

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

Wednesday, June 10, 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 (arrived 6:33PM).

Public Comments: none

Staff Retirement Recognitions

Superintendent Sean Gallagher congratulated the following retiring staff members: *James Antonelli (Dean of Specialized Programs – 3 years), Katie Bartolini (Health Services Director – 3 years), Brian Cahill (Bresnahan Custodian – 11 years), Janis Cahill (Bresnahan Grade 3 Teacher – 25 years), Vicki Dyer (NHS Secretary – 10 years), Cary Handler (Nock Instructional Ass't – 11 years), Johnny Hawkes (NHS Custodian – 24 years), Stephanie Karahalidis (Nock Instructional Ass't – 31 years), Julie Malchow (Bresnahan Special Ed Teacher – 14 years), Kathy Ryan (Bresnahan Literacy Title I Teacher – 18 years), and Suzanne Simon (Bresnahan PK Teacher – 20 years)*

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$582,604.56 as presented.

Warrant 8181 (FY26)	\$575,263.85
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 7,340.71</u>
	\$582,604.56

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the May 13, 2026 with changes to bottom of page 3 (Correct vote for Breanna Higgins to “yes”).

Motion Passed

Student Representative Report:

Anna Pervier provided the student report which included a Coast Guard visit, school-wide Gratitude Garland Project and Field Day at the Bresnahan, Math Olympiads program at the Molin, Tiny Home projects and the Grade 7 Camp Jewell trip at the Nock, and Boys Track State Champions and Class of 2026 graduation at the high school. Molin Field Day will be held June 18th and Nock Class Day will be on June 23rd.

Nock & NHS Roof Project Update

Facilities Director James McSweeney provided an update for the Nock/Molin and High School MSBA roof projects. He reviewed the project costs for both buildings, as well as the costs involved with removing the Nock solar panels during the project. James reviewed the project timeline, explained areas in each building that will be closed during construction, and how the solar panels will be stored during the project. Construction costs are currently \$3.3 million lower than originally anticipated.

2028 Overnight Field Trips – High School

Principal Andy Wulf reviewed demographics of the school trips high school students took last year, followed by a review of three international trips proposed for 2028. After a lengthy question & answer period, the Committee decided to table their vote until the next meeting on June 24th. Principal Andy Wulf will obtain more information about the proposed trips such as additional trip costs, price comparisons, payments to teachers, trip insurance, and trip feedback surveys.

Girls Varsity Golf Team Proposal

Superintendent Gallagher reviewed a proposal to start a Varsity Girls Golf program at the high school beginning 2026-2027. Cost and fees information provided by Athletic Director Anna DeVitto and Finance Director Ethan Manning were reviewed. The estimated annual cost for 12-15 students would be \$11,097 and the user fee would be \$275 per student.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the proposal for a Varsity Girls Golf team next year, in accordance with Policy JJIB Inter-Scholastic Athletics.

Motion Passed

Adjustments to 2026-2027 Athletics User Fees

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented a proposal to increase Athletic Fees in 2026-2027. The presentation included a list of why there is a need to increase athletic fees, background on the Middle School Athletics fee, as well as the proposed FY27 Fee Schedule.

Motion:

On a motion by John Ricci and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to approve the proposal to increase athletic fees as presented in accordance with Policy JQ Student Fees, Fines and Charges.

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Andrew Boger it was voted to amend the motion

VOTED: to approve the proposed Athletic Fee Schedule with a \$50 fee per sport for Middle School Athletics in accordance with Policy JQ Student Fees, Fines and Charges.

Motion Passed

Acceptance of Newburyport Bank Scholarship Funds

Finance Director Ethan Manning requested the School Committee accept a \$10,000 scholarship donation from Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation that will be used for five \$2,000 scholarship payments.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the \$10,000 restricted scholarship donation from the Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation, in accordance with Policy KCD Public gifts to the Schools.

Motion Passed

Nock / Molin Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee Discussion

The following people will participate on the Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee: John Ricci (Chair), Juliet Walker, Lauren Eramo, Mayor Reardon, Nick Markos, James McSweeney, and Superintendent Gallagher. A Molin School administrator and a Police Officer will also participate. John Ricci will schedule the first meeting.

Juliet Walker heard from a member of the state's Safe Routes to School, and they want to do a walk around audit. She will coordinate a date with John Ricci.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger said their last meeting this year will be June 18th. Juliet Walker noted there is a meeting with City Council on Thursday, June 11th.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet on June 22nd at 6:30PM in Central Office, and they will be looking at AI policies.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Andrew Boger said they met today and discussed School Improvement Plans.

SEPAC

Kathleen Shaw stated they last met on May 13th was attended by school adjustment counselors to talk about various services provided. They will not meet again this school year.

NEF

Lauren Eramo stated their next meeting will be June 17th.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- ❖ Coast Guard JROTC Site Visit: The high school hosted a site visit for the US Coast Guard JROTC leadership on May 29th. The team toured various classrooms, training spaces and offices. The Coast Guard will make their recommendations later this Fall.
- ❖ YURT Update: The PTO recently approved to move forward with the proposed Outdoor Learning Space and Yurt project at the Bresnahan.
- ❖ CREST Transportation Demo: Superintendent Gallagher, Special Ed Director Brad Brooks and Finance Director Ethan Manning met with CREST for a presentation on a proprietary transportation application developed by CREST to aid with collaborating on route consolidation and cost-sharing opportunities.

- ❖ School Safety & Violent Event Incident Management Workshop: The Superintendent completed an 8-hour comprehensive workshop with area superintendents, police, fire and emergency response teams to collaborate on practical, real-world crisis resolutions.
- ❖ Budget: The Central Office team created a comprehensive, data-driven FAQ document to address recent operations and budget queries by City Council. The budget workshops will be held on June 11th.

New Business:

- Mayor Reardon provided an update regarding Whittier Tech. He attended a recent meeting with regional stakeholders. Another meeting will be held on June 25th, and the group hopes to come up with a list of meaningful amendments. A new regional agreement must be done by June 2027.

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 8:50PM.

Motion Passed