

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

**School Committee Business Meeting
6:30PM**

Monday, October 20, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda October 20, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes October 20, 2025

SC Warrant October 20, 2025

SC Business Meeting Minutes October 6, 2025

MCIEA Presentation

Superintendent's Report

Federal Layoffs – Office of Governor Maura T. Healey

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2025 at 6:30PM

Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85325155046?pwd=rjlMVzatblMmyJlsg2lbfCTlWXUeuw.1>

Meeting ID: 853 2515 5046

Passcode: 143002

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 10/6/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative
6. MCIEA Presentation
7. Budget Listening Session - Planning
8. *November 17 School Committee Meeting – *possible Vote*
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
10. Superintendent's Report
11. 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

School Committee Business Meeting
October 20, 2025 at 6:30PM

Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

AGENDA NOTES

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1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 10/6/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative
High school students will provide the student report.
6. MCIEA Presentation
As part of the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment program (MCIEA), Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams will present an overview of the district development of a school quality measured dashboard. (attached)
7. Budget Listening Session - Planning
School Committee members will finalize plans for the FY27 Budget Listening Session that is scheduled for November 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the high school library.
8. *November 17th School Committee meeting - *possible Vote*
The School Committee will discuss cancelling their November 17th business meeting as the meeting date conflicts with the City Council meeting scheduled on the same night.
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
10. Superintendent's Report: *Assessment Data Presentation Plan, Ad-Hoc Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting, FY2026 Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant Meeting, Federal Layoffs at DESE, and Congratulations NHS Teacher AJ Smith*
11. New Business

* possible vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates: ✓ Finance Subcommittee meeting: Thursday, October 23 @ 8:30am
✓ SEPAC meeting: Thursday, October 23 @ 5:30pm
✓ Bresnahan School Council: Tuesday, October 28 @ 8:10am
✓ NHS Parent Teacher Conference: Wednesday, October 29 @ 5-8PM

School Committee

Warrant(s)

October 20, 2025

Warrant 8165 FY26	\$ 494,050.03
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A-Warrant(s)	<u>\$ 8,566.71</u>
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Total of Warrants:	\$ 502,616.74
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NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, October 6, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present except Andrew Boger (arrived late 6:32pm). All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Student Recognition

Madeleine Jackman was presented with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent’s Certificate of Academic Excellence, which is awarded to a high school senior who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career.

Warrant

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$458,371.44 as presented.

Warrant 8163 (FY25)	\$ 1,881.73
Warrant 8164 (FY26)	<u>\$456,489.71</u>
	\$458,371.44

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the September 22nd School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

School Committee Student Representative Introductions & Report

Maddie Jackman and Anna Pervier were introduced as this year’s student representatives to the School Committee. (note: Cassidy Bolcome was unable to attend). Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included information about the October Safety Month at the Bresnahan, the annual Socktober Drive at the Nock, and the Two Worlds: One Lens project at the High School (attached).

Newburyport’s Whittier School Committee Rep – Check in

Mary DeLai reported that 90 students recently completed the Career Technical Initiative training, with 50% confirming jobs in their training area. Whittier received a \$931K grant to continue the CTI program. Mary also provided updates pertaining to the fall Adult Ed enrollments, several new certification programs, a \$1M grant to modernize their metal fab/welding space, and the recent school committee vote to look at 6 new pathways. Mary DeLai provided a status for the formation of a 23-

member school building committee, as well as establishing a regional agreement amendment committee. Mary described Whittier's new admission and lottery policies adopted for the 2025-2026 recruiting season. Based on Newburyport's 10-year average enrollments, they will have a minimum of seven seats guaranteed in 2025-2026. Last year 12 Newburyport students applied to Whittier, of which 8 were accepted and 4 were wait listed.

Overnight Field Trips – High School

Principal Andy Wulf reviewed demographics for six overnight field trips offered last year, including overall participation per trip, financial assistance statistics and funding sources for aid. Principal Wulf provided background information for a proposed overnight field trip to New York City tentatively in April 2026, as well as trips to Ireland in April 2026, Costa Rica in February 2027 and Athens & Islands in April 2027. Juliet Walker suggested lots of communications to ensure students don't miss out on traveling due to their activity schedules etc. Juliet also suggested using post participant trip surveys.

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to approve the overnight trip to New York City, and three international overnight trips (Ireland, Costa Rica, and Athens & the Islands) as presented in the packet, consistent with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

Review / Approval NEF Naming Opportunities Lists

Superintendent Sean Gallagher explained that the Newburyport Educational Foundation's Naming Opportunity Lists must be reviewed and approved annually by the School Committee. In addition, he said the Bresnahan list showed one classroom naming was pending final approval vote by the School Committee. This dedication is approved by the NEF, but not yet announced as requested by the family. Juliet Walker explained the policy and naming process. Members briefly reviewed a naming list for each building: Bresnahan Elementary, Molin/Nock and Newburyport High School. Brian Callahan and Superintendent Gallagher will seek clarification from the NEF as to the status of the NHS video lab plaque.

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to approve the Naming Opportunities Lists as presented in accordance with Policy FF – Naming New Facilities.

Motion Passed

Consideration & Review of NEF's request for a Room Dedication

Juliet Walker explained that the NEF is requesting approval for naming rights to one classroom in the Bresnahan Elementary School. The dedication details will be kept secret at this time.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the NEF's request for a room dedication in the Bresnahan Elementary School in accordance with Policy FF – Naming New Facilities.

Motion Passed

MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference Delegate

Juliet Walker explained in order to have a vote at the annual Massachusetts Association of School Committees business meeting an official voting delegate must be selected. The annual business meeting is scheduled for 3:15PM on Friday, November 14, 2025. Joanne Yelle will submit the official delegate registration form to MASC.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to approve Juliet Walker as Newburyport's official voting delegate at the annual conference, and Mayor Sean Reardon will be the alternate voting delegate.

Motion Passed

Superintendent's 2025 Evaluation Discussion

Mayor Sean Reardon explained the evaluation process, along with the various sections and standards listed in the report. Mayor Reardon review various scores, and stated that the Superintendent's 2025 evaluation was overwhelmingly positive about the direction of the school district and the leadership of the Superintendent, with the highest scores in Standard 2 "Management & Operations" and Standard 3 "Family & Community Engagement". The general sentiment was that the Superintendent is doing a really strong job operating our buildings, as well as negotiating three contracts and coming forth with a budget in a challenging economic year. To improve the evaluation process, Breanna Higgins suggested it would be helpful to add the goals to the blank template.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated the next FINCOM meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23 at 8:30AM. The Joint City Council/School Committee Budget meeting date has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 18th. The November 17th School Committee date conflicts with City Council meeting and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated the committee met last week and discussed technology policies. Their next meeting will be in January.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall said they will not meet in October. The School Committee Budget Listening Session will be on November 3rd at 6:00PM in the high school's library. The start time of the School Committee Business meeting on November 3rd will be changed to 7:00PM. Sarah Hall encouraged everyone to get the word out (i.e. newsletters, invite School Councils and Superintendent's Advisory etc.).

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they will meet on October 15, and are working on a full year schedule.

Superintendent's Report

NEASC Visit: The Superintendent thanked Principal Andy Wulf, his team and all the NHS faculty/staff for their hard work and efforts preparing for the recent NEASC visit September 29-October 1. The visit was very successful, and NEASC will send a comprehensive report of their findings to the district in the next few months.

Open Houses: The Bresnahan and Molin Schools recently held their annual open house events to welcome families back to school. Superintendent Gallagher spoke at each event, which were both very well attended.

Bresnahan Caregivers Conversation Coffee Hour: Principal Sokolowski will be holding monthly coffee hours for parents and caregivers at the Bresnahan. Each month will have a different presentation topic that will include helpful tips for parents/caregivers. Thank you to the PTO for providing coffee throughout the year.

North Shore Superintendent's Roundtable (NSSRT): This month's NSSRT speaker was Attorney Kelly Gonzalez, who spoke of various challenges coming out of Washington, such as school funding. Superintendent Gallagher also shared that the regional Special Education group is looking to develop three subcommittees to focus on Franchise Model, Regional Transportation and PRS Working Group.

Jane Politis Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: The NEF held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the high school on September 26th to officially name Room 210 after Jane G. Politis. Many friends, family and colleagues of the Politis family were in attendance.

Northern Essex Community College Superintendents & Principals Breakfast: Area superintendents and high school principals attended a breakfast held at NECCO. Officials spoke about the different opportunities being offered to area school districts such as STEM programming and workforce readiness.

German Exchange Program: Twenty-two students and two teachers from Germany will be in the district from October 8 – October 23. Host families were found for everyone.

MCAS: The MCAS results came out last week and are currently under review by Administration.

New Business

- Juliet Walker suggested a future agenda topic could be to consider forming an AI Ad hoc committee. Andrew Boger and Juliet will work on an overview.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:27M.

Motion Passed

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome, Maddie Jackman, Anna Pervier

Location: Newburyport High School Library

Bresnahan News:

October is Safety Month at Bresnahan - Everyone will be working toward a big goal — 1,000 Acts of Safety across the school! To kick things off, a whole-school assembly will be held to talk about what safety looks like: For example, Who are the community helpers? How can we be leaders in showing safety at school? And how can we manage big emotions in safe ways? Safety will also be a focus during Morning Meetings, with students taking part in thoughtful group activities and discussions. Parents are encouraged to check in with their child about what it means to be safe both at school and in the community.

Thank you to all who attended the first **Caregiver Conversation Coffee Hour**. It was wonderful to connect and hear from the counseling team about helpful tips for families who may experience challenges with separation. Thank you to the PTO for sponsoring the event with coffee. The next Coffee Hour will be held on October 29th. The topic will be: the new standards-based report cards.

Nock Middle School News:

The Nock is off to a great start this year!

The annual **Socktober Drive** is underway, with a goal to collect over 2,000 pairs. All donations will go to the Pettengill House at the end of the month. Socks are a very needed item, and every pair truly makes a difference. The Nock appreciates the support and generosity of our community.

Looking ahead, the **Nock Theater Department proudly presents *Miracle on 34th Street*** on November 20 & 21 at 6:00 PM. This holiday classic is the perfect way to kick off the season, and we hope you'll join us in supporting our talented student performers. Please mark your calendars!

Lastly, the **Nock Open House** is on Wednesday, October 8 at 5:30PM.

High School News:

On October 8th 20 students and 2 teachers from our partner school in the **Black Forest** will be visiting Newburyport and attending classes at the high school. They will spend 2 ½ weeks here getting a taste of New England in the Fall. The partnership between these 2 schools is just shy of 2 years now!

The Global Citizenship Program began a classroom exchange in September with the local nonprofit - Small Solutions / Big Ideas and Rise Kenyan Youth as part of the Butonge Village Schools in rural Kenya. The project is called **Two Worlds: One Lens** and uses photography and writing to develop an understanding between students from each school.

School Quality Measures Data Inquiry & Action Planning

NEWBURYPORT

Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment
2025-26 School Year



The School Quality Measure Framework



SQM Framework was developed through:

- Reading of public polling and empirical research
- 31 focus groups with 261 school and district stakeholders

Final framework has 34 unique measures

Data collected through:

- Student and teacher surveys
- School administrative data



The SQM Framework

For more information about each category and its indicators, check out:

- a [detailed SQM framework overview](#)
- an [outline of SQM student and teacher survey items](#)



Timeline

September-December 2025: School-based leadership teams are trained on analyzing the data.

January-February 2026: School leaders run faculty data protocols to set priority areas and identify action steps.

March 2026: Survey round two (to include students in 4-5, possibly parents).

Cycle of data collection, data analysis and goal setting continues with evaluation of year two data in the spring-summer 2026.

Goal is for a public dashboard in year 3 after the March 2027 survey.

What Data Sources Inform the SQM Framework?

Administrative Data

- % teachers teaching 5 years or more
- Counselor to student ratio

Student surveys

- 44 items total, grades 6-12

Teacher surveys

- 70 items, all teachers PK-12

Example: *Student Sense of Belonging*

Teacher Survey Questions

- At this school, how respectful are students to each other?
- How much do students at this school care about each other?

Student Survey Questions

- How much respect do students in your school show you?
- Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?

How do we view the data?

Using the dashboard – Overview

School Quality Framework Indicators

Warning      Ideal



Teachers & Leadership

Measures the relevant abilities of a school's teachers and the degree to which they are receiving the support they need to grow as professionals.

-  [Teachers & The Teaching Environment](#)
-  [Leadership](#)



School Culture

Measures the degree to which the school environment is safe, caring, and academically-oriented.

-  [Safety](#)
-  [Relationships](#)
-  [Academic Orientation](#)



Resources

Measures the adequacy of a school's facility, personnel, and curriculum, as well as the degree to which it is supported by the community.

-  [Facilities & Personnel](#)
-  [Learning Resources](#)
-  [Community Support](#)



Academic Learning

Measures how much students are learning core academic content, developing their own academic identities, and progressing along positive trajectories.

-  [Performance](#)
-  [Student Commitment To Learning](#)
-  [Critical Thinking](#)
-  [College & Career Readiness](#)



Community & Wellbeing

Measures the development of traits relevant for students leading full and rewarding lives—in society, the workplace, and their private lives.

-  [Civic Engagement](#)
-  [Work Ethic](#)
-  [Creative & Performing Arts](#)
-  [Health](#)

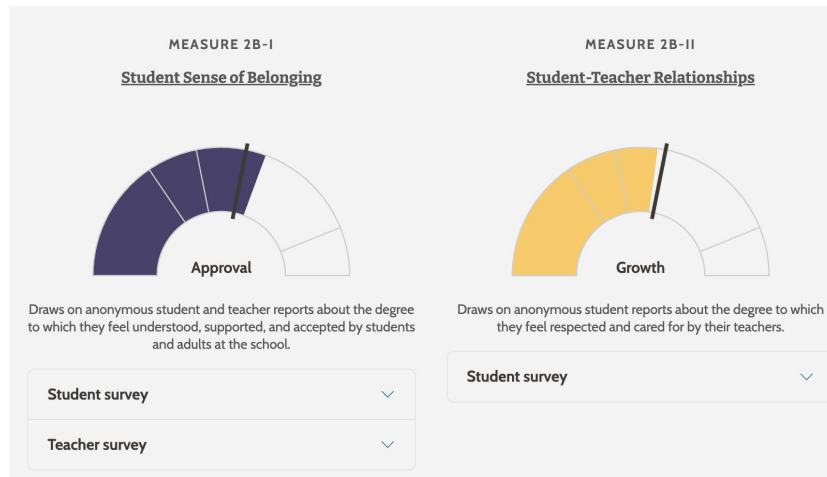
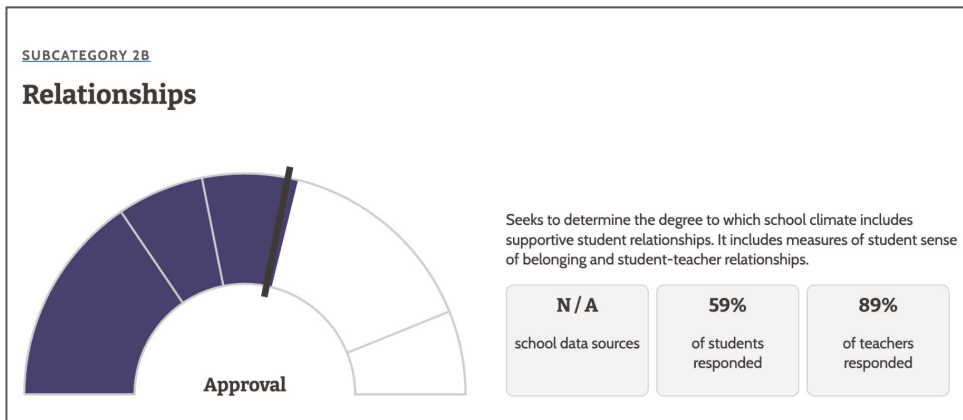
Overall participation rate as of 04/16/25

Student  81%

Overall participation rate as of 04/22/25

Teacher  93%

Using the dashboard – Browse



Student

- Overall, how much do you feel like you belong at your school?
- At your school, how accepted do you feel by the other students?
- How well do people at your school understand you?
- How much respect do students in your school show you?
- How connected do you feel to the adults at your school?

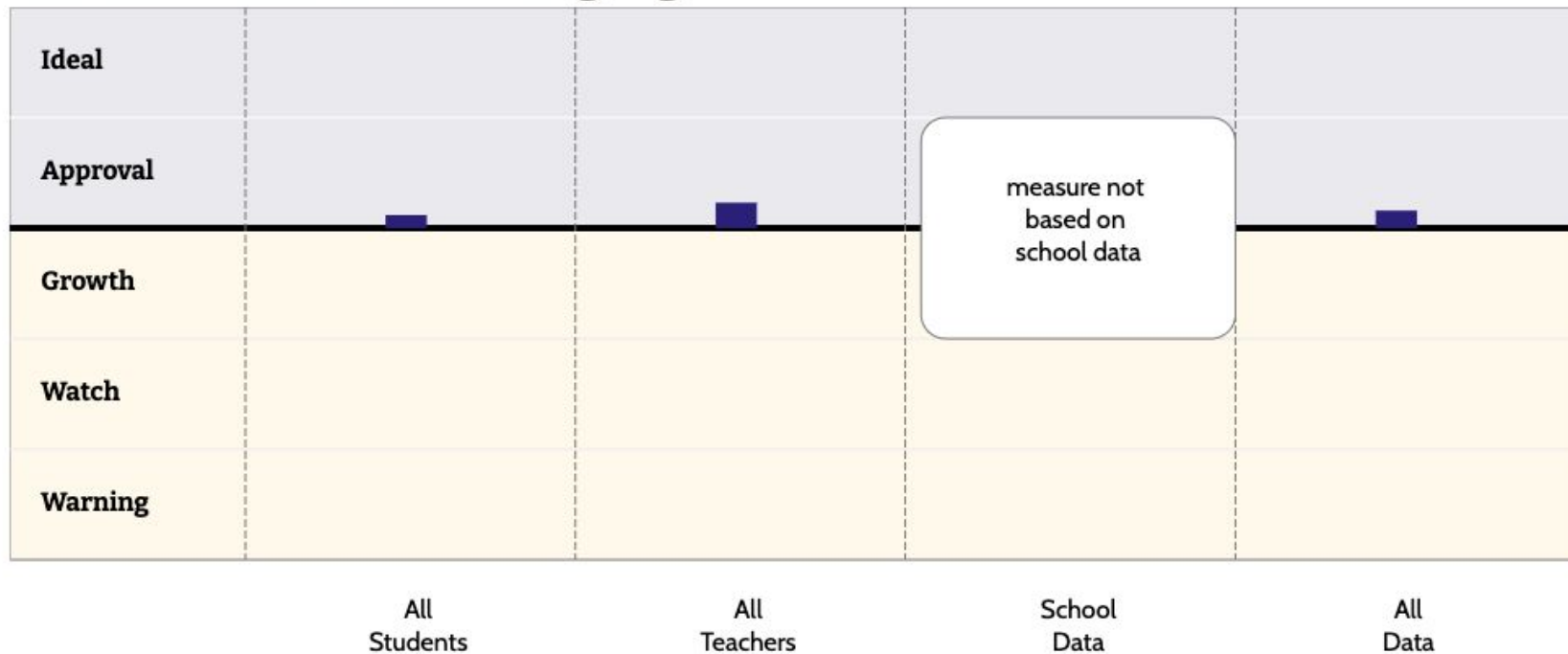
Teacher

- How much do students at this school care about each other?
- How often do students at this school help each other learn?
- How well do students at this school get along with each other?
- At this school, how respectful are students to each other?

Using the dashboard – Analyze

MEASURE 2B-1

Student Sense of Belonging





NPS Fall 2025 Data

How are we looking at the data? – Guiding Questions

1. Which measures have the **highest average across all schools** in the district?
2. Which measures are **closest to the approval zone**?
3. Which measures **reflect difference among teachers and students**?

Followed by protocols: “5 Whys”; “What, So What, Now What?”

School-level Focus Areas

Bresnahan	Molin	Nock	NHS
<p>Teachers and Leadership</p> <p>1A Teachers and the Teaching Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1A-i Professional Qualifications 1A-ii Effective Practices 1A-iii Professional Community <p>1B Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1B-ii Support for Teaching Development & Growth 	<p>School Culture</p> <p>2C Academic Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2C-i Valuing of Learning 2C-ii Academic Challenge 	<p>Teachers and Leadership & School Culture</p> <p>1A Teachers and the Teaching Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1A-ii Effective Practices 1A-iii Professional Community <p>2B Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2B-i Student sense of Belonging 	<p>School Culture</p> <p>2B Relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2B-i Student sense of Belonging 2B-ii Student-teacher Relationships <p>2C Academic Orientation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2C-i Valuing of Learning 2C-ii Academic Challenge

SCHOOL QUALITY MEASURES FRAMEWORK

1 Teachers and Leadership

1A Teachers and the Teaching Environment

- 1A-i Professional qualifications
- 1A-ii Effective practices
- 1A-iii Professional community

1B Leadership

- 1B-i Effective leadership
- 1B-ii Support for teaching development & growth

2 School Culture

2A Safety

- 2A-i Student physical safety
- 2A-ii Student emotional safety

2B Relationships

- 2B-i Student sense of belonging
- 2B-ii Student-teacher relationships

2C Academic Orientation

- 2C-i Valuing of learning
- 2C-ii Academic challenge

3 Resources

3A Facilities and Personnel

- 3A-i Physical space and materials
- 3A-ii Content specialists and support staff

3B Learning Resources

- 3B-i Curricular strength and variety
- 3B-ii Cultural responsiveness
- 3B-iii Co-curricular activities

3C Community Support

- 3C-i Family-school relationships
- 3C-ii Community involvement, external partners

4 Academic Learning

4A Performance

- 4A-i Performance growth
- 4A-ii Performance assessment proficiency rates

4B Student Commitment to Learning

- 4B-i Engagement in school
- 4B-ii Degree completion

4C Critical Thinking

- 4C-i Problem solving emphasis
- 4C-ii Problem solving skills

4D College and Career Readiness

- 4D-i College-going and persistence
- 4D-ii Career preparation and placement

5 Community and Wellbeing

5A Civic Engagement

- 5A-i Appreciation for diversity
- 5A-ii Civic participation

5B Work Ethic

- 5B-i Perseverance and determination
- 5B-ii Growth mindset

5C Creative and Performing Arts

- 5C-i Participation in creative and performing arts
- 5C-ii Valuing creative and performing arts

5D Health

- 5D-i Social and emotional health
- 5D-ii Physical health

School Committee
October 20, 2025

Superintendent's Report



Assessment Data Presentations

The district will be presenting MCAS data at the November 19th Teaching and Learning Subcommittee meeting. This presentation will include a detailed report from building administrators and their teacher leaders. On December 1st Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong & K-12 Literacy Coordinator Dr. Tom Abrams will provide a summary MCAS presentation to the School Committee. On December 15th building principals and School Councils will present their School Improvement Plans.

Ad-Hoc Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting

The first Superintendent Advisory Council meeting of this school year was held on October 7th. The agenda included a group gathering activity, followed by a deep dive into our District Improvement Plan. There was helpful input and feedback from the group throughout the meeting. One area the group brainstormed is how we can communicate more effectively with the community at large, especially with citizens who do not have children in the school. I plan on visiting the Senior Center as a guest of Marianne Vesey to speak with the group about Newburyport Public Schools. The Advisory group members also discussed setting up an Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee to look at Artificial Intelligence, which would coincide with the professional development from MIT in January.

FY2026: Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant Meeting

Newburyport High School currently has three pathways: Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing, and Health & Social Assistance. We are applying for an additional two pathways: CTE pathway for Multi Media Productions and Broadcasting and an Early Childhood pathway tied to our Day Care Center. On October 15 we were awarded an additional \$50,000 to support our current pathways. We plan on using these funds for enhancing our industry partners, developing an 8th grade exploratory workshop, developing a pathway committee and purchasing additional equipment.

In addition, the team (Director of Facilities, Principal Wulf, Science and Technology Instructional Leader/Innovation Career Pathways Coordinator, and Director of Finance and Operations) met to explore a potential Capital Skills Grant opportunity of up to \$75,000. The discussion focused on possible equipment purchases, space planning, and project timing. If awarded, our goal will be to have the equipment installed and ready for the next school year. This work supports the district's ongoing efforts to maximize space and modernize equipment at the high school. The grant has not yet been released, so our meeting served as early planning in anticipation of its availability.

Federal Layoffs at the Department of Education 10/14/25

The federal government has fired over 500 staff from the federal Department of Education. In particular, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services has lost most of its staff. At this time, DESE is encouraging ALL stakeholders to advocate on behalf of public education to restore these critical positions. Massachusetts receives approximately 2 billion dollars from the federal government in support of our schools. The offices and programs below are directly impacted by these cuts / layoffs.

Offices impacted within the U.S. Department of Education as of 10/14/2025 include:

- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Office for Civil Rights
- Office of Communications and Outreach
- Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development
- Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Office of Post Secondary Education (Student Support Services/TRIO; Institutional Service/HBCUs, HSIs, Tribal Colleges ANAPISI)
- Office of Innovation and Early Learning, Office of School Community Improvement Programs, Well Rounded Education Divisions (Arts Education), Charter Schools Program, Office of Safe and Supportive Schools, Program and Grantee Support Services, Comprehensive Literacy State Development, JAVITS (Gifted and Talented), School Support and Accountability, Office of Formula Grants, Office of Migrant Education, Effector Educator Development Program, Innovation and Early Learning Programs, Effective Development Division, Program and Grantee Support Services

Congratulations NHS Teacher - A.J. Smith on the Publication of "Catnip Mouse"

One of our own, NHS art teacher A.J. Smith, has recently achieved a significant milestone with the publication of his newest children's picture book, "Catnip Mouse." This is a wonderful testament to A.J.'s creativity and passion for the arts.

Newburyport Public Schools is very fortunate that A.J. brings his exceptional talent and artistic vision to our students every day. His commitment to fostering creativity and inspiring young minds in the classroom is invaluable. Please join me and the rest of our Central Office team in congratulating A.J. on this impressive achievement and celebrating his success as a published author and artist.

A.J. will be hosting a family-friendly event to celebrate his newest book at Jabberwocky Bookshop on Sunday, October 19th at 3PM.

THE OFFICE OF
GOVERNOR MAURA T. HEALEY

LT. GOVERNOR KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 15, 2025

CONTACT:

Karissa Hand, karissa.hand@mass.gov, 617-823-2258

Jason Law, jason.law@mass.gov, 617-895-6556

Healey-Driscoll Administration Sounds Alarm Over Donald Trump's Firing of 500 U.S. Department of Education Staff

BOSTON – Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Secretary of Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler issued the following statements today on President Donald Trump's U.S. Department of Education weekend firing spree, which he started by laying off 466 U.S. Education Department staffers on Friday.

"Donald Trump is weaponizing the shutdown to fire hard-working educators. Because of President Trump's actions, our kids will lose the mental health care, tutoring, and special education they need. This needs to stop. The White House needs to end this shut down and reverse this decision immediately," said **Governor Healey**.

"It is unfathomable that the Trump Administration has fired nearly 500 U.S. Department of Education staff and intentionally did so using the guise of a federal shutdown and during a holiday weekend. The Department plays a critical role in safeguarding equal access to public education through transparency and accountability. Firing most of the office that handles special education, in addition to staff who support HBCUs, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, TRIO programs, afterschool programs and more, is going to harm all students, gutting civil rights protections especially for students with disabilities and low incomes," said **Secretary Tutwiler**. "Massachusetts does not have the resources to replace the oversight, research, technical assistance and support the federal government provides families and school districts. Make no mistake – this action is going to exacerbate longstanding challenges around wealth inequality and make it harder for students to access IEPs, mental health supports, tutoring and so much more. The fight to protect students' civil rights is urgent. In Massachusetts, we will continue to fight for every student to have access to a high-quality public education and equitable access to affordable higher education opportunities."

Massachusetts receives over \$2 billion in federal education funding a year. The state is not able to fully replace these funds. The funding helps Massachusetts' students, educators, schools, campuses, and communities. It helps low- and middle-income students afford to go to college. It provides funding to districts in low-income areas to help pay for teacher salaries and benefits, school counselors, and homeless liaisons. It also supports special education, including paying for

assistive technology for students with disabilities, professional development and salaries for special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and reading specialists, as well as transportation to help students get the services and programming they need and supports those services, like physical therapy, speech therapy, and social workers.

Offices impacted within the U.S. Department of Education as of 10/14/2025 include:

- Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
- Office of Post Secondary Education (Student Support Services/TRIO; Institutional Service/HBCUs, HSIs, Tribal Colleges ANAPISI)
- Office for Civil Rights
- Office of Communications and Outreach
- Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development
- Office of Elementary and Secondary Education
 - Office of Innovation and Early Learning
 - Office of School Community Improvement Programs
 - Well Rounded Education Divisions (Arts Education)
 - Charter Schools Program
 - Office of Safe and Supportive Schools
 - Program and Grantee Support Services
 - Comprehensive Literacy State Development
 - JAVITS (Gifted and Talented)
 - School Support and Accountability
 - Office of Formula Grants
 - Office of Migrant Education
 - Effector Educator Development Program
 - Innovation and Early Learning Programs
 - Effective Development Division
 - Program and Grantee Support Services

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