

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
High School Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, November 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call found all members present except Mayor Sean Reardon. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Amy LeBlanc, 18 Woodman Way, Newburyport – Financial Crisis
Jean D’Orsi, Salisbury – MCAS Peoples Forum
Deborah Mousley, 126 Merrimac Street, Newburyport – MCAS Peoples Forum

Warrant

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$370,071.80 as presented.

Warrant 8166 (FY26)	\$366,822.82
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 3,248.98</u>
	\$370,071.80

Motion Passed
Mayor Reardon absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the October 20th School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed
Mayor Reardon absent

Student Representative Report

Cassidy Bolcome and Anna Pervier provided the student report which included a recap of Caregiver Conversations at the Bresnahan, the Second Step Program and a musical announcement at the Molin, the annual Veterans Town Hall at the Nock, and the Veterans Day assembly at the High School. (attached)

FY26 Qtr 1 Budget Report

Ethan Manning presented the Quarter 1 Budget Report which included an overview of the district’s finances, including balances of other funding sources. He reviewed the spending comparisons between FY25 and FY26 and explained the personnel and non-personnel spending fluctuations. Ethan explained the revolving and special revenue funds, as well as trends he is seeing in Q1 of FY26.

Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) – 1st read

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong reviewed the various sections of the policy (IKF). She explained that Local Graduation Requirements have not changed (section #1). However, with new regulations, school districts had to develop Local Competency Determination Requirements (section #2, parts A & B), as well as define the meaning of Mastery of Skills (section #2, part C). Principal Andy Wulf and the NHS School Council are working on a presentation for parents. Policy IKF needs to be approved by the School Committee and submitted to the DOE by December 31, 2025.

MASC Resolutions Review

School Committee members reviewed and discussed Resolution 1: Removing BMI Testing From Schools. Juliet Walker stated that 6 previously approved resolutions are set to expire and are on the list to be reauthorized. She explained how resolutions are approved and expire.

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to support Resolution 1: Removing BMI Testing From Schools.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

VOTED: to empower Juliet Walker discretion to vote for continuing these resolutions.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated a meeting was held October 23rd. They discussed a budget transfer, previewed the FY26 Quarterly report, reviewed Student Activity Account balances and budget planning for FY27.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw reviewed the proposed changes to policies EEAA, IJND, and IJNDC, as well as discussed two new policies (GBEE and KDCB). These policies will be presented for a second read at the next school committee meeting. Original versions of each policy will be included in the next meeting packet as well.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated the next meeting will be at 9:30AM on November 20th at Central Office. The agenda topics will include sunsetting the Communications Subcommittee and a transition plan.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they will meet at 6PM on November 19th in the Nock library. The agenda will be a preview of MCAS data.

Superintendent's Report

Essex County Asset Builder Breakfast: Superintendent Gallagher attended this annual event which was well attended by many other local officials and community partners that support our youth programs.

Our Neighbor's Table Annual Breakfast: Molin students and staff were recognized for raising \$15,000 for the organization via their 2-week campaign. Their donation translates into 10,000-20,000 meals for area families. Principal Tara Rossi accepted the award on behalf of the Molin School.

Rotary's Dictionary Distribution & Meeting: The Superintendent joined Principal Jamie Sokolowski at the Bresnahan to distribute dictionaries to all grade 3 students. The Superintendent thanked the Rotary for their generous donation of these dictionaries each year.

DESE On-Site Circuit Breaker Audit: Superintendent Gallagher recognized Gail Phillips, Special Education Administrative Assistant, along with Brad Brooks and Ethan Manning, for their hard work preparing for the recent Circuit Breaker Audit. The audit was very positive! DESE was impressed with our team's preparation work, and would like them to show other districts how it is done!

New Business:

- The schools are collecting baby formula for our food pantry partners from November 3rd to November 21st. Donation boxes will be set up at all school offices.
- Juliet Walker would like the School Committee and City to think of possible solutions to the staffing problems and safety issues at the cross walks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:10PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent

Student Report for School Committee

November 3, 2025

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome & Anna Pervier

Location: Newburyport High School Library

Bresnahan News:

We are excited to share a Recap of Caregiver Conversations - Launch of New Standards-Based Progress Reports

At our recent *Caregiver Conversations* Coffee Hour, families joined staff to learn about the launch of our new standards-based progress reports—an important step in improving how we communicate student learning and growth.

Developed collaboratively by teachers and staff over the 2024-2025 school year, the new report card is ready to launch and provides a clearer, more consistent picture of student progress toward Massachusetts learning standards, focusing on growth over time rather than averaged grades.

Key updates include a revised reporting timeline—a fall conference in November and progress reports in January and June—and grading aligned to end-of-year benchmarks.

We enjoyed having families in the building to discuss this important topic, and families expressed appreciation for the clarity and transparency of the new system.

Molin News:

Molin Drama Presents: James and the Giant Peach Jr.! We're so excited to announce this year's musical production! This show will feature a smaller cast of 35 students (no stage crew) to ensure every participant has a meaningful role. Auditions: Wednesday, November 19th, 2:15–4:15 PM in Mrs. Rico's classroom

Second Step

In November, we will begin the latest version of the Second Step program which has been in place for many years at Molin. This evidence-based program teaches skills for resolving conflicts, working with others, forming healthy relationships, and making good decisions. Home Link letters were shared via Principal Rossi's weekly email that outlines what students will be learning in the coming weeks.

Nock Middle School News:

Tomorrow at the Nock, all 8th graders will be participating in our annual Veterans Town Hall. For the past 10 years we have welcomed numerous Veterans and Active Duty Members of the armed services from the Newburyport community to share their stories and experiences with our students. We are excited to welcome and honor our Veterans.

High School News:

Dear School Committee, NHS Theatre invites you to be their special guest at our fall production: *The Great Gatsby!* Check-in at the box office for your complimentary ticket! We hope to see you at the show!

On Thursday, the Red Cross Club will hold a Veterans Day Assembly. Based on what they have prepared, this will be as impressive as it was 2 years ago. From the speakers to music, it will be a meaningful and a fitting recognition of our veterans.