

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

Wednesday, February 25, 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, except Breanna Higgins and Lauren Eramo.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$281,433.65 as presented.

Warrant 8174 (FY26)	\$271,562.07
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 9,871.58</u>
	\$281,433.65

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent
Lauren Eramo absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the February 11, 2026 School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent
Lauren Eramo absent

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Principal Andy Wulf and Dr. Erin Hobbs provided an overview to offer students additional options for Career Tech Education (CTE) pathways and Chapter 74 programming at the high school. Principal Wulf explained their goals, as well as the pathways currently offered at NHS. Dr. Hobbs described the difference between Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) and Chapter 74 Career Technical Education (CTE). She also reviewed data they use to help determine priority occupations, and described programs they would like to offer in the future at the high school (i.e. Early Education & Care and Health Assisting). Programming requirements, funding options and their timeline were also reviewed.

Student Representative Report

Anna Pervier provided the student report which included upcoming art activities with for grade 4 &

grade 5, March Madness kick off at the Nock, and the high school's drama festival competition at Woburn High, and the national poetry recitation contest for Poetry Out Loud. (details attached)

Review 2026 – 2027 School Calendar – 2nd read

SC members reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar. Superintendent Sean Gallagher stated he spoke to the NTA Union Reps regarding the idea of moving the student start day to August 31 and teacher professional development days to the previous week, which in turn would move the reserved snow days up one week. The Union is willing to consider this option and be part of a steering committee to look at the 2027-2028 calendar.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar as presented in accordance with Policy IC/ICA School Year/Calendar.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Lauren Eramo absent

FY27 Level of Service Budget Overview

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented an adjusted baseline budget for FY27. He reviewed a list of reductions totaling \$590,661, which brings the City Appropriation down to 6.4%, and the overall change from FY26 to 7.8%. The Superintendent is working to further reduce the FY27 budget by the March 11th meeting. Fees will be discussed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting (2/26), then with the full School Committee on March 11th.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on February 26th at 8:30AM.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated the next meeting will be held on March 2nd.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Andrew Boger reported they have not met.

Superintendent's Report

"Zero the Hero" 100th Day at Bresnahan: The Superintendent attended the 100th day of school celebration at the Bresnahan, which began with the arrival of superhero, "Zero the Hero".

North Shore Superintendent's Round Table Legislative preparation: Superintendent Gallagher and Finance Director Ethan Manning will be speaking about Transportation and MSBA Capital Project Overview at the NSSRT Legislative meeting on February 27th.

Carol Appleton Yankee Homecoming Director: Superintendent Gallagher is working with the new Yankee Homecoming Director (Carol Appleton) to share ideas about increasing student participation with this event.

Update on MCIEA Governing Board Meeting: The recent board meeting focused on a proposed graduation requirement involving capstones and portfolios, the review of various policy updates and funding.

Around the District: A new episode of Around the District was recently filmed and produced by students in the new Cindy Johnson Video Lab at the high school. The Superintendent state this episode will highlight many success stories within the district.

Yurt Outdoor Classroom Proposal: An outdoor classroom space is being proposed for the Bresnahan School. The project idea is possibly being championed and sponsored by the PTO.

New Business:

- The Superintendent thanked Mayor Reardon and both the city / school district maintenance and custodial crews for their efforts cleaning up after the blizzard for two days.
- Mayor Reardon stated a 3-day parking ban will begin tonight (2/25) at 9PM for snow removal.
- Kathleen Shaw will look into SEPAC as meetings have slowed down.

Follow-up:

- Superintendent Gallagher has started recruiting members for an AI Advisory Committee and hopes to have a committed list of members for the March 11th School Committee meeting.
- Mayor Reardon stated two applicants have applied for the open Whittier School Committee openings. Interested applicants have until February 27th to apply. The Mayor would like this topic included on the March 11th School Committee meeting agenda.
- The School Committee plans to meet with student representatives in March.

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 7:51PM.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Lauren Eramo absent

Student Report for School Committee

February 25, 2026

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome & Ann Pervier

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Molin News:

Molin Artist in Residence, Kim Salathe, will be returning March 23-26 to integrate mindfulness with art. 4th-grade students will create a clay labyrinth, and 5th grade will engage in a mindful zentangle activity.

Nock Middle School News:

We are excited to kick off March Madness after our extended break! Our kickoff assembly will take place on Friday, when students will come together as a school community to review expectations, learn about team challenges, and build excitement for the month ahead.

The goal of March Madness is to reinforce our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system while bringing some fun and energy to what can feel like a long month. Through friendly competition and schoolwide activities, we aim to maintain positive behavior expectations and strengthen our sense of community.

We are also looking forward to upcoming college visits. Our sixth graders will attend Salem State University, our eighth graders will visit Endicott College, and our seventh graders will attend either Emerson College or Curry College. We are currently finalizing the details and look forward to sharing more information soon.

Overall, students are enthusiastic about the month ahead and the opportunities to come together as a community while continuing to uphold our academic expectations.

High School News:

NHS Theatre will compete in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's High School Drama Festival preliminary round this Saturday, February 28 at Woburn High School along with 7 other schools. We will perform second, at 10 :00 AM. 80 other schools across the Commonwealth will be competing at 10 other sites that same day. If we move on, semifinals will take place two weeks later, followed by finals in Boston the last weekend in March. We are excited to produce a 40-minute cut of the hilarious and classic piece of American theatre: *You Can't Take It With You*. We will have PREVIEWS at NHS this Thursday, February 26th at 3:15 PM & 7:00 PM. We would LOVE for you to attend one of our previews, and participate in feedback after the show--this process is a HUGE help in preparing for festival day! Assisting me with directing is NHS Theatre Alum and NPS Communications Specialist Julia Olson, '20.

Sophomore Maria Freuh placed in the preliminary round of the national poetry recitation contest Poetry Out Loud. She will compete in the Finals with representatives from 11 other schools at the Old South Meeting House in Boston on March 8 to whittle it down to one student who will represent the state of Massachusetts in the national competition in Washington DC.