

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

**Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

**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.

**Public Comments:** Bill Joor, 4 Jackson Street, Newburyport (Special Education)

**Warrant**

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

**VOTED:** to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$785,585.07 as presented.

Warrant 8171 (FY26)	\$773,861.29
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 11,723.78</u>
	\$785,585.07

**Motion Passed**

**Minutes**

**Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

**VOTED:** to adopt the minutes for the December 15, 2025 School Committee meeting.

**Motion Passed**

**Student Representative Report**

Anna Pervier provided the report which included professional development workshops for Bresnahan staff, Clipper Talks, Career Speaker series and a Winter concert at the Nock and launching Newburyport High Network. (attached)

**Discussion to Appoint Newburyport Representative for Whittier Regional School Committee**

Candidate Max Cattan of Newburyport addressed the School Committee regarding his interest in filling the vacancy for a Newburyport Representative on the Whittier Regional School Committee. This position is vacant due to the recent resignation of Mary DeLai, whose term expires on March 31, 2027. The School Committee will deliberate and will not vote until a future meeting.

**Roof Project Update**

Facilities Director James McSweeney presented a breakdown of construction cost estimates and total project cost estimates for both the Nock-Molin and the High School roof projects. James explained the City Council would need to approve \$7,013,597 combined estimated construction costs before MSBA will move forward. He also explained the combined reimbursement amount (\$2,880,454).

James reviewed the Project Timeline, which included next steps and important deadlines between January – June 2026. James will present to the City Council on Tuesday, January 20th. He will provide a follow-up on the solar panels in February.

### **Toward Zero Waster 2030/50 Program Presentation**

Art Currier, John Elwell, Dan Foley and Ben Iacono spoke to the School Committee regarding the Toward Zero Waste 2030/2050 Program, which is a Massachusetts mandate to reduce waste statewide by 30% in 2030, and 90% by 2050. Art and John explained the health impacts of waste, key components of the state’s program, and the importance of collaboration with the surrounding communities. Dan and Ben reviewed various workshops being offered in early 2026, as well as various waste reduction projects already being piloted in collaboration with ACES and Newburyport’s Senior/Community Center.

### **School Improvement Plans Presentations**

Goals for 2025-2027 in the newest School Improvement Plans developed with their School Councils were presented to the School Committee by Bresnahan Principal Jamie Sokolowski, Nock Middle School Principal Nick Markos, and High School Principal Andy Wulf. Dr. Tom Abrams presented the SIP for the Molin. Principal Sokolowski also explained new changes to the Bresnahan’s report card. Juliet Walker asked each presenter to explain any budget “asks”. Superintendent Sean Gallagher stated an executive summary of SIP goal achievements and progress could be presented in September. Lauren Eramo would like to find out what % of Molin students are currently doing student-led conferences. Andy Wulf will pull information on teacher feedback related to the Math Intervention Block for first semester. Andy Wulf will find out if Anna Jaques has contacted NHS regarding any partnerships.

### **Review and Adoption of School Committee Procedural Rules and Regulations**

School Committee Member Ethics Policy (BCA) and Operating Principles & Norms of Interaction Policy (BCC/BCD).

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by John Ricci it was

**VOTED:** to adopt the Norms as stated for the Newburyport School Committee.

#### **Motion Passed**

### **Designation of Member and Alternate to Sign Payroll and Vouchers**

Juliet Walker explains the recommendation to designate the Finance Subcommittee Chair as the signer, and Vice Chair as the alternate to sign payroll and vouchers when we cannot do it in general session.

#### **Motion:**

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

**VOTED:** to have FINCOM Chair Andy Boger and Vice Chair Juliet Walker as alternate to sign payroll and vouchers when we cannot do it in general session.

#### **Motion Passed**

## **School Committee 2026 Subcommittee Assignments**

Mayor Sean Reardon announced the assignments for the Finance, Policy, Teaching & Learning and Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittees, as well as SEPAC.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Finance Subcommittee**

Andrew Boger will set a meeting date for later this month.

### **Policy Subcommittee**

Kathleen Shaw will determine the next meeting date.

### **Teaching & Learning Subcommittee**

Breanna Higgins will cancel the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Start time of future meetings will be changed to the morning, rather than 6PM.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Mayor Sean Reardon Inauguration Ceremony:**

Superintendent Sean Gallagher congratulated Mayor Reardon and Juliet Walker on their re-election, and welcomed new School Committee members Lauren Eramo and John Ricci.

### **January 16 Staff Development Day:**

The Superintendent provided the schedule for the upcoming Professional Development Day on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. He thanked Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams for their efforts planning this day for the district. All school committee members are invited to attend.

## **New Business:**

**Winter Retreat:** The School Committee will hold a short business meeting beginning at 5:30PM on Wednesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, followed by the winter retreat. Members should email Juliet Walker with any agenda ideas.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 9:09PM.

### **Motion Passed**

Submitted by: Maddie Jackman

Location: Senior Center

**Bresnahan News:**

Last week, the Bresnahan staff took part in teacher-led Foundations professional development through collaborative stations designed to deepen instructional practice. Using recent school-wide data, we highlighted instructional glows and areas for growth and identified three universal takeaways to strengthen consistency across classrooms:

Lesson pacing

Clarity of instruction

Multi-sensory engagement

The goal of this work was to build shared understanding and aligned instructional practices that support student learning. It was wonderful to see our staff sharing their skills, creativity and love of teaching with others. A big “thank you” to the following staff members for their leadership: Linda Gershuny, Kellie Harte, Chrissy Platt, Rebecca Chapman, Paige Engler, Kristin Callahan, Keri Lynch, Mary Elizabeth Prichard, Kelly Garbarino, and Tom Abrams.

Additionally, several Bresnahan teachers and administrators attended the Playful Learning Institute at Clark University, sponsored by DESE. This professional learning opportunity is part of the DESE grant funding Bresnahan received last spring.

During the training, educators participated in workshops focused on integrating STEM and playful learning, inclusive practices through playful learning, and social-emotional learning through play. The experience provided valuable strategies that support student engagement, creativity, and whole-child development across classrooms.

**Nock Middle School News:**

Congratulations to all of our Band, Orchestra, and Chorus performers for their outstanding performances at last night’s Winter Concert. It was a wonderful show, and we are so proud of our students and staff.

Last week, the Nock launched a new series called **Clipper Talks**. This initiative is designed to give students a firsthand look at the middle school journey and beyond by hearing directly from NHS upperclassmen who proudly wear the Crimson and Gold. Students shared their middle school experiences, lessons learned, and what they might have done differently. The experience truly brought our *Portrait of a Graduate* vision to life and created a powerful learning opportunity and meaningful connection for both Nock and NHS students. Clipper Talks will continue during advisory blocks throughout the month of January.

In addition, the 8th grade **Career Speaker Series** also kicked off last week. Speakers from a wide range of fields, including medical, technology, engineering, restaurant management, entrepreneurship, and music shared real stories, real paths, and real possibilities. This series will continue through January to support our *Portrait of a Graduate* vision and help students begin to imagine what’s next.

### High School News:

Last weekend NHS sent four kids to the northeastern district concert band and chorus concerts. Lucas Ting played flute for the band, and Nora Baker, Josh Taehyon, and Nathan Lagueux sang in the chorus. It was a fabulous concert, and we at NHS and the community are super proud of their accomplishments! The singers, along with Bay Schumacher will all be auditioning for the all-state chorus and rock band in two weeks.

Congratulations to the students who are part of the **Newburyport High Network** for launching their first set of live shows this week. **Lilly Curtis and Eden Harding** have been fantastic news anchors, and the entire crew is to be commended for their thoughtful news segments, editing, and management.