

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

**Monday, May 6, 2024**

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

**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 Comment** - none

**Student Recognitions**

*Three grade 5 students from the Molin were recognized for their exceptional creativity and perseverance by completing a cube mosaic of the Statue of Liberty, utilizing 600 Rubik's cubes: Macey Maikels, Elliot Maikels, and Ethan Thalmann.*

**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	\$808,704.65
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 14,182.87</u>
	\$822,887.52

**Motion Passed**

**Minutes**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to accept the minutes of the April 23, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

**Motion Passed**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to accept the minutes of the April 29, 2024 School Committee Special Business meeting as presented.

**Motion Passed**

**Student Representative Report**

Theo Roberts presented the student report which included the kindergarten field trip to the Dover Children's Museum, the Nock/Molin's visit with Pittsburgh Steeler team member Pat Freiermuth, and the high school's academic awards night. (attached)

**Innovation Career Pathways Presentation**

- High School Principal Andy Wulf, Dr. Erin Hobbs and Student Services Director Lauren Gee explained the purpose of career pathway programs, use of MyCAP, the recently awarded NHS Environmental Pathway, and other grant funded pathways available through the State.
- They hope to apply for additional Pathway grants next year in Manufacturing and/or Healthcare.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Supports**

- Nock Principal Nick Markos provided an overview of the process and criteria used for students to take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra course.
- iReady mid-year data for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 was reviewed. Summer supports, as well as interventions currently in place and process changes were discussed.

**NEF Naming Opportunities List Review**

- Brian Callahan reviewed portions of the Naming New Facilities Policy (FF). In addition, he stated that building principals recently reviewed the Naming Lists with NEF Executive Director Carrie O'Donnell.
- Brian stated the policy is not clear as to when the School Committee should get involved with approving donations etc. Juliet Walker stated the policy will be reviewed at the next Policy Subcommittee meeting, and the process may need to be clarified as well.
- Kathleen Shaw would like to know the vetting process used by the NEF for naming locations.
- For the May 20<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting:
  - Brian will ask the NEF to fill in the "gray" areas of the Naming Opportunities Lists.
  - Approve the Naming Opportunities Lists.
  - Juliet Walker will provide clarification on the policy (FF).
  - Superintendent Sean Gallagher will provide a brief presentation / background of naming the Principal's Office at the high school.

**2024-2025 School Committee Meeting Calendar**

- The calendar was reviewed; no further changes were requested.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to approve the 2024-2025 School Committee Meeting Calendar as presented.

**Motion Passed**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Finance Subcommittee**

- The next meeting will be at 9:30AM on May 16, 2024.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

- The next meeting will be held on May 13, 2024.

### **Fundraising Advisory Committee**

- Findings will be presented at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

### **CISL Subcommittee**

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher will work with Juliet Walker to schedule a meeting.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

- Andrew Boger stated that Lisa Furlong provided an update of technological updates to the website, and he has reached out to City Council President Cameron regarding communication opportunities with the City.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- School Choice Update: The Superintendent reviewed current application numbers and the lottery process.
- XR Terra Summer Course: A pilot program will run with the NEF this summer for students in grades 9-12. The virtual reality course will be 25 hours for up to 25 students.
- Hiring Status: The Superintendent stated they have strong candidates for the two *Program Supervisor* positions. Applications for the *TFL* positions will be reviewed next week. Interview committees for the *Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning* will be set up and initial interviews will be scheduled next week. Mr. James McSweeney has been offered the *Facilities Director* position and will be introduced at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **New Business**

- Brian Callahan noted that the Nock and High School dress codes were different in student handbooks, as well as not the same as the Policy. Student Handbooks are scheduled to be discussed at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Mayor Reardon stated the budget will go to the City Council at the end of the week, and that 4.5% for schools was looking good.
- Juliet Walker would like the MASC annual meeting materials included in the next SC packet.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:03 PM.

### **Motion Passed**

**City of Newburyport**  
**School Committee Business Meeting**  
Newburyport High School, May 6, 2024

--

***Student Representative Report, Submitted by Theo Roberts***

**Bresnahan Elementary School:**

The Bresnahan is celebrating Mindfulness Week this week - each day teachers will discuss a focus of the day, do a class activity during their morning meeting time.

The Kindergarten went on a field trip to the Dover Children's Museum in Dover, NH; and the PTO sponsored a story teller, Rona Leventhal, to perform for students last week.

The Institution for Savings presented to the 3rd grade about the importance of saving and investing money. They facilitated a wonderful interactive presentation and sent each student home with a fun goody bag to encourage them to start their own savings. We appreciate their time and dedication to the children of Newburyport!

**Edward Molin Upper Elementary/Rupert Nock Middle Schools:**

Molin School had a visit from Pittsburgh Steeler team member Pat Freiermuth on Friday. He discussed the importance of the Molin values (respect, responsibility, and kindness) and how they helped him be successful.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. A Molin virtual classroom that links to several read-aloud books, videos, coloring pages, self-care/breathing strategies and resources for teachers was recently created by educators Siobhan Green and Maggie Flaherty.

Congratulations to all of the members of the cast and crew of Matilda, and Brian Nickerson for his continued leadership and expertise in directing the production. A big thank you goes out to the parents and our community for all their hard work and support.

**Newburyport High School:**

The Newburyport Public Schools K-12 Performing Arts Waterfront Festival will be Saturday, May 18 from 12-4 PM at Waterfront Park (behind Sea Level and The Firehouse). We will be celebrating our district's young artists with Music, Theatre and

Dance from approximately 800 students in grades K-12!

Congratulations to all of the students who received an Academic Key at last week's ceremony. I would like to additionally commend the following students for their outstanding speeches and achievements at the event: Newburyport Scholar Artist, Bristol Banovic; Bresnahan Scholar Athlete, Lauren Brennan; the Class of 2024 Salutatorian, Aimon Fadil; and the Class of 2024 Valedictorian, Audrey Loughran.