Student Report for School Committee October 28, 2026

Submitted by: Audrey Roebuck

Location: NHS Library

Bresnahan News:

Our second graders just wrapped up a literacy unit on global folklore through exploring Cinderella Stories (a unit in Fishtank Learning). Students explored cultural adaptations like *Yeh-Shen* and *Adelita* to see how different traditions share a classic story.

Beyond comparing basic plot points, the children dug into character motivations and discussed how kindness is rewarded across different cultures. To bring these concepts to life, teachers incorporated playful learning "studios," where students used acting, art, play, and mixed modalities to experiment with changing the main characters' traits. It was a fantastic way to blend early literary analysis with hands-on creativity and cultural awareness.

Molin News:

Molin School Council Members: Tara Rossi, Principal, Michaela Vine, Parent, Jessica Rumore, Parent, Margaret Tsu, Molin Staff, Risa Annicchiarico. The dates are as follows. The times are from 8:30-9:00

School Council Dates: October 26, November 20, December 18, January 22, February 26, March 26, April 30, May 28

Molin 5th graders are visiting the nursing homes on Friday after the Halloween parade to bring joy to their residents!

Nock Middle School News: No news today.

High School News:

We want to give a shout out to all who helped and supported the Kids For Kenya Field Day which we held at the Bres this past Sunday. Special appreciation to Shawn Bleau, Amy Heath, Mary Rakoski and Deb Szabo. Of course, thanks to James McSweeney and the custodial Staff and Andy Wulf as well. The event was truly one of the most fun and joyous activities I can recall via the school district. This was the idea of Senior Anna Pervier and we had the support of students from the boy’s soccer team, NAHS, and the Global Citizenship Program.

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

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present, except Breanna Higgins and John Ricci.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of $749,169.61 as presented.

Warrant FY27.18	$737,791.08
A-Warrant	$ 11,378.53
	$749,169.61

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the October 14, 2026 School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

Student Representative Report

Audrey Roebuck provided the report which included a global folklore literacy unit at the Bresnahan, a nursing home visit and School Council schedule for the Molin, and the Kids for Kenya Field Day event run by the high school. (attached)

Newburyport's Whittier School Committee Reps – Check-in

Erin Fenn and Stephanie Kaline shared highlights from opening of schools and recent Whittier School Committee meetings such as the "big 3" goals, Superintendent Lynch's professional goals, and the Business Manager's 5-year capital plan. Erin reported 7 of 7 seats for Newburyport were filled after reaching the 13th spot on the wait list. The Admissions team will keep the wait list in effect until January 1st. Stephanie provided an update on student life which included 9th grade orientation, statistics on student clubs/sports, and community service projects. She also reported 280 students are taking NECC classes, 25 members of Class 2026 continued education with NECC after

graduation, and 91 adults completed summer CTE programs. There will be an open house on Sunday, November 1st.

CTE Capital Annex Grant Announcement

Superintendent Sean Gallagher announced the high school will be awarded a $3.1 million grant for Career Technical Education programming, and credited Principal Andy Wulf, Dr. Erin Hobbs and their team who were instrumental in obtaining this grant. The Superintendent reviewed a basic timeline for the renovations process, anticipating that construction could begin in June. Principal Wulf explained why over the past few years they decided to rethink the high school experience, looking at curriculum, programming and instruction. Dr. Hobbs explained what this grant is able to provide, including space and equipment for the Health Assisting and Engineering Manufacturing programs. Principal Wulf and Dr. Hobbs also thanked the members of the Steering Committee. Principal Wulf explained they have until the end of school year 2028 to have the spaces ready.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) FY2028-2032

Finance Director Ethan Manning provided background about the capital planning process. He explained two components of NPS capital planning and reviewed the timeline. Facilities Director James McSweeney reviewed big projects recently completed, as well as nine capital improvement projects for FY28-32 totaling an estimated $15,021,000. James also reviewed three categories in the ten-year Capital Asset Lifecycle planning for FY28-37.

MASC Resolutions Review

School Committee members reviewed proposed resolutions that will be considered at the upcoming annual meeting. Members "passed" on Resolution 4 (Regarding Clarification of Seclusion Standards Within Emergency Behavioral Response Procedures) and "passed" on Resolution 5 (Allowing Regional School Committees to Access Special Education Reserve Funds by a Majority Vote of the School Committee).

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

VOTED: to support Resolution 1: Safe Zones.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

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

VOTED: to support Resolution 2: Vocational/Technical Representation on the MA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

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

VOTED: to support Resolution 3: Vocational/Technical Representation on the MA School Building Authority Board.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

VOTED: to support reauthorization of previously approved resolutions.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

Superintendent Compensation 2026-2027

Superintendent Gallagher's current contract runs until June 30, 2028. School Committee members discuss compensation on an annual basis.

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to approve a 3% increase that is retroactive to the current fiscal year.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent

Budget Listening Session - Planning

Members discussed ideas for the Budget Listening Session scheduled for 6:30PM on Monday, November 9, 2026. Finance Director Ethan Manning will provide a budget video. Juliet Walker will develop some prompting questions on priorities.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger stated they met last week and discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and a Quarter 1 budget update.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw said the next meeting will be held at 6:30PM on November 2nd at Central Office.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins will review the Math Goals & Related MCAS report at the next School Committee meeting as she was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

SEPAC

Kathleen Shaw reported there was a presentation at their meeting last week about transition planning for students 18-22 with IEPs. The next meeting will be held on November 19th at 6:00PM.

NEF

Lauren Eramo reminded everyone that the annual NEF Auction will be held at City Hall on November 14th. The online auction begins the week before. Visit the NEF website for more information.

Nock/Molin Traffic Advisory Committee

Mayor Reardon announced the City did receive a Safe Routes to School grant that they had recently applied for.

Superintendent's Report

School District Flu Shots: Superintendent Sean Gallagher reported many staff members took advantage of the district's flu shot clinics that were coordinated by Michelle Rybicki and the Newburyport Health Department.

Classroom Visit Highlights: The Superintendent recently visited Ms. Madonna's 6th grade English Language Arts class, and he was very impressed with the poetry lesson, the teacher-led learning center and the creative posters created by the students.

Competitive Grant Updates: The Superintendent stated the district has three grant applications pending approval: Outcomes in World Language Gant ($16K), Career Technical Education Program Planning Grant ($25K), and the Skills Capital Technology & Equipment Grant ($80K).

9th Annual School Safety Seminar:
The Superintendent provided a summary of topics covered in the 9th Annual School Safety Seminar that he attended recently. This seminar was sponsored by the MA Commonwealth Fusion Center.

New Business:
Whittier RAAC Update: Mayor Reardon provided an update of recent developments / activities of the Regional Agreement Amendment Committee. Last week's meeting was cancelled following NECC's announcement they were no longer interested in a shared campus model with Whittier.

New Executive Assistant: The School Committee recognized Joanne Yelle who is retiring after 16 years with Newburyport Public Schools, and welcomed the new executive assistant, Melissa Cody.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:
On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was
VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:27PM.

Motion Passed
Breanna Higgins and John Ricci absent