Callahan

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members except Brian Callahan (absent) and Mayor Sean Reardon (late arrival). All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment - none

Student Recognitions

The district's Performing Arts / Theatre / Music teachers were honored for their unwavering dedication and positive impact made to our students every day. Their tireless efforts and expertise brings the best out of our community, enriching the lives of all who experience their performances, Legally Blonde, Matilda, Seussical, as well as concerts and the Waterfront festival.

High School: Lisa Zaleski, Stephanie Phillips, Steve Cohen, Shannon Booth; Nock/Molin: Brian Nickerson, Kathleen Sheperd, Risa Annichiarico; and Bresnahan: Gardner Rulon-Miller

Introduction new Facilities Director

Superintendent Sean Gallagher introduced James McSweeney as the new Facilities Director.

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

On a motion by Andy Boger and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following Warrant:

Warrant 8117	\$469,388.19
A-Warrant	\$ <u>15,572.34</u>
	\$484,960.53

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Kathleen Shaw and seconded by Juliet Walker it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

Student Representative Report

Lizzy Homer presented the student report which included the Bresnahan STEAM fair, 8th grade Philadelphia trip, and the NHS Investment Club's final presentation. (attached)

NHS Principal's Office Naming Inscription

The NEF is seeking the school committee's final approval to name the high school principal's office after Mary Elisabeth Larnard, the first female principal of NHS. Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided a summary of Mary's background and contributions to Newburyport.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to approve the naming of the high school principal's office as presented in accordance with Policy FF – Naming New Facilities.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

Newburyport Reps – Whittier School Committee Check-in

Mary DeLai reported that she recently attended the Whittier Advisory Board meeting. Whittier is offering a summer career program for those who are employed & underemployed. There were 310 graduating seniors, of which 108 are participating in the early college program with NECCO and 18 students were recognized by the state for the Seal Of Bi-Literacy. The Senior prom will be held at the Blue Ocean on May 28th.

Brett Murphy reported that graduation is scheduled for 7:30PM on May 30th. Whittier is working with NECCO to review the feasibility and obstacles for a possible building project. He reviewed the shop and employment post high school plans of six Newburyport seniors.

Student Handbooks

High School Principal Andy Wulf and Nock Middle School Principal Nick Markos presented revisions to the 2024-2025 student handbooks. Superintendent Sean Gallagher stated that revisions to the Molin and Bresnahan student handbooks would be available by early fall.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to approve the recommended changes to the Nock and High School student handbooks consistent with Policy CHCA – Approval of Handbooks and Directives.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

2024-2025 School Choice Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reported that lotteries will be held in grades 4 and 5 due to volume of applications received. He recommended increasing the available slots in grades 6 from 15 to 20 slots, and opening three slots in grade 1.

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to increase the grade 6 school choice slots by 5 for a total of twenty seats in accordance to Policy JFBB – School Choice.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to approve three slots for school choice in grade 1, in accordance with Policy JFBB – School Choice.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

- Sarah Hall reviewed items discussed at the recent meeting. She also stated that the City vote on the FY25 budget will take place at 7PM on June 25th. An FY25 budget prep meeting will be held at 6PM on June 4th. Phil Littlehale provided a brief summary regarding the need to increase adult meal prices. He will send a communication to staff notifying them of the price increase.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to increase the cost of the adult meal price to \$5.25 effective June 1, 2024.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent

Policy Subcommittee

- Juliet Walker reviewed proposed changes to Policy EFD Meal Charges and Policy FF Naming New Facilities.

Fundraising Advisory Committee

- Findings will be presented at the June 3rd meeting.

CISL Subcommittee

- Superintendent Gallagher suggested the next meeting will be combined with the Superintendent's Advisory Council the second week of June.

Communications Subcommittee

- Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held May 23 at 6:00PM at the Nock.

Superintendent's Report

- MASC Day on the Hill: Both Superintendent Gallagher and Sarah Hall spoke of the various DESE updates, Legislative updates & bills, and speakers at this event.
- Hiring Update: The Superintendent plans to introduce new hires associated with the restructuring plan at the June 3rd school committee meeting. He will also make present his recommendation to hire for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning position at the June 3rd meeting.

New Business

- Andy suggested a hiring process presentation at a future meeting.
- The August 5th retreat date will be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:26 PM.

Motion Passed

Student Report for School Committee

May 20, 2024

Submitted by: Lizzy Homer
Location – Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

MCAS is Complete!

Congratulations to our 3rd graders and teachers for completing Math MCAS!! Thank you to Stacey Boucher, our tech integrator, and the whole 3rd grade team for making this a smooth and successful experience!

The Bresnahan STEAM Fair is this Thursday! This is an event for students in Grades 1-3 where students rotate through four consecutive exhibits over the course of one hour. Each exhibit covers one or more aspects of science, technology, engineering, art and math. We will even have a special visit from Code & Circuits Spot the Robot Dog! Thank you to our STEM teacher Kristin Spinney for organizing and for all of the local volunteers who are donating their time to bring us this special day.

We are excited to collaborate with NHS students Cassidy Bolcome and Lexi Hillger, who are working on their AP Environmental Science final and will be working with 4 of our Bresnahan classes to teach them about the endangered monarch butterflies.

Nock News:

Congratulations to all the great performances at the Waterfront Music Festival.

Our 8th grade students will travel to Philadelphia tomorrow morning and spend a few days in the city of brotherly love exploring the history of the American Revolution, some great museums and even catching a baseball game between the Phillies and the defending World Series Champions, the Texas Rangers. We wish them safe travels to and from.

NHS News:

the Sailbot Competition will take place June 2nd-7th at Camp Bauercrest in Amesbury. More information is available on the website <https://www.sailbot.org>

Last week Nora Geerlings, Sam Hartford, Declan Hocheiser, Riya Kaur, Rourke Lee, Sasha Leydon, and Michelle Seznec along with Dr. Abrams participated in a panel for Newburyport families. Originating from a review of school climate data, they partnered with Newburyport Youth Services to help all of us better understand the pressures of being a student.

The investment club conducted their final presentation of the year to their advisory board. Their investment portfolio has done well and they are making plans to monitor it across the summer. Thanks so much to the NEF and volunteer advisors for making this opportunity a reality. The depth of knowledge around fund analysis our students have gained is an invaluable skill.

As for athletics, every team is currently ranked high enough to make the state tournaments.