

**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**

<b>School Committee Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
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 14<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>. The Mayor would like to have the information compiled by the September 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**