

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

**Monday, October 20, 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, Brian Callahan and Breanna Higgins. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments:** none

**Warrant**

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

**VOTED:** to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$502,616.74 as presented.

Warrant 8165 (FY26)	\$456,489.71
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 8,566.71</u>
	\$502,616.74

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent**

**Minutes**

**Motion:**

On a motion by Kathleen Shaw and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

**VOTED:** to adopt the minutes for the October 6<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting as presented.

**Motion Passed**

**Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent**

**Student Representative Report**

Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included the Bresnahan's upcoming costume parade and Caregiver Conversations Coffee Hour on October 29<sup>th</sup>, Molin Parent Conferences on November 12<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, town hall styled meetings at the Nock, and the NHS Band performance with the UMASS band on October 18<sup>th</sup>. (attached)

**MCIEA Presentation**

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams presented a background of work being done in the district over the past year with the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA). They reviewed the School Quality Measure Framework, including categories, indicators and data sources that inform the SQM. An overview of the dashboard was provided, along with a review of the timeline through March 2027 and school-level focus areas.

**Budget Listening Session**

The School Committee will hold the FY27 Budget Listening Session on November 3, 2025 at 6:00PM in the high school library. Superintendent Gallagher will email event information to the PTO and Superintendent's Advisory Counsel. Ethan Manning will provide a budget overview video.

## **November 17<sup>th</sup> School Committee Meeting**

School Committee members discussed canceling their business meeting scheduled for November 17, 2025 as the City Council has a meeting on the same night. If necessary, a business meeting could be scheduled after the Joint City Council/School Committee meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Motion:**

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

**VOTED:** not to have the November 17<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting.

### **Motion Passed**

**Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent**

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Finance Subcommittee**

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 8:30AM.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Kathleen Shaw stated the committee will meet in January.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Sarah Hall said they will not meet in October. The next meeting will be in November.

### **Teaching & Learning Subcommittee**

Breanna Higgins stated they met on October 15<sup>th</sup>. The meeting consisted of an MCIEA presentation by Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams.

## **Superintendent's Report**

**Assessment Data Presentation Plan:** The district's MCAS Assessment Data will be presented to the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee on November 19<sup>th</sup>, then to the School Committee on December 1<sup>st</sup>. School Improvement Plans will be presented to School Committee on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ad-Hoc Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting:** The SAC held their first meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Members reviewed the District Improvement Plan, brainstormed ideas to communicate more effectively with the community, and discussed setting up an ad-hoc committee to look at AI. The Superintendent will work with Marianne Vesey to speak about NPS at the Senior / Community Center.

**FY26 Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant Meeting:** The Superintendent announced that NHS was awarded an additional \$50K to support current Career Pathways. They are also applying for two new pathways: Multi Media Productions & Broadcasting and Early Childhood. The district is also exploring an upcoming Capital Skills Grant opportunity.

**Federal Layoffs at DESE:** Superintendent Gallagher shared Governor Maura Healey's news release regarding Federal layoffs at the Department of Education, which also contained a list of the various departments impacted by the layoffs.

Congratulations NHS Teacher AJ Smith: The Superintendent congratulated NHS Art Teacher AJ Smith on the publication of his children's picture book, "Catnip Mouse".

**New Business**: none

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion:**

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

**VOTED:** to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:37PM.

### **Motion Passed**

**Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent**

Submitted by: Madison Jackman

Location: Newburyport High School Library

**Bresnahan News:**

We are getting ready for our annual costume parade on Halloween! All parents and guardians are invited to attend along the sidewalk between Door 1 and Door 4.

We are also hosting our second Caregiver Conversations Coffee Hour next Wednesday 10/29 at 8:45 in the Bresnahan cafeteria. This conversation will be centered around our standards-based report card. We will be discussing how to interpret the standards based scoring and parents will have the opportunity to connect with our instructional coaching team. All caregivers are invited to join!

**Molin News:**

Molin Parent Conferences are Wednesday, November 12th and Tuesday, November 18th. Please contact your child's teacher to schedule one.

Molin 5th graders and Nock 8th graders are "Molin Buddies" again this year. They meet monthly to build connections, share experiences, and learn from one another.

Molin 4th graders had a successful trip to Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm participating in their educational program about archaeology that ties into their social studies curriculum.

**Nock Middle School News:**

October Sock Drive at the Nock! Our student leaders were excited to kick off this year's October Drive, and we need your help to reach our goal of collecting 2,000+ pairs of socks. In partnership with Pettengill, we've learned that socks are the most urgently needed item for those in need. In fact, 2,000 pairs typically last less than 72 hours once distributed — that's how great the need is. All donations are welcome. Please drop off new socks at the main office anytime during the drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Lately, students have been leaving school on early release days happier than ever — and it's not just because we're heading out at 11 AM! The real reason is the awesome community time we share during the last 30 minutes of the day.

Everyone, students, teachers, and staff comes together for town hall-style meetings where we:

Share updates and celebrate good news, Go over expectations, and Recognize and celebrate classmates who show the Nock values of Kindness, Responsibility, Awareness, and Respect. These moments have brought the Nock community even closer together — and it's something we all look forward to every early release day!

### **High School News:**

On Saturday, October 18th, the NHS band travelled to Amherst to perform on the field with the UMass band and 2000 other high school band members during the halftime of a football game. The rose early for the long drive, rehearsed all morning with the giant band, performed to wild enthusiasm and applause from the football audience, and stayed for a performance by the amazing UMass band. It was a long but very successful and educational day!

The Global Scholars Club and members of the Global Citizenship Program volunteered at the Indigenous Peoples Day Festival on Oct 11th. This was a great way to connect their hands on work helping with the "mishoon" (dugout canoe) as they got to participate in its launch into the Merrimack River. Students also assisted Indigenous performers, story tellers, and crafts people and worked with the organizers of the event.

Last week during the onward block the entire school participated in an activities fair to practice networking as well as encouraging more students to get involved in a school activity.