

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

Monday, June 16, 2025

Present: Juliet Walker, Andy Boger, Kathleen Shaw, and Breanna Higgins.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present except Brian Callahan, Mayor Sean Reardon and Sarah Hall; Breanna Higgins (arrived 6:34PM). All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments - none

Staff Retirement Recognitions

Superintendent Sean Gallagher congratulated the following retiring staff members: Jay Murphy (Nock PE teacher - 28 years), Anne Enaire (Molin 4th Grade teacher -25 years), Eileen Barry (Molin Special Ed teacher - 11 years), Karen Sullivan (Bresnahan Special Ed teacher - 11 years), and Paul Yameen (NHS Wellness teacher - 27 years), as well as four Instructional Assistants from the Bresnahan: Faith Sweeney (20 years), Ellen Sullivan (16 years), Sarah Barcock (3 years) and Catherine McCloy (14 years), and also Dawn Stewart (Central Accounting – 8 years), George LeBuff (Bresnahan Custodian – 10 years), and Pam Hubbard (Bresnahan Cafeteria Lead – 21 years).

Warrant

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$662,462.15 as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan and Sarah Hall absent

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the June 2nd School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan and Sarah Hall absent

Student Representative Report

Logan McKnight presented the student report which included the Bresnahan Community Service Club's project selection (Cradles to Crayons) and Annabelle Gallagher's school running club record

(51 miles), the Nock's Student Showcase, and 8th grade Class Day, as well as the Nock and the High School's recent awards earned by the bands, orchestra, and chorus in Holyoke.

Single-Use Plastics Presentations

A team of 3rd and 8th grade students, along with teachers Jenn Groskin and Katara Harding, presented the results of their Single-Use Plastics study. The students' slideshow presentation included problems caused by using milk cartons and plastic silverware in the café, including volume of plastic used and pictures of waste in the Bresnahan and Nock/Molin cafeteria. In addition, the students provided various alternative products available, possible solutions, and potential costs.

Juliet Walker suggested the Committee could talk about the issues at the summer retreat.

Collective Bargaining Agreement between AFSCME and Newburyport School Committee

The School Committee will vote on the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Union (AFSCME) for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028.

Motion:

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AFSCME and the School Committee for a collective bargaining agreement for the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028, in accordance with Policy BEDF (Voting Method) and HB (Negotiations Legal Status).

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan and Sarah Hall absent

Roll Call Vote

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

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Juliet Walker stated the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18th at 8:00AM.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated they met on June 9th and reviewed the communications Technology polices.

Communications Subcommittee

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting is scheduled for June 26th.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they met on June 4th. There was a Math Strategy presentation by Mark Littlefield, and the building principals presented their School Improvement Plans.

Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee

Juliet Walker stated that Mayor Sean Reardon sent an update via email. He will be sending the members a questionnaire to be filled out as a group. The goal will be to begin the process in July and discuss at the retreat.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent provided an update of the NEF ED Awards night which he attended on June 10th. He had the opportunity to speak with parent/guardians, students and staff at the EL Family Breakfast held at the high school. The Superintendent also reported on all the exciting end-of-year student events at the Bresnahan, Molin and Nock schools, as well as the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Tennis Courts. He will be attending the annual Molin Awards for teachers on June 20th, and the Extended Leadership Team retreat at the end of June.

New Business

- Superintendent Gallagher mentioned the district will be purchasing signage for the new tennis courts indicating courts will be "closed during the school day". The courts closest to Johnson Street would be open.
- Juliet Walker reminded everyone that City Council will hold a special budget meeting at 6PM on Wednesday, June 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:16PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan and Sarah Hall absent

Submitted by: Logan MacKnight

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Today is the last day of school for our Preschool, PreK and Kindergarten students! We're wrapping up the school year with lots of excitement and family visits!

Each classroom teacher is hosting a **Picnic & Portfolio Day** as a special way to celebrate the end of the year with their class. Thank you to all the family members who have joined us—we are so grateful for your partnership and support throughout the year!

3rd Grader, Annabelle Gallagher broke the school running club record of 51 miles! This morning she ran 23 more laps to surpass this milestone. This accomplishment reflects her dedication, determination, and deep passion for running. The Bresnahan school came together to celebrate her incredible hard work and cheer her on this morning! Classes gathered along the sidewalk that circles the bus loop and cheered her on as she made history at Bresnahan School. It was incredible to watch! Congrats, Annabelle!

The Bresnahan Community Service Club met once a month all year. In the fall, NHS student Logan MacKnight invited a guest speaker from a non-profit organization to teach the students about a community service topic (e.g., food insecurity, clothing insecurity, importance of city trees to our environment, community and health). Then the Bresnahan students got to choose which organization they wanted to support through a spring service project. The 3rd graders chose to support [Cradles to Crayons](#) with a clothing drive to address clothing insecurity for children. The clothing drive was recently completed and was a great success. Congrats to Logan and all the Bresnahan 3rd graders in the Community Service Club!

Nock News:

Our Student Showcase was a big hit! Students from every grade did an amazing job connecting their learning to our district's Portrait of a Graduate. It was awesome to see them highlight the skills they've built and how their experiences this year have shaped them.

We're really looking forward to celebrating our 8th graders on Wednesday during Class Day. We're so proud of the Class of 2029 and can't wait to recognize all they've accomplished.

Our 7th grade trip to Camp Jewell was a home run—there's still a buzz around the building! And our 6th graders wrapped up two great days last week and have two more

this week, ending the year strong and building on much of our play based advisory program.

Lots to celebrate as we finish out the year!

High School News:

The NHS band, orchestra, and chorus all traveled to Holyoke and Six Flags on June 6th for music adjudication and a fun day at the park. The chorus brought home an excellent rating on their trophy, and the band and orchestra each brought home superior ratings. The Nock band, orchestra, and chorus also performed, and brought home excellent awards. We are super proud of our young musicians, and how they performed at the end of the school year. We're looking forward to even better things next year.

Student Milla Baptiste '27 and alum Tuala Sullivan '23 will present original poems as part of Thursday's Juneteenth Celebration at City Hall.