

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

Monday, September 22, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present except Mayor Sean Reardon. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

Motion:

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

VOTED: to postpone the warrant vote until after agenda item # 9 to allow time for members to review the detailed warrant report.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the September 2nd School Committee meeting, with correction to page 1 (correct the address # from 7 to #4 in the Public Comments section).

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent

Overnight Field Trip Grade 7 – Camp Jewell

Principal Nick Markos provided an overview of the 7th Grade overnight field trip to Camp Jewell located in Colebrook, CT. The proposed trip is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2026 through Friday, June 12, 2026 with an estimated cost \$450-\$475.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Grade 7 trip to Camp Jewell from 6/10/2026-6/12/2026 with an estimated cost of \$450-\$475 consistent with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

Overnight Field Trip Grade 8 - Philadelphia

Principal Nick Markos presented the itinerary for the 8th Grade overnight field trip to Philadelphia. The proposed trip is scheduled for May 19, 2026 through May 21, 2026 and will cost appx. \$1,175. Juliet Walker suggested sending parent surveys periodically to obtain feedback on the 8th grade trip.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Philadelphia trip for Grade 8 from 5/19/2026-5/21/2026 with an estimated cost of \$1,175 consistent with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

District Roof Repair Projects (Nock & High School)

Facilities Director James McSweeney reported he has been working with the Owners Project Manager and the engineering firm. They are on pace and on target, and are appx 90% through the schematic design. James spoke about their inspections on both the Nock and High school roofs, as well as solar issues / complications. At this time, the cost of both roofs is appx. \$4 million. They are on schedule to submit the schematic design to MSBA by October 23rd. MSBA is scheduled to vote on December 12, 2025.

Superintendent’s 2025 Evaluation Discussion

Juliet Walker reported the Mayor has received all the evaluations and will provide a summary to the SC members in advance of the next meeting (October 6).

Final Version 2025-2027 District Improvement Plan

Superintendent Gallagher briefly explained a few areas of the plan that were modified for clarity based from feedback on the previous version. This plan is tied to the strategic plan. The Superintendent anticipates providing both mid-year and end-of-year updates.

Warrant

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$771,123.16 as presented.

A-Warrant	\$ 16,532.40
Warrant 8161 (FY25)	\$ 11,538.63
Warrant 8162 (FY26)	<u>\$743,052.13</u>
	\$771,123.16

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated they met on September 18th and discussed the budget timeline, fundraising, a listening forum, staffing patterns, and orientation of new school committee members.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet on Monday, September 29th at 7PM in Central Office.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall said they met on September 18th and spoke about continuing the School Committee newsletter, planning a budget listening session (maybe on November 3 in the Nock Library), and possibly sunsetting the Communications Subcommittee after the year.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins anticipates the first meeting will be in October (will try for Oct. 15).

Superintendent's Report

- The Superintendent explained how the kindergarten classes celebrated the 10th day of school with a visit from Zero the Hero, and will have a return visit from Zero the Hero on the 100th day of school.
- A visiting team from the New England Association of Schools & Colleges (NEASC) will be at the high school the week of September 29th. The Superintendent explained how NHS will be evaluated on six priority goal areas. He also shared NEASC's foundational standards.
- Superintendent Gallagher described the work being done with the Education Commonwealth Project and how the teams are working to develop the baseline data and district dashboard.
- The Media Lab is in progress, and operational. The students are using new technology in the lab and we are waiting for lightning to be installed in the studio. The Superintendent thanked the NEF for funding \$325K for this project, and also James McSweeney and his team for their in-kind contributions to the project (i.e. demo work, HVAC etc.) The Media Lab is being named after Cindy M. Johnson at a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 28 at 5PM.

New Business

- Brian Callahan noted that two construction companies working with the Media Lab project are owned by NHS alumni's and donated \$5,000 each to the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:34PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent