

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, October 17, 2022

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Steve Cole
Brian Callahan

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chairman Sarah Hall called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present, except **Mayor Sean Reardon** who arrived late at 7:25 PM. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Annie Maurer, 170 Otis Place She spoke about the fair share amendment.
Deidre Budzyna, 11 Cushing Ave. She spoke about the fair share amendment.

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

First grade student, Declan Quimby, was recognized for helping Ms. Rachel Brown distribute stamps at the end of the day for students who are displaying expected behaviors in the hallway and displaying our clipper values.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

On a motion by **Brian Callahan** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
following Warrant:
Warrant 8068 FY23
Warrant 8069 FY22
A-Warrant
\$531,850.40

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday,
October 3, 2022.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Students Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser provided the following report:

- Last Wednesday the 10th and 11th graders displayed hard work and perseverance while taking the PSAT exam. The seniors were able to schedule college visits, do job shadowing or work with the senior English teachers on their college application essays. The Freshmen came in that day and were involved in team building activities along with other several activities planned by the guidance department.
- Last Friday the National Honor Society students organized a blood drive with the Red Cross. They managed the entire event with support from their advisor, Ken Cole. They coordinated with the Red Cross, helped with the set up, managed sign-ups and provided moral support for all the donors. Due to their work, 42 people can benefit from the units of blood collected during the drive.
- This coming Friday the Homecoming is being held at the High School.
- Caroline Metzdorf earned a National Recognition Honor based on her performance on college board assessments of the PSAT and AP exams.
- Senior Tuala Sullivan, recent grad Charlie Grossman, and 2019 grad Lynn Omondi wowed an audience with their original poetry at Whitman on Walls, a project that engages 60 performers from around the globe, produced by Compagnia de Colombari.
- High School Sports Update

Boys Soccer	14-0	Defeated Pentucket 3-0 to win ALS Cup
Girls Soccer	13-1	Defeated Pentucket 3-0 to win ALS Cup
Volleyball	13-2	
Field Hockey	9-2-2	
Girls XC	4-0	
Boys XC	4-0	
Football	4-2	
Golf	13-4	
- Nock Middle School - On Friday, Nock Middle School will welcome Alison Crowther for an all-school assembly. She is the mother of Welles Remy Crowther. Welles is remembered by his selfless acts of heroism on 9/11. Boston College honors Welles yearly with the "man in the red bandana" football game and the "man in the red bandana" 5K.
- The Nock students are working with their Advisors on their student led conversations. These student-led conversations are creating a forum for students to take ownership of their success and continue to build strong partnerships between school, parents and students.
- Molin School - The 4th graders visited Spencer Peirce Little Farm and participated in Dirt Detectives: Archaeology at the Farm.
The 5th graders visited the Franklin Park Zoo. The trip ties to the 5th grade writing curriculum. Students have read about how and why zoos may be good or bad. Their culminating writing project is to argue if zoos are good or bad. They will be tasked with supporting their opinion with text evidence and elaborating based on their experience.
- Bresnahan School - Last week, the 2nd grade went to the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. They learned about wildlife and comparing ecosystems, consistent with the

2nd grade curriculum. **Bruce Menin** led them on a tour. **Bruce Menin** commented that they were all well behaved.

An exciting new program started today called Clipper Courses. Our teachers are hosting free 1-hour after schools, using their contractual student-contact hour, to lead enrichment programs, open to all students K-3. The courses offer a variety of activities such as Spanish, STEM, math games, theater, typing and composting. We are also hosting targeted academic intervention groups as part of this program. Salter transportation is providing a late bus.

We are having fun with “Blue Blocks” during the month of October, generously donated to us by Newburyport Youth Services. The Blue Blocks inspire students to create their own inventions, environments and activities. It is child directed and open ended, it encourages self-expression through deep, joyful play.

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERNIGHT TRIP - MAY 2023:

Principal Nick Markos and Nock staff presented information regarding an 8th grade overnight class trip to Philadelphia / Ellis Island on May 23 through May 25, 2023.

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To approve the overnight field trip for the 8th grade class trip to Philadelphia / Ellis Island on May 23 through May 25, 2023.

Juliet Walker inquired regarding fundraising plans.

Brian Callahan suggested having something for auction which is coming up.

Sarah Hall inquired regarding assurance that every 8th grade student would attend.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

SCHOOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT:

The Fair Share Amendment is a proposal to amend the Mass. Constitution to create an additional tax of four percentage points on the portion of a person’s annual income above \$1 million. The new revenue would be for “quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation.”

Motion:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: to approve a resolution in support of the Fair Share Amendment.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Sarah Hall announced that **Juliet Walker** will attend the MASC Annual meeting in Hyannis on Wednesday, November 2, 2022.

MASC RESOLUTIONS 1 - 6:

Resolution 1: Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender students:

Motion:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To support Resolution 2: Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Resolution 2: To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education

Reserve Fund:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To support Resolution 2: To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by The Special Education Reserve Fund

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Resolution 3: Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To support Resolution 3: Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan voted NO

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Resolution 4: Preserving Local Governance of Mass. Schools:

Motion:

On a motion **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Sarah Hall** it was

VOTED: To support Resolution 4: Preserving Local Governance of Mass. Schools.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Resolution 5: Personal Financial Literacy Education:

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

VOTED: To support Resolution 5: Personal Financial Literacy Education.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon absent for vote

Mayor Reardon arrived to the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Resolution 6: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund:

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To support Resolution 6: Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they met on October 13. They made a transfer, discussed non-union issues and had an athletic fees presentation.

Juliet Walker spoke about fees

Policy:

Juliet Walker said they have not met. They will meet next Monday the 24th at 7PM and will review the trip policy.

Joint Education:

Bruce Menin said they met tonight. They had Whittier Voc. Tech on line. He stated that the City Council is moving to dissolve the Joint Education Subcommittee.

Superintendent Evaluation:

Bruce Menin said there was no update at this time.

Transportation:

Juliet Walker said they will be meeting tomorrow afternoon.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- MCAS - Reports will be sent out. Dr. Abrams is working with the Leadership Team and will present an overview to the School Committee.
Juliet Walker asked that this be done in context of all assessments.
- 1.1 Device - Conversations have begun. An ad Hoc group has been developed. Work has been reviewed. They will meet this week.
- Integrated Feasibility Study Update.
School Committee Tour
4-part Process
October 19 - listening session
School tours - Pentucket / Cambridge
3-hour visioning session – Wednesday, November 16, 2022
Meeting - breakout sessions

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business at this time.

Sarah Hall announced there would be a ten-minute recess of the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:00 PM pursuant to M.G.L.c.30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or Individual. The Committee will not be returning to Open Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Reardon	Yes
Sarah Hall	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes
Bruce Menin	Yes
Steve Cole	Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously