

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

Wednesday, August 26, 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 (absent) and Breanna Higgins (arrived late 6:41PM).

Public Comments:

Cady Seaton (NHS student) - supporting immigrant students / families in Newburyport

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes for the June 24, 2026 School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon abstained

John Ricci & Breanna Higgins absent

Facilities Summer Projects Update

Superintendent Gallagher provided a summary of the progress for the High School and Nock/Molin roof projects, development of a new engineering computer lab, renovations of the music/band rooms, as well as the repairs to the front concrete walkways and retaining wall at the high school. He also explained why the skate board hours were changed for the summer during the roof renovations at the Nock/Molin.

The Superintendent thanked the NEF (Newburyport Education Foundation) for their continuous support and funding towards these projects. In addition, he thanked Facilities Director James McSweeney and his crew for their efforts getting the buildings ready for the opening of school.

School Committee Summer Retreat Re-cap

Juliet Walker summarized the summer retreat activities, such as the self-evaluation of Norms & Procedures and school committee goals for the next six months. Juliet will share the school committee goals document with members to obtain their feedback on ranking / prioritization. Budget strategies and challenges were also discussed.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger said they will keep the meeting time as 9:00AM on Thursday mornings. He will schedule the next meeting date.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw will set up a meeting. The agenda will likely include AI policies.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins said that 8:00AM is a good meeting time this year. She will meet with Lisa Furlong to determine the meeting calendar and topics. Breanna may also develop a data monitoring template to pilot in the subcommittee meetings.

SEPAC

Kathleen Shaw said a meeting schedule hasn't been set yet, but they will probably have three meetings plus one annually required meeting.

NEF

Lauren Eramo stated the first NEF meeting will be held on September 23rd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- ❖ District Improvement Plan Executive Summary (2025-2027): The Superintendent highlighted a few key progress areas over the past year, as well as primary focus areas for 2026-2027.
- ❖ Annual District Readiness Meeting Overview: The Superintendent thanked his Administrative team and various local outside agencies (i.e. police, fire, bus) that met to finalize operational preparations for the upcoming school year.
- ❖ Opening Day Agenda Overview: The schedule for the first two opening days for teachers was briefly reviewed by the Superintendent. All School Committee members were invited to the annual Opening Day assembly at 1:30PM on August 31st.
- ❖ Budget and Staffing Update: Superintendent Gallagher reported the district was nearly 100% fully staffed across all buildings. The budget is on track to meet all Quarter 1 obligations, including recent personnel reallocations to address the additional Kindergarten section.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:25PM.

Motion Passed

John Ricci absent