

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

Amended

Monday, September 2, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present except Andrew Boger and Mayor Sean Reardon (arrived 7:14PM). All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments

Liz Walsh, 4 Virginia Lane, Newburyport

Warrant

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$389,262.58 as presented.

Warrant 8159 (FY25)	\$ 7,236.98
Warrant 8160 (FY26)	<u>\$382,025.60</u>
	\$389,262.58

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon and Andrew Boger absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the August 18th School Committee meeting, with correction to the Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee section on page 2 (should read: submit evaluation forms to Mayor Reardon by September 12th, which will be compiled by the September 22nd meeting).

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon and Andrew Boger absent

Daycare Opening & NHS Media Lab Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher was excited to share the Little Clips Daycare opened today in the Bresnahan. He shared a few pictures of the daycare, as well as the recently renovated Video & Media Lab at the high school. A ribbon cutting ceremony for both will be coordinated at the end of September or early October.

Opening of Schools / Readiness Update

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the agenda topics that were covered at the annual Readiness meeting held on August 25th. The district is almost fully staffed, with just a few IA's still needed. The Superintendent expressed the district is in good shape for opening day. Sarah Hall suggested sending a reminder for people to sign up for the district's App.

School Committee Goals – final version

A goal for District AI Practices/Policies was added. If any member is interested in possibly creating an advisory committee, reach out to Mayor Reardon or Juliet Walker.

Budget 2026-2027 Planning Preparations - discussion

Superintendent Gallagher presented a list of tentative dates for the FY27 budget process. After discussion, members summarized their ideas as follows:

- Hold an orientation for new City Council members in early 2026 with the Superintendent and Finance Director
- Obtain clearer guidance from the Mayor in setting up the Joint SC/CC meeting to make sure there is more dialogue about the budget between members
- Continue with the Joint SC/CC meeting and budget listening sessions
- Share the district's general goals for the budget (i.e. each school's goals and/or the district as a whole) in late December/early January (after the ELT Deliberations)
- Have a more detailed budget report earlier in the process
- Add SIP to the Budget Timeline abbreviation key

Juliet Walker suggested adding a Budget Draft to the next FINCOM meeting agenda.

MASC Annual Conference - discussion

The early bird registration period is wrapping up at the end of the week. Any member interested in attending should reach out to Juliet Walker.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated the next FINCOM meeting will be held at 9:00AM on September 18th.

Policy Subcommittee

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

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated the next meeting will be at 10AM on Thursday, September 18th.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins anticipates the first meeting will be in the beginning of October.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Completed evaluation forms are to be submitted to Mayor Sean Reardon by September 12th. He will compile the information to be reviewed at the next meeting School Committee meeting on Sept. 22nd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent spoke of a few professional development activities completed over the summer, such as the 2-day Leadership Retreat and a Day of AI. He also provided a list of various professional development classes that were offered to staff this summer. The 3-day New Teacher Orientation that occurred in August was also covered.

New Business - none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:23PM.

Motion Passed

Andrew Boger absent