

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
NHS Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, November 7, 2022

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

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 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

none

STUDENT RECOGNITION:

The ***Certificate of Academic Excellence*** was awarded to Olivia Hansen. This award is designed by MASS to award academic excellence to a senior who has distinguished themselves in the pursuit of excellence during their high school career.

The recipients of the ***Award for Academic Growth and Student Leadership in Learning*** were Riya Kaur and Avery Hochheiser. NESDEC-offers this award to affiliated school districts in New England, and it is presented to high school seniors who have consistently pursued a high level of academic effort, and who have also served as positive role models for the student body. Recipients of the award exemplify admirable character and accomplishment.

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 8070 FY23	\$793,768.48
Warrant 8071 FY22	\$ 6,228.30
<u>A-Warrant</u>	<u>\$ 52,361.41</u>
	\$852,358.19

Motion Passed

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 17, 2022 as amended.

Juliet Walker: Bottom of page 3 vote language for the School Committee Resolution section should read “Voted: *to approve a resolution in support of the Fair Share Amendment*”

Sarah Hall: The first name listed in the Public Comment section of page 1 should read *Annie Maurer*.

Motion Passed

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

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

- NHS would like to recognize Bring Change to Mind students for organizing Purple-Out to bring attention to their efforts around destigmatizing mental health in schools and the community
- Additional recognition to Abrianna Cronstrom and the other co-op swim team captains for recently leading lessons at the Bresnahan regarding swimming in water safety.
- NHS has joined the statewide Mock Trial Program which is designed to help high school students learn more about the law, court procedures and the legal system. Thank you to Melissa Martin, who will serve as advisor, and Turco Legal for being a sponsor and helping NHS get involved in this program.
- NHS will engage in the accreditation process with New England Association of Schools and colleges over the next few years.
- Over the years, NHS students have benefited from the tremendous partnership with the NEF, from state of the art technology, dual enrollment classes with Endicott College, an upgraded Fitness Facility, STEM courses etc.. The NEF Auction will take place November 5th through November 12th.
- High School sports update:

Boys Soccer	19-0	Defeated Old Rochester 2-0 – Round of 32
Girls Soccer	17-1	Defeated Fairhaven 3-1 – Round of 32
Volleyball	18-3	Defeated Bishop Fenwick 3-2 – Round of 32
Field Hockey	14-3-2	Dighton Rohobeth 3-0 – Round of 32
Cross Country		Divisional meet, Saturday, Nov. 12 th at Westfield 10:00
Football		Lost to Duxbury 50-10 – round of 16

** 2nd round of sports is happening this week
- Bresnahan has started composting with the help of teachers Katara Harding, Sarah Burola and Erin Kelly. Bins are in classrooms as part of a pilot program and there is an after-school composting club. Composting will teach students about their own environmental impact, and will be linked to the science and stem curriculum.
- Bresnahan is offering the new Clipper Courses such as Spanish, typing, gardening and much more. Over 175 students participate in these free courses. A late bus is provided by Salters.

Superintendent Sean Gallagher and NHS Principal Andy Wulf will be co-hosts for the NEF Auction.

Juliet Walker is excited about the composting project and would like to hear more.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Juliet Walker began her summary of the committee's report by providing background, highlights and key points of the project (Sections I-IV). She explained the data obtained in the survey results in Section IV, noting that there were 624 responses and suggested it would be great to do this type of survey every year. Juliet reviewed a draft list of district-wide transportation policy goals (Section V), followed by a review of eleven transportation options that were considered by the committee, including possible pros/cons of each option (Section VI). Transportation budget and fees (Section VII), current bus pass/rider numbers (Section VIII) and estimated distribution of student #'s by grade/distance (Section IX) were reviewed. The final report sections contained suggested changes to the Walker and Rider Policy (Section X), and additional comments related to the survey (Section XI). In conclusion, Juliet stated recommendations would be to decide if School Committee would like to refer the Walker & Rider policy to the Policy Subcommittee, consider adopting a Safe Routes to School Policy, and include bus fees as part of the budget discussions.

Bruce Menin asked if there has been any follow up talks with MVRTA? Answer: **Mayor Reardon** is in talks with MVRTA, and will talk to them about students.

Brian Callahan thanked Juliet for her work, and feels some of the options can be done, such as 1-way bus options and/or payment options.

Steve Cole asked if there were any efforts to obtain actual ridership #'s. Answer: That information is in Section VIII of the report.

Sarah Hall asked if we have "walk zones" now? Answer: no.

Breanna Higgins asked where the Free & Reduced Lunch data is from? Answer: From the application. Breanna noted that using the "low income designation" may capture wider variety / % of the student population.

Juliet Walker asked when are families usually notified about the bus. Answer: Typically, in the spring, but if bus fees change then information could be sent out in January/February to provide more time for families.

Mayor Reardon is glad time was taken to review this information and feels if there is an opportunity to make changes and save people money, now is the time to do so.

Sarah Hall supports the idea to refer the Policy to the Subcommittee, and also supports the idea of walk zones and creative ideas to reduce costs vrs raising fees.

Bruce Menin asked if there was a formal process for creating Walk Zones. Answer: Could look at other communities, and also any plan would need to comply with the laws.

Bruce Menin commented that walkers are challenged in winter when sidewalks are not cleared.

Mayor Reardon plans to have this topic be part of the Snow/Ice Plan.

Steve Cole asked what the # 624 represented. Answer: Families were asked to complete one survey per child; 624 responses were received. There are over 2,000 students.

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To refer the proposed draft policies to the Policy Subcommittee for a report back to the School Committee at a future date, and incorporate some of the additional comments from members at tonight's meeting.

Motion Passed**MASSC/MASS JOINT CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Juliet Walker shared that she had a positive first time experience at the conference, and she provided a brief summary of the conference focus/theme, various workshop sessions and results of this year's MASC resolutions (recommendations). Resolution #1 passed 78-7 with some amendments (added language clarifying medical / mental health, and safe school / home / community); Resolution #3 passed with an amendment to include a reference to geographic diversity. Resolutions # 2, 4, 5, and 6 passed with no changes. In addition, Division 1 is planning to hold monthly "lunch & learn" via Zoom. Also, MASC is looking for volunteers for their subcommittees.

FY24 BUDGET GUIDELINES & SCHEDULES

Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided a general overview of the FY '24 Budget Process Timeline draft, guidelines, responsibilities, forms that will be used, and activities that occur each month as the budget is developed. All the work will be tied back to the Strategic Plan.

Bruce Menin asked about the School Council's involvement in the budget process. Answer: School Councils oversee a 2-year School Improvement Plan (SIP) and provide input to building Principals regarding goals, funding for initiatives, plans etc. Members also participate in budget presentations.

Sarah Hall asked about the upcoming Joint City Council/School Committee meeting. Answer: Every November the joint meeting is held. City finances are reviewed, followed by an overview by the school of the current "state of the schools".

Juliet Walker asked if the budget planning process will be impacted by having a new governor in January. Answer: Really won't be any impact, perhaps maybe just a little later.

Juliet Walker stated it would be helpful to obtain a list of items that are held out of the budget. It would also be helpful to have an opportunity to talk about bus fees, as well as user fees and what they cover.

Sean Reardon commented he likes the use of assigning priority 1-2-3 in the budget process.

DISTRICT GOALS 2022-2023

Superintendent Sean Gallagher reviewed the elements of a Portrait of a Graduate that help guide the district goals. He provided an overview of the 5 strategic objectives, the strategic theme, three levels of goal setting, and the future focused planning modes. The Superintendent

reviewed the four district level goal areas recommended by DESE, and explained the district goals matrix.

Breanna Higgins asked if the largest achievement gaps were based on economically disadvantage students, those with learning disabilities or also across race, ethnicity, or English Learners. Answer: Yes.

Sarah Hall noted that the MCAS and other assessments presentation will be on December 5th.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they will meet on Thursday, November 17th.

Policy:

Juliet Walker said they will meet on November 14th at 7PM in the Nock Library. Ms. Higgins will be on the Policy Committee.

Joint Education:

Bruce Menin has not met.

Superintendent Evaluation:

Bruce Menin said there was no update at this time.

Mayor Reardon asked what the process was if CISL was reinstated in January. Answer: CISL is already one of the standing committees.

Sarah Hall stated that a discussion of CISL is penciled in for the next meeting agenda.

Juliet Walker would like to have subcommittee descriptions incorporated into the policy when the update is done.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

New School Discipline Requirements: Superintendent Gallagher briefly reviewed the new discipline law that begins on November 9, 2022. The district has already invested in valuable programs in social emotional learning pieces over the past five years and should be prepared for the new requirements.

Steve Cole asked if all building principals are aware and ready to go. Answer: Yes.

Sean Reardon suggested discipline data be shared in a presentation in June, and as well as growth seen throughout the year.

NEF Auction: Superintendent Gallagher and Principal Andy Wulf will emcee the upcoming auction.

November 8th Professional Development Day: The District is excited to partner with Pentucket and Triton for the first time. NPS hosted appx. 300 educators, with 3 sessions scheduled during the afternoon. NPS staff also traveled to Pentucket to participate in professional development workshops.

Veterans Day Activities: Veterans have been invited to the Nock Middle School from 8-9AM on November 8 to speak with the students and gather for a town hall in the café.

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion:

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

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:22 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
Breanna Higgins	Yes
Bruce Menin	Yes
Steve Cole	Yes
Brian Callahan	Yes
Juliet Walker	Yes

Motion Passed Unanimously