

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING
High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Tuesday, April 23, 2024**

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

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 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS:

Fifteen high school students were recognized for their participation in the Portrait of a Graduate pilot program: Lucy Cameron, Caden Eiserman, Claire Fehlner, Nora Geerlings, Zoe Kakuba, Priya Kaur, Sofie LaFranchise, Rourke Lee, Sasha Leydon, Fiona Marino, Bridgette Mellet, Sean Miles, Michelle Seznec, Jack Sherman and Nolan Smith.

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8115	\$ 631,325.52
A-Warrant	\$ <u>50,760.50</u>
	\$ 682,086.02

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Student Representative Report

Theo Roberts presented the student report which included ELA MCAS at the Bresnahan, state postcard race at the Molin, and congratulations to the high school's RWDC Team for their 3rd place win at the national competition. (attached)

Newburyport Reps – Whittier School Committee Check-in

Mary DeLai attended her first meeting on April 10th. The proposed FY25 budget was approved and Newburyport's increase was 10.07%, the SOI was submitted, and Whittier is looking into building project possibilities with NECCO. Brett Murphy reported school was closed April 2nd due to problems with a water hydrant and delayed April 4th due to weather. Juniors attended a Credit for Life Fair, two Newburyport students were participating in the upcoming Skills USA event, and 35 co-op employers in Newburyport were employing 81 Whittier students.

FY25 NPS Budget

- Superintendent Gallagher presented the final proposal for the FY25 Budget, which included a review of three new options for the City Appropriation: 4.74%, 4.5% and 4.25%. Phil Littlehale explained how funds in School Choice and Revolving accounts would be used to cover the increased expenses in the new scenarios.
- Brian Callahan suggested City budget discussions with the district should begin in November at the Joint meeting.
- The Use of Fund by Cost Center information was incorrect on page 1, therefore the vote was withdrawn.
- A "special" School Committee meeting will be held at 6:00PM on Monday, April 29th to review the corrected Cost Center information and vote on the proposed FY25 NPS Budget.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the 4.5% version of the City Appropriation for the FY25 Budget (with an overall 2.99%) in accordance with Policy DBG – Budget Adoption Procedures.

Motion Withdrawn

CREST Collaborative Capital Fund Increase Request

The CREST BOD recently approved several initiatives, and needs to increase the capital fund limit. Newburyport is one of sixteen CREST member districts. Approval by two-thirds of the member districts is required to revise the capital plan fund.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve Crest’s request to increase their capital fund plan from \$650,000 to \$2 million, in accordance with MA regulation 603 CMR 50.07 (10).

Motion Passed

2024-2025 School Committee Meeting Calendar - draft

- The calendar was reviewed and Sarah Hall made the following changes: add organizational meeting to January 6 and remove the Inauguration.

Revise 2024-2025 School Calendar

- The calendar voted on March 4th incorrectly listed Good Friday as March 28th, but it should be listed as Good Friday on April 18th. March 28th should be a regular early release day, and April 11th as a regular school day.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the calendar changes as presented in accordance to policy IC/ICA School Year/Calendar.

Motion Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

- Brian Callahan reported a regular meeting was held on April 11th. Topics included approval of a price increase for an adult meal (\$5.25), new student charge policy needs to be reviewed by Policy Subcommittee, bus contract was awarded, questions related to return of class funds after graduation, student activity account audit, and how to acknowledge donations.

Policy Subcommittee

- Juliet Walker stated the April meeting was cancelled; next meeting is in May.
- Recommended changes to Policies JICB, JRD, EEAEC and Policy Sections “K” – Community Relations and “LBC were reviewed. (2nd read)

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the changes to Policies JICB, JRD, EEAEC and Policy Sections “K” – Community Relations and LBC as presented.

Motion Passed

Fundraising Advisory Committee

- Brian Callahan and Juliet Walker hope to present at the next meeting (May 6th).

CISL Subcommittee – no update

Communications Subcommittee

- Andy Boger stated a meeting will be held at 6PM on April 25th.

Superintendent's Report

- Open Positions: Eight people were interviewed in the first round for the Facilities Director position and there are two finalists. The two Special Education Program Supervisor positions were advertised. The posting for the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning position is now closed.
- Grants Update: (1) The district was designated for a \$75K Environmental & Life Science Pathways grant in FY25, and \$50K for the next four years. Two other pathways are being reviewed (2) District is now eligible for a DESE Capital Skills grant (3) District was approved again for the Afghan Refugee Support grant - \$126K and (4) the district will hold their first meeting this week to review the Green Light Grant, as well as (5) look into a few clean energy and mental health grants.

New Business: none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:53PM.

Motion Passed

City of Newburyport
School Committee Business Meeting
Newburyport High School, April 23, 2024

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Student Representative Report, Submitted by Theo Roberts

Bresnahan Elementary School:

Third Grade students and staff had a successful ELA MCAS a few weeks ago. I'd like to thank Stacey Boucher for organizing, preparing and executing such a seamless testing process.

The Bresnahan is also celebrating National Mathematics and Statistics Awareness Month. This was started in 1986 to help increase interest, appreciation and understanding of the field. Students will have weekly estimation challenges, biweekly math riddles, and a math spirit week. Thank you to our math coach, Molly Farrell, for organizing this fun school-wide event!

Edward Molin Upper Elementary/Rupert Nock Middle Schools:

5th graders are learning about the hydrologic Cycle, water sources, and discussing the human impact of runoff from roads, business and home properties, and agriculture. They will be touring the wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant, the Little River Nature Trail and Maplecrest Farm with presentations by staff at each location.

Also, 4th graders are in the middle of their yearly State Postcard Race, in which each class attempts to collect as many postcards from all 50 states as possible.

The Nock Middle School Theater Department is in the final stages of preparation for their spring musical: Matilda. The shows will be on Thursday and Friday at 6:00 PM, and Saturday at 2:00 PM.

Newburyport High School:

The Real World Design Challenge team tied for 3rd in the recent national competition. Congratulations to Cedar Schumacher, Chris Rohland, Ben Healey, Will Tymowski, Parker Harding, Tommy Lynch, and Bowden Gay

The National Honor Society also held their annual induction ceremony before April Vacation for all incoming juniors. Congratulations to all new members.

Students **Rebekah DeOliveira** and **Katherine Daignault** represented Newburyport at the Massachusetts State House for Students Government Day. They participated in a

simulated Joint Committee Hearing and Executive Session in the esteemed House Chamber, collaborating with Senator Jason Lewis and Representative David Rogers.

Lastly, 30 students and 5 chaperones spent April vacation on a cultural exchange trip to Cuba. Students visited several community culture centers that have programs, often using the arts, to provide opportunities for people of all ages in the local neighborhoods. The group brought school donations that were handed out to communities in rural Cuba.