

**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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 reviewed 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 18<sup>th</sup>. The November 17<sup>th</sup> School Committee date conflicts with the City Council's 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 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00PM in the high school's library. The start time of the School Committee Business meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 8:27PM.

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