

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

Monday, December 15, 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. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$586,735.66 as presented.

Warrant 8169 (FY26)	\$560,503.40
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 26,232.26</u>
	\$586,735.66

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 December 1, 2025 School Committee meeting, amending the MCAS paragraph on page 2 to include: *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.*

Motion Passed

Student Representative Report

Students were unable to attend; Superintendent Gallagher provided the report which included family craft events at the Bresnahan, holiday doors at the Molin, Governor Healey's visit to the Nock and the winter concert at the high school. (attached)

NHS Fall 2025 Athletics Recap

Athletic Director Anna DeVitto provided a recap of the fall athletic season. Ms. DeVitto shared that there were 21 teams this year, 541 student athletes, with an 80% participation rate. She reviewed the highlights for cheerleading, cross country, golf, field hockey, football, girls/boys soccer and volleyball. Six student athletes committed to play collegiately next year.

Capital Improvement Program FY2027-2031 Review

Facilities Director James McSweeney presented nine projects that were included in the Capital Improvement Program for FY2027-2031. School Committee members were able to ask questions while Mr. McSweeney reviewed project descriptions, justifications and estimated costs.

FY 27 Budget Development Update

Finance Director Ethan Manning presented an update of the FY27 Budget Development. Ethan reviewed the budget development process, guidelines provided to budget holders, and the timeline. Ethan also reviewed the five district goals and how they come together to build the budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated the December 18th meeting will be canceled.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw will schedule a meeting in January once new school committee members are on board.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated the next meeting will be held on December 17th and will discuss DIBELS and the Curriculum Review Cycle.

Superintendent's Report

Music Program: The Superintendent thanked NHS teacher Stephanie Phillips and the music department for their continuous work to enhance the district's music programs.

Wellness Advisory Meeting: Superintendent Gallagher highlighted various topics discussed at this quarterly meeting. He also mentioned five members of the student-led Red Cross Club are now certified Red Cross CPR instructors and can begin to offer CPR training to local restaurants.

MCIEA Board meeting: The Superintendent shared the agenda topics for their recent meeting. The group is made up of area superintendents and union members, and they have been working collaboratively to review potential performance assessments.

CREST Collaborative meeting: NPS is part of this collaborative for special education out-of-district placements. The Superintendent reviewed this month's meeting agenda items. A recent membership change was approved to provide placement priority to membership schools.

January Professional Development Planning meeting: Superintendent Gallagher thanked the CEL/ILT teacher leaders, Dr. Tom Abrams, Ass't Superintendent Lisa Furlong and the Vertical Math Team members for all their work over the past few months planning the PD day in January.

Human Rights meeting: This month's meeting centered around planning various future events such as the Iftar, Peace Prize, Holocaust Remembrance, and Tolerance Check-in.

Governor Healey Visit: The Superintendent shared a story of how the Governor’s visit to the Nock came to be. The purpose of Governor Maura Healey’s visit to the Nock Middle School was to speak with 8th grade students regarding her role and responsibilities as the Governor of Massachusetts. This visit related to the Nock’s “I am We” Civics project.

North Shore Superintendent’s Round Table Appreciation Luncheon: The NSSRT recognizes area administration assistants annually at this event. The Superintendent was able to attend the luncheon with Ass’t Superintendent Lisa Furlong and their administrative assistants.

New Business:

Orientation Materials: Juliet Walker thanked Joanne Yelle for her work preparing the orientation materials for the new school committee members.

Retreat: Juliet Walker and Mayor Reardon suggested holding the retreat on the second meeting in January (January 28th), possibly from 5-8PM.

High Street: Mayor Reardon stated recent meetings were held to discuss Hight Street. A police presence will be available the remainder of the week from 7:45AM – 8:15AM. In addition, a city electrician can repair the flashing beacon as well as the flashing beacon by Wednesday (12/17). Positions for morning & afternoon crossing guards will continue to be advertised. Superintendent Gallagher will send out more information regarding crossing areas before January 5th.

Subcommittee Assignments: School Committee members should email Mayor Reardon if they have any preference to their subcommittee assignment. Mayor Reardon will share the assignments before Inauguration Day.

Special Citation Presentation: Mayor Reardon presented citations to Brian Callahan, who has served on the School Committee for 8 years, and Sarah Hall who has served for 4 years. Both will be leaving to begin their new role as City Council members.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Juliet Walker it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:44PM and move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

Motion Passed

Roll Call Vote

School Committee Member	Vote
Mayor Sean Reardon	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome & Ann Pervier

Bresnahan News:

Teachers are hosting family craft events & celebrations that highlight the joy, creativity, & sense of belonging that make the Bresnahan so special.

Molin News:

Classes are beginning the **Holiday Doors** tradition at the Molin. Students learn about holidays from around the world, decorate their doors to show the meaning, & participate in a learning walk through the halls by visiting each door & completing a scavenger hunt of the holidays.

Some 5th grade classes will sing holiday carols at Advinia.

NHS students will perform for the Molin students this Thursday to celebrate the holidays.

Nock Middle School News:

Last Friday, Governor Maura Healey visited the Nock to speak with 8th grade students to share her personal journey, & answer student questions. We extend our sincere thanks to Governor Healey & her team for taking time out of their busy schedule to provide our students with a meaningful & memorable learning experience.

Nock Students are also looking forward to the upcoming holiday pep rally which serves as a celebration of student hard work, positive behavior, & shared school pride.

High School News:

This Tuesday night the NHS Performing Arts will present its annual Winter Concert featuring the NHS Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Dance, Guitar Jam Rock Class & the Clippers Up Band.

Congratulations to Cat MacDonald, who was recently recognized by PlumFest organizers for the PlumFest Music Festival. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the festival & Cat's poster design was selected and used to market the event.