

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

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$635,778.25 as presented.

Warrant FY27.12	\$631,408.01
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 4,370.24</u>
	\$635,778.25

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes for the August 31, 2026 Special School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

School Committee Student Representative Introductions & Report

Logan MacKnight, Audrey Roebuck and Anna Pervier were introduced as this year's student representatives to the School Committee. Logan and Audrey provided the student report which included the Living Classroom at the Bresnahan, the first Community Assembly at the Molin, and memorial events at the Nock and High School to recognize the 25th anniversary of 9/11. (attached)

Kindergarten Bootcamp Pilot Program

Principal Jamie Sokolowski and teachers Robin O'Malley and Samatha Maguire provided an overview of the Kindergarten Bootcamp program that was piloted at the Bresnahan this summer and funded through the generosity of the Swasey Fund. Three 3 ½ day sessions were offered. A total of 45 children completed the program which covered essential kindergarten skills to help ensure a smooth transition into the school year.

NHS Overnight Field Trip – New York

High School Principal Andy Wulf provided a brief summary of the New York trip itineraries for the Visual Arts and Performing Arts students. The trip is scheduled for January 2027.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the overnight field trip to New York consistent with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed**2026 Summer Professional Development**

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Thomas Abrams provided a summary of the professional development activities that were offered this summer. Their presentation included an overview of the four different types of courses offered, as well as a review of the various projects and programs teachers worked on over the summer. Over 125 educators participated in this summer's professional development program which was generously funded by the Swasey Fund.

Nock/Molin Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee Update

John Ricci provided a brief background as to why the committee was formed, the objective, group members, and areas of focus. He reviewed several key findings, along with various action steps that have been implemented. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet periodically, and will also try to obtain additional funding through a Safe Streets grant.

2026 School Committee Goals - draft

Juliet Walker asked all SC members to review the list of goals for August to December 2026 and assign a priority rank to each goal (high, medium or low). Members need to email their rankings, along with any goal description corrections, to Vice Chair Walker. She will summarize the responses and report back.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**Finance Subcommittee**

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on September 17th.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet at 6:30PM on September 21st in Central Office.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins will meet with Lisa Furlong to determine the meeting calendar and topics.

SEPAC

Kathleen Shaw said a meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd. This will be a Special Education "meet & greet" in the Nock Library. Additional meetings will be held on October 22nd at 6PM and on November 19th at 6PM.

NEF

Lauren Eramo stated the NEF will meet on September 23rd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- ❖ Safe Routes to School Walk Audit Meeting: The school department plans to partner with the City to implement a walk audit with the regional Safe Routes to School initiative. The Superintendent is looking for a school liaison to represent the district.
- ❖ PROTECT Act Policy Compliance: On August 31st the PROTECT Act Policy (ACL) was adopted by the School Committee as required by DESE. The Policy Subcommittee will review existing procedures and Policy ACL with legal counsel at their meeting on September 21st.
- ❖ New Teachers Mentoring Induction Program: The 3-day Induction Program for new teaching staff was held August 26th – August 28th. The Superintendent thanked Ass't Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Abrams for their efforts organizing this year's mentoring program.
- ❖ NPS Staff Returns to School: Superintendent Gallagher welcomed back faculty and staff on September 1st, along with School Committee member Lauren Eramo who spoke on behalf of the School Committee.
- ❖ Students First Day & Riding the Molin/Bresnahan Buses: Students in grades 1-12 returned to school on Wednesday, September 2nd. For the ninth year, the Superintendent greeted students and parents while riding the morning buses with the Molin/Bresnahan students.
- ❖ School Visits: During the first week of school, Superintendent Gallagher visited many classrooms to welcome students and staff back to school.
- ❖ Student Enrollment Update: As of September 3rd, total student enrollment was 2,179. The official number will be reported to the state on October 1st.

New Business

- The City will continue to work with the DPS, Police Department, Mayor's office and school district to collect data related to Low Street/Hale Street/Toppans Lane. The Mayor will try to attend the next Nock/Molin Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee meeting.
- There will be a ceremony held at City Hall at 9:30AM on Friday, September 11th to recognize the 25th anniversary of 9/11.
- Superintendent Gallagher announced the Coast Guard has confirmed that Newburyport High School has been selected as a host institution for a Coast Guard JROTC unit in the upcoming 2027-2028 school year.
- Students and the Exchange Club will participate in the Field of Honor Dedication and Remembrance Ceremony at 12PM on Sunday, September 13th at the Bartlet Mall.
- Kathleen Shaw noted several areas in the district may need wheelchair accessibility improvements. She will send an email to the Superintendent and Facilities Director.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by John Ricci it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:08PM.

Motion Passed

Student Report for School Committee

September 9, 2026

Submitted by: Anna Pervier, Audrey Roebuck, and Logan MacKnight

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

The Bresnahan is excited to start the school year introducing a new specials class:

The Living Classroom with Mrs. Harding!

Students in grades K–3 will experience Living Classroom as part of their regular special's rotation, alongside Art, Music, PE, Library, and STEM. This class is a hands-on science and outdoor education class that uses school grounds and natural environment as an extension of the classroom, and will give students dedicated time each cycle to explore, learn, and develop skills in an outdoor setting. Lessons will connect to science standards, while helping students build curiosity, confidence, collaboration, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

With the generous help of the PTO, the Bresnahan hopes to develop a yurt on school grounds that can serve as a home base for outdoor learning, providing a comfortable space for students to gather, investigate, and learn in all seasons. Our goal is for every Bresnahan student to get outside, get curious, and get hands-on with science. A huge thank you to Katara Harding, Kristin Spinney, Dr. Erin Hobbs and Jill Moran (from NHS) for creating this amazing curriculum and program for students to explore.

Molin News:

Molin students and staff have had a good start to the year. The first community assembly was held. The community assemblies will be held monthly.

Nock Middle School News:

It's been a great start to the year at the Nock! Students are settling into routines, the energy is high, and the first week has been very positive. Grade-level and team meetings have focused on expectations, and arrivals & dismissals have been running smoothly. The staff has been amazing and really came together to support Nock students.

The Nock will recognize the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11 by honoring and remembering the lives lost on September 11th. On September 18th, the Nock will hold the annual All-School Assembly featuring a motivational speaker to kick off the year with a positive and inspiring message. Nock fall athletics are off to a great start, with Cross Country and Field Hockey both having strong beginnings. And finally next week, the 6th graders will be going to their annual experiential learning trip to Project Adventure. This is a great way for 6th graders to build on their team building skills and take risks in a safe place.

High School News:

The first home football game will take place this Friday at 6:30 p.m. against Manchester Essex. Prior to kickoff, we will mark the 25th anniversary of 9/11 with a special ceremony to remember and honor those who lost their lives, including Newburyport native Thomas Pecorelli, who was killed aboard American Airlines Flight 11. We will also recognize those who responded and served in the aftermath of that day, as well as those who continue to serve our communities today. The ceremony will begin at 6:20PM and will include the Newburyport Police Department Honor Guard, the NHS Band, and the 2026 Newburyport football team.