

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

AMENDED

Monday, December 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Katy O'Connor, 2 Prince Place (crossing guard on High Street)

Ebo, Perkins Park area (balance of collective learning ideas)

Staff Recognition:

NHS Art teacher Andrew "AJ" Smith was recognized by the School Committee for inspiring Newburyport readers through stories and art, including his most recent publication, "Catnip Mouse".

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$487,931.64 as presented.

Warrant 8168 (FY26)	\$474,931.64
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 12,481.55</u>
	\$487,413.19

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the November 3, 2025 School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon abstained

Student Representative Report

Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included the new Student of the Month tradition at the Bresnahan, the Thanksgiving Pep Rally and Student-led conferences at the Nock, and Color Day at the High School. (attached)

Juliet Walker thanked the student representatives for participating in the School Committee meeting with the NHS Student Council members earlier this evening.

2025 Spring MCAS Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams provided a district overview of the 2025 Spring MCAS results. The presentation included overall performance, attendance, achievement and growth target data for the district. In addition, school-based reports were reviewed and included glows and grows for each grade and subject, as well as an explanation of action steps for each school.

Various School Committee members thanked the team for their hard work on this presentation.

Juliet Walker suggested the district may wish to learn how much outside investment families spend on special tutoring (i.e. time / money).

Member Boger expressed concerns about MCAS scores in Math and ELA for elementary grades and encouraged staff to focus on improving performance in identified areas by considering a similar approach applied in the Nock to improve math skills.

Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) – 2nd read

Vice Chair Juliet Walker introduced Policy IKF for a 2nd read. No changes had been made since the previous reading.

Motion:

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to adopt the Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) as presented.

Motion Passed

Acceptance of Gift from NEF

Superintendent Sean Gallagher explained that the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) was donating \$5,875.74 to Newburyport Public Schools on behalf of an anonymous donor. The funds will be deposited into the Nurse Emergency Fund, which will be used to support students and families with essential needs, such as groceries, clothing etc.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the \$5,875.74 donation from the NEF.

Motion Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated they last met on November 20th and discussed the NEF donation, student activity transfers, school choice spending and the budget. The next meeting will be at 8:30AM on December 18th. (note: Ethan Manning will email a 10-year school choice spending chart to the School Committee.)

Policy Subcommittee

Policies EEAA, GBEE, IJND, IJNDC and KDCB were presented for 2nd read and approval.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy EEAA** – Walkers and Riders as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy GBEE** – Personnel Use of Technology as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt **Policy IJND** – Access to Digital Resources as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt **Policy IJNDC** – Acceptable Use of Digital Resources as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy KDCB** – District Website and Social Media as presented.

Motion Passed

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated they met on November 20th and developed a plan to sunset the Communications Subcommittee. Sarah reviewed the proposal, which included a brief history of the subcommittee, along with areas of concentration, various accomplishments, and plans moving forward.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to sunset the Communications Subcommittee as proposed.

Motion Passed

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they last met on November 19th and reviewed MCAS data. The next meeting will be held in the Nock library on December 17th.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference Highlights

Juliet Walker and Andrew Boger attended this year's MASC/MASS conference and shared information of various workshops they attended. Juliet reported that all MASC resolutions passed.

Superintendent's Report

Little Clips Daycare Center Ribbon Cutting: Superintendent Gallagher attended the ribbon cutting for the new daycare. He is very proud of this project and thanked the Swasey Board, HR Director Pam Kealey, Facilities Director James McSweeney, the maintenance crew and School Committee for their support and hard work to make this happen.

MCIEA Board meeting: The Superintendent shared the agenda items for the recent MCIEA Board meeting, which included the statewide graduation requirement, budget update and Maynard site visit.

Salem High School Visit: Various high school staff recently visited Salem High School to learn more about their Chapter 74 and Pathways programs. Information learned on this trip will be very helpful when the district begins planning Chapter 74 programs for Broadcast Media & Early Childhood Education and a Medical Assistants Pathways.

Investment Club Presentation: Superintendent Gallagher attended the recent presentation by the high school's Investment Club. The impressive presentation provided a financial overview of their portfolio. He explained that the NEF allocates funds to the Investment Club to actually invest into the current markets.

Wall of Fame Dinner: This year's event was held at the Elks Club. The Superintendent was very honored to meet the inductees and their families.

NEF Lighthouse Auction: Each year the Superintendent attends the NEF Lighthouse Auction, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the NEF.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Amesbury & Newburyport Rotary: Superintendent Gallagher shared that Amesbury hosted the luncheon this year, which was held at Ristorante Molise in Amesbury. This will be the 102nd Thanksgiving Day game between Newburyport and Amesbury.

New Business:

- Andrew Boger thanked Mayor Reardon and Juliet Walker for organizing the crossing guard on High Street meeting.
- Mayor Reardon stated the Inauguration will be held on January 5th.
- School Committee members should send an email to Mayor Reardon if they are interested in serving on a particular subcommittee next year.
- Juliet Walker stated a meeting will be held at 10:00AM on December 9th to onboard new school committee members.

- Mayor Reardon will push City Council to hold a retreat this year. If School Committee members have any ideas to bring up, email the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:36PM.

Motion Passed

Submitted by: Maddie Jackman

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Students of the Month:

Last week, we kicked off a new tradition at the Bresnahan — Student of the Month! Each month, classroom teachers will nominate a student who consistently demonstrates our school values of being safe, kind, and responsible. Congratulations to our November Students of the Month!

STEM: This week in STEM, students are learning what architects do and explored the purpose of blueprints. After listening to *If I Built a School* and Iggy Peck, Architect, and examining the Bresnahan School's original 2013 blueprints, students let their imaginations shine as they designed their very own dream schools!

Our kindergarten students also had the chance to build and experiment with KEVA planks—creating structures that were as creative as they were impressive. Such imaginative and innovative young architects!

Literacy: Grades K-3 are exploring new literacy curriculums to address the areas of reading comprehension and writing. Last week, Principal Sokolowski and Dr. Abrams shared an update with the Bresnahan School Council. At each grade level, representative teachers are piloting 2 exciting curriculums that received positive reviews by a multitude of stakeholders. Some of the criteria teachers are evaluating these tools for include rigorous writing instruction, knowledge instruction that allows students to develop a deep understanding of key concepts, authentic and high interest reading materials, and highly engaging play based and project-based topic applications. Check out this amazing story by a 2nd grade student who has been studying Cinderella stories from around the world!

Molin News:

Nock Middle School News:

The Nock Middle School community came together for our Thanksgiving Pep Rally on Wednesday, and it was the perfect send-off into the holiday break! We celebrated our students with recognitions, shared plenty of laughs, and filled the gym with energy thanks to our amazing staff, faculty, and students.

Student-led conferences begin next week, and we can't wait to watch our students step confidently into leadership, taking ownership, showing accountability, and sharing their growth with families.

High School News:

The High School Celebrated their 87th day of Color Day this past week. We would like to thank Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Mayor Reardon for participating.