

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

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call found all members present, except John Ricci who arrived late (7:11PM).

**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 \$573,225.36 as presented.

Warrant 8176 (FY26)	\$559,794.28
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 13,431.08</u>
	\$573,225.36

**Motion Passed**

John Ricci absent

**Minutes**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to adopt the minutes for the April 8, 2026 School Committee meeting, with a correction to page 5 (New Business: Lauren Eramo attended the MASC Day on the Hill event also).

**Motion Passed**

John Ricci absent

**Student Representative Report:** not presented (see attached)

**FY27 Recommended Budget**

Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Finance Director Ethan Manning presented a recommended total budget of \$47,350,950 for FY27, which is a 3.88% increase to the City appropriation and a 6.25% increase to the total budget over last year. Ethan reviewed areas that are driving increases in FY27, noting that non-personnel expenses increased 24.06% over last year. School Committee members reviewed the detailed FY27 Budget Book, and had the opportunity to ask questions related to each of the cost centers, as well as discuss reserved funds and whether or not to spend down School Choice monies.

**Motion:**

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

**VOTED:** to approve the FY27 Budget by Cost Center (Bresnahan = \$9,421,810, Molin = \$4,289,097, Nock = \$7,181,123, NHS = \$11,536,929 and District = \$14,921,990) as presented for a total of \$47,350,950. (see page 22 of Budget Book)

**Motion Passed (6)**

Mayor Reardon voted present

**School Committee Meeting Schedule 2026-2027**

SC Members reviewed the meeting calendar; no changes were suggested. The Senior Center is holding November 17, 2026 as a possible date for the Joint meeting of City Council & School Committee.

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to approve the 2026-2027 School Committee Business Meeting schedule as presented.

**Motion Passed**

**SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Finance Subcommittee**

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Policy Subcommittee**

Kathleen Shaw stated they have not met.

**Teaching & Learning Subcommittee**

Breanna Higgins stated they met on April 15<sup>th</sup>. District Health Survey data was discussed.

**SEPAC**

Kathleen Shaw stated the next meeting will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30PM.

**NEF**

Lauren Eramo stated she was unable to attend the recent NEF meeting. Upcoming NEF activities include the NEF Awards night on June 9, 2026 at The Deck, as well as a Mahjong tournament and a golf fundraiser.

**Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- ❖ Student Performing Arts – Anastasia: The Nock Middle School presented the musical Anastasia on April 9 through April 11<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ National Honor Society Inductions: Both the National Art Honor Society (4/14) and the National Honor Society (4/16) held their annual induction ceremonies recently.

- ❖ MCIEA Governing Board Update: A board meeting was held on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Superintendent Gallagher noted that 2026-2027 Core Practices were reviewed, and Newburyport teachers submitted 55 tasks to the MCIEA task bank.
- ❖ NRYS & Beacon Coalition Asset Builder Awards: Four members of the school community were recognized on April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Asset Builder Awards Ceremony: Mark Cooper, Haley Budden, Lauren Gee and Julie Murray.
- ❖ Math Month Celebration: Students at the Bresnahan and Molin schools celebrated “Math Month”, participating in various exciting interactive activities each week.
- ❖ 2026-2027 School Choice Update: The Superintendent reported that 62 applications have already been received the 2026-2027 School Choice openings.

### **New Business:**

- Mayor Reardon reminded everyone the Peace Prize Awards will be held on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Kathleen Shaw stopped by the International Cultural Fair happening tonight at the high school. The Superintendent and several School Committee members also attended, and noted the event gets bigger and better each year.
- Kathleen Shaw shared that several community representatives in Newburyport will be involved with various projects over the next year related to the Make It Okay program.
- Kathleen Shaw noted that a student group is applying for an Amazing Newburyport grant to make little tins containing small crocheted items meant for relaxation and/or self-calming.

### **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 8:51PM.

**Motion Passed**

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome & Ann Pervier

Location: Senior Center

**Bresnahan News:**

We had a fun and engaging Math Awareness Month across the school! Students participated in a weekly estimation jar in the front office, with new challenges introduced throughout the month. Each Friday, the closest estimate earned a prize.

Classes also took part in twice-weekly math challenges, submitting their answers for a chance to earn certificates. It was great to see so many classrooms participating and tracking their progress.

The week before April vacation was Math Spirit Week, featuring themed days like Number Day, Crazy Hair Day, Pattern Day, and Pajama Day.

Students also had the opportunity to complete optional at-home choice boards, earning individual certificates for their efforts. Classrooms explored additional math read-alouds and enrichment activities, adding to the excitement.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Math Awareness Month such a success!

**Molin News:**

Congratulations to Casey Conley and Olivia Lane who will be receiving the Peace Prize Thursday night. The Peace Prize recognizes students for their efforts promoting and supporting a sense of welcome and inclusion, and by working to eliminate prejudice, intolerance, discrimination, and acts of hate in our community.

Our 5th graders are studying the Hydrologic Cycle, Water Sources & the human impact in class and will spend a full day visiting the Newburyport Water (drinking) Treatment Plant; Wastewater Treatment Plant; Little River Nature Trail; and Maplecrest Farm for hands-on experiential learning!

**Nock Middle School News:**

The Nock extends its congratulations to the cast and crew of Anastasia for their tremendous work and dedication. Their efforts have resulted in another incredible production.

Students also express appreciation to the School Committee for its continued support of Nock's experiential learning and place-based education. These programs continue to provide meaningful, hands-on learning opportunities. Most recently, sixth grade students visited Backcountry Tiny Homes, where they explored both a completed tiny home and one still under construction. During the visit, students worked with engineers and engaged in activities that enhanced their understanding of design, construction, and real-world problem solving.

In the classroom, students are preparing for next week's MCAS math assessments. Alongside

academic preparation, there is growing excitement for the upcoming overnight trips for both seventh and eighth grade, which students are looking forward to as valuable educational and community-building experiences.

### **High School News:**

Ten NHS students spent two weeks in the Black Forest at our partner school in Waldkirch with two of their teachers. They lived with German families, and had a great time learning all about life in Germany!

The Global Citizenship Program's 4th Annual International Cultural Festival is tonight. Students in the class organized and will run the festival. From completing a Food Safety Permit, soliciting six restaurants to participate; to writing a press release used by the Daily News and other news agencies. Students secured \$3500 in grants to help pay for tonight's event which is free to the public. There will be a variety of student presentations, hands-on activities. Indigenous crafts people, Art exhibits, cultural foods and a live world music concert. This has been an incredible journey and achievement by the students that makes for one of the strongest connections between our school, and the community at large. We would like to thank the NEF, The Awesomeness Foundation and the PTO for their support of this event, and in support of Global Citizenship education.