

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

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Member Andrew Boger called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present, except Mayor Sean Reardon and Juliet Walker.

**Public Comments:**

Alicia Tague, 18 Collins Street, Newburyport (special education concerns)

**Warrant**

On a motion by John Ricci and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

**VOTED:** to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$671,680.61 as presented.

Warrant 8179 (FY26)	\$656,509.34
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 15,171.27</u>
	\$671,680.61

**Motion Passed**

Mayor Sean Reardon absent  
Juliet Walker absent

**Minutes**

**Motion:**

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

**VOTED:** to adopt the minutes for the April 29, 2026 School Committee.

**Motion Passed**

Mayor Sean Reardon absent  
Juliet Walker absent

**NHS College & Career Preparation Presentation**

Director of School Counseling Lauren Gee presented a summary of the high school's counseling curriculum. She provided an overview of the new Onward Block launched this year, including MyCAP Curriculum, examples of Onward Block activities for each grade, Foundational Programs used, and Career & Planning activities. Lauren reviewed various counseling instructions provided by the School Counselors, and resources available through Aaron Ribaudo-Smith in the College & Career Center. After the presentation, Lauren answered questions related to Onward Block, portfolios, financial literacy and college trends.

**FY27 Budget**

On behalf of Mayor Sean Reardon, a budget update prepared by the Mayor was read by Andrew Boger, which stated he submitted a proposed budget of \$40,844,765 to the City Council, which is \$123,901 lower than the budget the School Committee voted to approve (\$40,968,666).

Superintendent Gallagher shared several recent State funding updates which will positively affect the FY27 budget, as well as recent good news related to lower than anticipated costs related to the two school roof projects. The budget and funding updates will be discussed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting on May 21, 2026.

The Superintendent will have Facilities Director James McSweeney provide a roof project update at one of the June School Committee Business meetings.

### **Student Representative Report:**

Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included Math MCAS, Mindful May, and Francis T. Bresnahan's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Bresnahan, Staff Appreciation, STEM Expo and 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trips at the Molin, Volunteer Week and Tiny Homes field trip at the Nock, and Leo Club Senior recognition, Brian Moore Track Coach of the Year, CPR training and the upcoming Mama Mia production at the high school. In addition, the district-wide Performing Arts Waterfront Front Festival will be held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **AI Ad Hoc Committee Update**

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the purpose and goals of the AI Ad Hoc Committee. He reviewed a draft of four principles and four areas of guidance that the committee has been developing. The committee plans to have one additional meeting before presenting to the School Committee in June.

## **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 will schedule a meeting in June.

### **Teaching & Learning Subcommittee**

Breanna Higgins stated they will meet on May 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the district's choice of a Literacy Curriculum next year.

### **SEPAC**

Kathleen Shaw stated an in-person meeting was held today and was attended by school adjustment counselors to talk about various services provided (i.e. social emotional supports).

### **NEF**

Lauren Eramo stated their next meeting will be next Wednesday night (May 20<sup>th</sup>).

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- ❖ Newburyport High School Academic Awards: The Superintendent attended the 68<sup>th</sup> Academic Awards night at the high school on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ ADL 2026 Essex County Law & Education Day Breakfast: NHS Students, Brandon Sturma and the Superintendent attended this annual breakfast on May 7<sup>th</sup>, along with various local/state officials, law enforcement personnel and area students. The event is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League.

- ❖ North Shore Superintendents' Roundtable (NSSRT): Superintendent Gallagher attended the recent NSSRT meeting which focused on public safety trends on the North Shore, including information presented by DA Paul Tucker regarding social host laws and underage drinking. The Superintendent would like to invite DA Tucker to speak with NPS parents and caregivers.
- ❖ 2026-2027 School Choice Update: Twenty-five school choice openings for 2026-2027 have been filled. Sixty-seven applications were received and thirty-nine applicants are on the waiting list.
- ❖ Skills Capital Grant Submission: NPS has submitted an application for a Massachusetts Skills Capital Grant, requesting \$3.1 million to advance vocational and technical programming at the high school.
- ❖ MCIEA / School Quality Measures: The Superintendent reported the School Climate Survey is currently open to administration, staff and students in grades 4-12. MCIEA will organize the feedback in time for the leadership teams summer retreat. The goal is to begin developing the dashboard next year.

**Student Recognitions:**

Two high school seniors, Maddie Jackman and Cassidy Bolcome, were recognized for their dedication and leadership in providing a student voice as the high school's student representatives to the School Committee.

**New Business:**

- Lauren Eramo reminded everyone the NEF Golf Tournament will be held next Monday (May 18<sup>th</sup>). And the NEF's first annual Mahjong tournament was held last Thursday.
- Kathleen Shaw attended the Mental Health Providers luncheon today, which was sponsored by Newburyport Recreation & Youth Services. A new 40 Assets youth survey is being worked on.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

On a motion by John Ricci and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

**VOTED:** to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:54PM and move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

**Motion Passed**

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

Juliet Walker absent

**Roll Call Vote**

<b>School Committee Member</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Mayor Sean Reardon	absent
Juliet Walker	absent
Kathleen Shaw	Yes
John Ricci	Yes
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Lauren Eramo	Yes
Andrew Boger	Yes

Submitted by: Maddie Jackman & Cassidy Bolcome

Location: Senior Center

**Bresnahan News:**

Bresnahan 3rd graders started their two day Math MCAS testing today! Students have also been engaging in lots of hands-on learning and field trips - Kindergarten students went to the Dover Children's Museum last week; grade 1 is headed to Great Bay Discovery Center next week, and 3rd graders are going to Spencer Pierce Little Farm.

We are halfway through "Mindful May" at the Bresnahan School, with teachers and students exploring mindfulness each morning during Morning Meeting time. Mindful May also brings back our annual Gratitude Garland challenge — creating enough gratitude links to wrap around the entire Bresnahan School! We have come so close the past two years, and this year we are feeling especially hopeful. There is so much mindfulness, gratitude, and positivity happening throughout the building, and our garland is growing quickly. The big reveal will take place on June 3rd when we find out if we have enough links to make it all the way around the school! Stay tuned!

This Friday, we will celebrate what would have been Francis T. Bresnahan's 100th birthday! Students are encouraged to wear Clipper colors as we honor his lasting contributions to the Newburyport Public Schools community. We are especially excited that his granddaughter — one of our 3rd grade teachers — will share a few of his favorite things and reflect on his impact and legacy during Friday's announcement. We look forward to celebrating together!

**Molin News:**

A heartfelt THANK YOU from the Molin Staff to the PTO for an amazing and generous Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. The PTO certainly made everyone feel special!

The Molin STEM EXPO is on June 5th. Students participating choose a scientific question/engineering challenge that interests them and then they: Experiment - Create - Collect Data & Test. Students share their projects and research data at the EXPO!

The Molin 5th graders modeled the MOLIN WAY on their recent hydrologic cycle field trip to the NBPT Water Treatment Plant, the NBPT Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Maplecrest Farm & the Indian Hill Reservoir. Our 5th graders were respectful, responsible, and kind while touring, asking questions & listening to presenters.

**Nock Middle School News:**

There is a lot of excitement across all three middle school grades as we head into the final stretch of the school year.

Our eighth-grade students are getting ready for their annual trip to Philadelphia. This is something they have been looking forward to all year, and the anticipation is building as they prepare for this memorable experience.

Seventh graders are currently out in the community for Volunteer Week, giving back through meaningful service projects and making a positive impact beyond the classroom. Next week, they will continue their Place-Based Education work with an ecology unit at Sandy Point State where they will explore local ecosystems and they will finish off the week, honoring our fallen soldiers with their annual flag planting At our local cemetery.

Meanwhile, sixth grade students have been fully engaged in their Tiny Homes unit, designing and building scale models inspired by their recent backcountry Tiny Homes experiential learning trip. They are especially excited to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills at the STEM event at Fenway Park in early June.

Across all grade levels, students are deeply involved in hands-on learning, community engagement, and memorable experiences. The energy and enthusiasm are real as students continue to learn, grow, and make the most of these opportunities.

### **High School News:**

Just over a week ago, the Newburyport Lions Club recognized senior members of the Leo Club for their commitment to service throughout their time in the organization. Through volunteerism and community engagement, these students have demonstrated leadership, compassion, and a strong commitment to giving back to the Newburyport community.

Congratulations to Track Coach Brian Moore on being named the Boston Globe's Division 4 Coach of the Year. Under his leadership, the track program has experienced tremendous success and continues to provide student-athletes with an outstanding experience.

Congratulations to the Red Cross Club on running a successful First Aid and CPR training course for babysitters last Saturday. This was a great way to engage students and equip them with valuable life-saving skills, while also helping prepare them for real-world responsibilities caring for children.

NHS Theatre cordially invites you to our spring production: *ABBA's Jukebox Musical Hit MAMMA MIA. The show opens Friday, May 22 and runs through May 30th! 78 student artists are involved--we hope to see you at the show!*

16 students returned from a 10 day trip to Peru and had a fabulous time. Catherine Taggart and Erin Hobbs went. We were in the Andes Mountains and went to Mount Machu Picchu.

### **District News:**

The Newburyport Public Schools K-12 Performing Arts Waterfront Festival is this Saturday, May 16th from 12-4PM at Waterfront Park behind Sea Level and The Firehouse Center. Join us for a day of performing arts spanning all age groups in the district!