

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee Business Meeting 6:30PM

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda September 2, 2025
SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes September 2, 2025
SC Warrant September 2, 2025
SC Business Meeting Minutes August 18, 2025
Daycare & Media Lab Update
Readiness Meeting Agenda
School Committee Goals
Budget Development Timeline – draft
Superintendent’s Report
Professional Development Summer Offerings List
New Teacher Orientation Agenda

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30PM

Sr./Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85773857776?pwd=5gaaBwzElsDhrlbEq2WnfkhQqUk6n7.1>

Meeting ID: 857 7385 7776

Passcode: 130025

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 8/18/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. Daycare Opening & NHS Media Lab Update
6. Opening of Schools / Readiness Update
7. School Committee Goals – final version
8. Budget 2026-2027 Planning Preparations - discussion
9. MASC Annual Conference- discussion
10. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
 - e. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mayor Sean Reardon
11. Superintendent's Report: *Summer Professional Development, New Teacher Orientation*
12. New Business

* Possible Vote

Adjournment

** The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session**, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations, collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

Newburyport Public Schools
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AGENDA NOTES

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School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 8/18/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. Daycare Opening & NHS Media Lab Update
Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Facilities Director James McSweeney will provide an update regarding the opening of the Daycare in the Bresnahan, as well as renovations at the high school for the Media Lab project. (see pictures attached)
6. Opening of Schools / Readiness Update
Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Facilities Director James McSweeney will discuss work completed throughout the district over the past few weeks to prepare for opening of school.
7. School Committee Goals – final version (*attached*)
The School Committee will review the final version of their goals for August–December 2025.
8. Budget 2026-2027 Planning Preparations – discussion
Planning preparations for the 2026-2027 Budget will be discussed. (Timeline draft attached)
9. MASC Annual Conference – discussion
SC Members will discuss the annual conference happening in November. [link to conference](#)
10. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
 - e. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Mayor Sean Reardon
- 11.. Superintendent's Report: *Summer Professional Development, New Teacher Orientation*
12. New Business

* Possible Vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

- ✓ Labor Day - closed: Monday, September 1
- ✓ Teachers 1st Day: Tuesday, September 2
- ✓ Staff Opening Day Assembly: Tuesday, September 2 @ 2:00PM - Bresnahan
- ✓ Meet & Greets – Bres, Molin, Nock: Wednesday, September 3 (times vary per grade/building)
- ✓ Gr 9 & New Student Orientation: Wednesday, September 3 @ 9AM
- ✓ Gr 1-12 Students Return: Thursday, September 4
- ✓ PK-K Students Return: Monday, September 8
- ✓ FINCOM Meeting: Thursday, September 18 @ 9AM
- ✓ Communications Meeting: Thursday, September 18 @ 10AM

School Committee

Warrant(s)

September 2, 2025

Warrant 8159 FY25	\$ 7,236.98
Warrant 8160 FY26	\$ 382,025.60
A-Warrant(s)	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total of Warrants:	\$389,262.58

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

Monday, August 18, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present except Mayor Sean Reardon (arrived 6:48PM). All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Executive Session:

Motion:

On a motion at 6:32PM by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible contract negotiations and/or legal matters, and will reconvene in Open Session.

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote

School Committee Member	Vote
Mayor Sean Reardon	absent
Juliet Walker	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes

School Committee returned to regular business meeting – call to order at 7:14PM.

Public Comments

Christine Moire, 35 Longfellow Drive, Newburyport

Warrant

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$466,644.63 as presented.

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the June 16th School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan and Sarah Hall abstained

Status of memorial “beech” tree at NHS

Superintendent Sean Gallagher explained that due to the tree’s health, it will need to come down. The tree was originally dedicated to Maj. Edmund C. Knight – Class of 1932 who was killed in action on December 9, 1944. A replacement plan is underway, and includes various suggestions such as replanting a new tree in that spot, and/or incorporating wood from the old tree into something.

Review of School Committee Goals - draft

Juliet Walker briefly reviewed some of the changes and/or additions to the goals list that were originally developed at the retreat. Juliet will correct the date in the title to read “July 2025 – December 2025”.

Feedback on District Improvement Plan (DIP) - draft

Superintendent Sean Gallagher spoke of the contents and development of the 2025-2027 DIP. He explained the relationship between the District Improvement Plan and the School Improvement Plan. The School Committee members had the opportunity to ask questions, as well as provide feedback on various goals, action steps and/or sections of the plan. The Superintendent will bring the suggestions back to his Team.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated they met on August 14th and discussed the general budget, allocations, new special education expenses, the Video Lab project and federal funding. Superintendent Gallagher shared various federal funding updates. Juliet Walker and Andrew Boger suggested possibly adding an “AI” related goal to the School Committee Goals List. The next FINCOM meeting will be held at 9:00AM on September 18th.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated she will schedule a September meeting.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated the next meeting will be at 10AM on Thursday, September 18th.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they have not yet had their first meeting of the year.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee

School Committee members are to complete the evaluation form and submit it to Mayor Sean Reardon by September 2nd. The Mayor would like to have the information compiled by the September 12th meeting.

Superintendent’s Report

Staffing Update: The Superintendent explained which positions were still open in the hiring process.

School Choice Update: The new school choice enrollment numbers for 2025-2026 were reviewed.

The Superintendent also explained that any remaining school choice openings are not held open throughout the year.

Daycare Update: Superintendent Sean Gallagher was excited to share that the new daycare center is fully staffed and will be ready to open on September 2nd. He thanked Pam Kealey and James McSweeney for their hard work, as well as Ipswich Public Schools for their guidance on this project. The Superintendent will obtain a breakdown as to how many staff from each school will be using the daycare this year.

New Business

- The district's Opening Day Assembly for staff will be held on Tuesday, September 2nd at 2:00PM in the Bresnahan gym.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:04PM.

Motion Passed



LITTLE CLIPS



DAYCARE



Toddler Area



Infant Area



Video & Media Lab @ NHS





Video & Media Lab
@ NHS



Newburyport Public Schools

Annual Readiness Meeting

Monday, August 25, 2025

High School Library

10:00AM – 12:00PM

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 – 10:30 | School Operations (Police & Fire)
Marshall Matt Simons, Deputy Chief Barry Salt |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Bus Transportation (The Coach Company)
Jared Notargiacomo |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Security – Safety – Facilities
James McSweeney |
| 11:00 – 11:30 | Medical – Health – Allergy Management
Katie Bartolini |
| 11:30 – 11:45 | Staffing – HR
Pam Kealey |
| 11:45 – 12:00 | Wrap up – Sean Gallagher |

Lunch 12:00 (NHS Library)




















DRAFT School Committee Goals for August to December 2025

Description	Recommended Action	Desired Outcome
Begin detailed review of budget line items earlier in budget development process	Finance Subcommittee to work with Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations	Regular report outs from Finance Subcommittee on budget line item review as part of budget process
Continue to work on reestablishing regular line of communication with City Council	Communications Subcommittee to coordinate with City Council President and General Gov't committee	Report outs from Communications Subcommittee
Promote community support for education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications Subcommittee and Superintendent to identify opportunities for increasing collaboration opportunities focused on NHS academic priority areas with community organizations (e.g. Council on Aging, Nbpt Literary Festival, Nbpt Recreation & Youth Services, etc) • Identify opportunities for expanding outreach of SC newsletter and other communication tools 	Report outs from Communications Subcommittee
Support continued improvement in academic performance across the district	Teaching and Learning Subcommittee to coordinate with staff to identify areas of weakness and strategies for improvement	Report out from Teaching and Learning Subcommittee, related budget recommendations from Superintendent
Cell phone use in schools	Presentation from staff on progress	School Committee to adjust policy (as needed)
Focus on creating a supportive school learning environment for all students	Collaborate with Education Commonwealth Project to implement Quality Measures framework, including survey of guardians and students	Report out from ECP

Description	Recommended Action	Desired Outcome
Continue to implement framework for measuring academic progress in response to student assessment data	Teaching and Learning Subcommittee to coordinate with staff	Regular report outs on academic goals and assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Improvement Plan with MCAS presentation in fall ● Mid-year presentation in January/February on progress ● End of year review
Develop School Committee handbook	Vice Chair to work with Superintendent to compile handbook	Prepare handbook for January (new members)
Provide opportunities for elevating student voice	Vice Chair to work with Superintendent to identify opportunities for more regular engagement with students, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase interactions with student rep to SC ● Work with Student Council ● Create opportunities for dialogue with students in schools 	Report out to School Committee
District AI practices/policies	Form SC Advisory Committee to seek input from school staff, students, and parents/guardians, and experts to inform development of AI policies and practices in schools.	Report out to School Committee



Newburyport Public Schools FY27 Budget Development Timeline (DRAFT 9/2/2025)

Date	Activity	Responsible Party
Sep 2, 2025	 Review/Discuss FY27 Draft Budget Timeline	SC/CO
Oct 2025 (TBD)	 SC Budget Forum / Listening Session	SC/CO
Oct 6, 2025	 Finalize FY27 Budget Calendar	SC/CO
Oct–Nov 2025	 Budget Development & SIPs with each School Council	Bresnahan, Molin, Nock, NHS
Nov 2025	 Budget prep materials & guidelines distributed	CO
Nov 2025 (TBD)	 Joint SC/CC Budget Workshop	SC/CC
Nov 20, 2025	 ELT Budget Meeting – Identify District Priorities tied to Strategic Plan	ELT
Dec 2–5, 2025	Central Office Reviews with Budget Holders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dec 2 (12:30–3:30) District-wide w/ Brad Brooks, Pam Kealey, James McSweeney • Dec 3 (9:45–10:30) Athletics w/ Anna DeVitto • Dec 3 (10:30–11:15) NHS w/ Andy Wulf • Dec 4 (12:30–1:15) Bresnahan w/ Jamie Sokolowski • Dec 4 (1:15–2:00) Molin w/ Tara Rossi • Dec 5 (12:45–1:30) Nock w/ Nick Markos 	Sean Gallagher, Lisa Furlong, Ethan Manning
Dec 2025	 ELT Deliberations	ELT
Dec 2025–Jan 2026	 Ongoing SC Budget Updates	SC/CO
Jan 2026	 Preliminary Draft FY27 Budget to Budget Holders	CO
Jan 14 or 28, 2026	 5-Year Capital Projects Update	SC/CO
Jan 14 or 28, 2026	 Preliminary Draft FY27 Budget to SC	SC/CO
Feb 11 or 25, 2026	 Supt Preliminary FY27 Budget Presentation	SC/CO
Feb 2026	 SC Budget Deliberations	SC
Mar 11, 2026	 Public Preliminary Presentation of FY27 Budget	SC/CO
Apr 8, 2026	 Public Hearing on FY27 Budget	SC/CO
Apr 29, 2026	 SC Adoption of FY27 Budget	SC
May–Jun 2026	 CC Budget Workshops	Mayor/CC
Jun 2026	 Final Citywide Budget Adoption	Mayor/CC

Abbreviation Key

SC = School Committee; CO = Central Office; CC = City Council; ELT = Extended Leadership Team

School Committee
September 2, 2025

Superintendent's Report



Summer Professional Development - see attached list

Day of AI link: <https://dayofai.org/>

MIT Raise Initiative link: <https://raise.mit.edu/>

2025 Mentoring Program

Assistant Superintendent Furlong, Dr. Tom Abrams and the mentoring team completed the in-person, 3-day New Teacher Orientation for our new teaching staff last week. We welcomed 19 new educators to the district. The mentoring program began Tuesday, August 26 and concluded on Thursday, August 28. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams collaborated with our mentor teachers over the summer to organize a very interactive 3-day mentoring program for our new staff, adding some great new team guiding activities this year. In addition, they reviewed the district's Portrait of a Graduate work, along with our district improvement plan. The orientation also included a Newburyport harbor cruise at the end of day 2. I want to recognize and thank our Assistant Superintendent for all of her efforts. We received many compliments about the program. (see attached agenda)

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Professional Development - Summer Offerings 2025

Professional Learning Communities

We are pleased to offer a number of educator-led programs! See "Details" links for more information.

Teaching Students With Significant Disabilities to Read and Write

Join Erin Rich and Margaret Tsu for a deep dive into Literacy for All. This model implements a truly collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to instructional change for our most involved students. Participants will become familiar with the concept of presumed competence for all learners and will integrate key concepts from our shared learning into their daily lessons and interventions.

Four, 1-hour Google Meets: Beginning June 2025 - Ending August 2025; see details

Building Thinking Classrooms

Join Beth Dollas, Meg Horst and Molly Farrell in imagining a mathematics classroom where students are thinking, problem solving, and engaged! Learn to:

- Create the ideal setting
- Engage students in thinking about math instead of just doing math
- Use assessment to promote learning

Using Peter Liljedahl's text *Building Thinking Classrooms in Mathematics: Grade K-12*, online supplements (videos and podcasts), and other related articles/ chapters, we will learn the 14 teaching practices to enhance learning.

Future Ready: Tech & Play in Learning

Stacey Boucher, Jacquie Rousseau, and Tim Mahan invite you to join the Integration Team for a summer of innovation and creation! Over five sessions, you will cover the foundations of Blended Learning, digital tools for presentations and portfolios, multimedia creation like videos and podcasts, and Playful Learning strategies. Additionally, we will add in some AI tips as it applies to all of these topics.

Five, 2-hour meetings, both in person, and virtually. Beginning July 21st, 2025 - Ending August 18th, 2025; see details.

Playful Learning

Join Jacquie Rousseau and Kelly Garbarino for a deep dive into playful learning, child development, learning neuroscience and teaching techniques. Each day will feature a guest star who will present on their area of expertise. We promise, it will be fun!

In person Meeting dates (4)

August 25-26 9:00-3:00

October 8 3:00-6:00

October 22 3:00-6:00

18 hours asynchronous work / 1 colleague/coach visit / 1 project with presentation

Facilitated Classes

Looking to earn some credits but can't commit to a multi-day class? These 1 day, 9:00am-3:00pm (6 hrs) classes are 0.5 inservice credits! Come engage in a topic of interest with your colleagues and leave with something that will be helpful for your classroom, your grade level team, or school!

Digging Deep: Reading Comprehension for Complex Texts at All Levels

Join Tom Abrams on **August 20th** to answer the question, "What does reading comprehension look like?"

Too often we get mired in testing students about their reading, asking three questions to gauge whether they have the main idea and a piece of evidence to back it up...but reading comprehension is more than a simple skill and task completion. We'll consider the difference between a skill and a strategy and explore concrete ways to help students develop the automatic skills necessary to read texts as well as strategies to help them get there. Focus in this workshop will be on developing lessons to apply next year.

Vocabulary PreK-8

Join Kristin Callahan and Kelly Garbarino on August 21st to dig into the current research around language development in children and figure out how it applies to the classroom setting at different levels.

We will build vocabulary learning routines that will make learning about words and language more fun and meaningful. *Hint Hint*, think multi-meaning word instruction, etymology for kids and multisyllabic word parts.

Leveraging Writing Workshop to Motivate Students to Write

Join Tom Abrams on **August 19th** to explore the structures and implementation of an effective writing unit, with a focus on planning and feedback during workshops.

We'll have time to look at the four major genres of writing--narrative, explanatory, informative, and argumentative--and revise or develop a unit plan to teach that genre and develop materials that we can use to launch robust writing workshops in September. One of our key focuses will be on developing structure and routines to motivate students to write. We'll also have time to do our own writing in these genres and provide each other feedback in conferences, which will allow us to explore how to provide actionable feedback during a vulnerable process.

Elementary Phonics K-3

Bring your Foundations materials on **August 19th** with Paul White and Kelly Garbarino to figure out exactly *what* is taught, *when*, *why*, and *how*.

With teacher input, we will dig into the vertical and horizontal design so we can better understand when things are introduced, practiced and mastered. Lastly, let's take a look at the multi-sensory learning activities in Foundations and explore their purpose so that we can effectively plan and implement whole group and small group instruction.

Fluency K-5

Join Haley Budden and Molly Farrell on **July 30th** to explore how the brain develops fluency in basic math facts, understanding the cognitive processes behind acquiring these essential skills.

We'll collaborate to discover effective curricular timelines and select tools that best support the development of fluency. Together, we will examine various strategies and resources to ensure lasting proficiency in basic math skills. This session is designed for educators to deepen their understanding of math fluency and share practical methods to foster success in the classroom.

Child Development Refresher

Explore with Kelly Garbarino and Tanasi Fahey on **August 14th** the importance of child development from birth.

We will explore areas of development skills including: cognition, pre-academic, social, self care, communication, and fine and gross motor. Together, we will discuss the importance of whole child development and the critical importance of having a strong foundation.

i-Ready Centers and Games K-1

Dive into exploring i-Ready centers with Molly Farrell on **August 18th**.

We'll figure out which centers are the best fit and how they can blend seamlessly into our math blocks or schedules. Our goal is to organize these centers so they match up with our lessons, and we'll gather all the materials we need to ensure these resources can be used in the most fun and effective ways possible!

Adventure in the Classroom

Join Lisa Furlong on **August 20th** if you are looking for warmups for advisory/morning meetings, strategies for making reflection more interactive, or ideas for teaching content concepts through activities.

The best way to learn an activity is to try it! In addition to learning new activities, participants will spend time brainstorming and planning for how the activities can be adapted for different grade levels, content areas, and social-emotional goals. We will explore how the experiential learning cycle (DO-REFLECT-DO AGAIN) can be an effective teaching strategy.

Educators will also be introduced to resources for quickly finding and learning new activities.

NEW TEACHER ORIENTATION

Welcome to Newburyport Public Schools!

We look forward to meeting you and introducing you to Newburyport's vibrant school community! Our New Teacher Orientation will take place August 26-28th. See below for the daily agenda and location. The dress is casual – please wear comfortable shoes on Tuesday as we will be out and about around town.

Day 1: Tuesday 8/26 | 8:30am-2:00pm | Newburyport High School, 241 High Street

- 8:30–8:50 Breakfast/Coffee – Newburyport High School Library (with mentors)
- 8:50–9:00 Welcome and Introductions – Sean Gallagher, Superintendent
- 9–9:45 Gathering Activity
- 9:45–10:00 BREAK
- 10–12:30 School Team Expedition & Lunch
- 12:30–1:45 Curriculum Planning – Exploring expectations and resources with your Mentor
- 1:45–2:00 Wrap up & Exit Ticket

Day 2: Wednesday 8/27 | 8:30am-2:00pm | Newburyport High School, 241 High Street

- 8:30–8:45 Breakfast/Coffee, gathering activity (bring your own)
- 8:45–9:45 Employee Information – Director of Human Resources Pam Kealey
- 9:45–10:00 BREAK
- 10–11:30 Information Stations
 1. *Instructional Coaching*: Tom Abrams, Paul White, Kelly Garbarino, Molly Farrell...learn about NPS coaching services and programs
 2. *Technology*: Jacquie Rousseau, Stacey Boucher, Mike Pendleton...get your teacher assigned device, log on and get started
 3. *Student Services*: Brad Brooks, Jeanna Guardino, Elise Comeau...meet the special education leadership team and learn about NPS student services
 4. *Nursing Services*: Katie Bartolini...learn about in-school nursing services and NPS policies and procedures relating to student health & wellness
- 11:30–12 Newburyport Teachers Association, John Gangemi & Michelle Rybicki
- 12–12:30 Lunch
- 12:30–12:45 Wrap Up & Exit Ticket
- 1:00–2:00 Newburyport Harbor Cruise: Experience the sights, sounds and feel of beautiful Newburyport Harbor, the Great Salt Marsh, and the Merrimack River

Day 3: Thursday 8/28 | 8:30am-12:30pm | In your school building

- 8:30–12:30 Mentor/Mentee building based time–get your room ready, find your way around the building, anything you need to be ready for students!