

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA, 01950
Monday, March 20, 2023

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

Absent: Mayor Sean Reardon

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice Chair 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. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS:

The School Committee recognized six students from the Bresnahan Elementary School for modeling the school's motto every day, "Be Safe, be kind, be responsible". Superintendent Sean Gallagher congratulated Riley Ostrom and Madelyn Santos in grade 3, along with four students in grade 1: Thomas Sarno, Harrison Sarno, Finn Hinchy and Darragh Hinchy.

Katara Harding, a 2nd grade teacher, was recognized by the School Committee for her dedication to the students and staff at the Bresnahan Elementary School, as well as the exceptional work she has done in the classroom and with various after school programs.

A short recess was held for congratulations and picture taking.

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 8081 FY23	\$645,885.61
<u>A-Warrant</u>	<u>\$ 33,604.84</u>
	\$679,826.89

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Senior Avery Hochheiser provided the student report that included many exciting educational, cultural, and artistic activities happening throughout the district, as well as a variety of upcoming events. Her report ended with a sports update. The full report is included with the minutes.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION:

Lisa Furlong, Director of Communications & Technology, provided an update of activities happening in the district in preparation of the iPad 1:1 Device program. Several professional development activities are underway such as a second PLC, 1-hour trainings during the April & May early release days, weekly trainings at the high school, as well as a 4-day summer workshop with the Apple team. There are now 200 iPads in the high school. Students are also using iPads in high school math and science classes, Nock/Molin podcast, and NHS Integrated Arts.

First time Apple user, Dom Masi, a high school Science teacher, completed an iPad Pilot with his chemistry students from January 30 – March 10. Mr. Masi presented his observations, student feedback and samples of student work. This presentation will be posted on the website.

Communications about the iPad 1:1 Device purchase program will continue to go out until mid-April, then stop to allow time to place the order with the vendor. Lisa Furlong will continue to send notifications about this technology section of the high school's website.

2023-2024 School Choice Projections

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented the proposed openings for 2023-2024.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the proposed 2023-2024 openings for School Choice in accordance with the School Choice Policy (JFBB).

Bresnahan Elementary

Grade 1 = 10

Grade 2 = 10

Grade 3 = 5

Nock Middle

Grade 6 = 10

Grade 7 = 5

Grade 8 = 5

Newburyport High School

Grade 9 = 20

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

PROPOSAL TO FORM INSTRUCTION & LEARNING SUBCOMMITTEE:

Breanna Higgins began by providing background information that led to creating the proposal to form an Instruction & Learning Subcommittee. She also explained the purpose of the proposed subcommittee, including how it would differ from CISL Adhoc Committee.

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Juliet Walker, it was

VOTED: to form an Instruction & Learning Subcommittee in accordance with Policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee.

After a lengthy group discussion, the proposal was withdrawn.

Motion:

On a motion by Breanna Higgins and seconded by Juliet Walker, it was

VOTED: to respectfully withdraw the motion to form an Instruction & Learning Subcommittee.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

Juliet Walker would like the Superintendent to provide clarification of the CISL Adhoc committee, which will help provide a better understanding of the School Committee's role.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

Brian Callahan said FINCOM members held a productive meeting at the Nock on March 16th to discuss the budget with two City Council members, Mayor Reardon, Representative Dawne Shand and Representative Manny Cruz. Brian will share the video link and will send the Chapter 70 information to the committee members.

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker reviewed the proposed changes (marked in red) to policies BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee and IGD (IB) – Curriculum Adoption.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the proposed revision to policy BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee, removing one line referenced in red.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

Motion:

On a motion by Juliet Walker and seconded by Brian Callahan, it was

VOTED: to accept the proposed revision to IGD (IB) Curriculum Adoption, removing the section referenced in red.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent

Bruce Menin was uncomfortable with some remaining language in the last paragraph of the IGD Curriculum Adoption Policy. Juliet Walker stated the policy can be reviewed again during the district audit, and further changes could be made if needed. Juliet Walker will send the MASC version of Policy IGD to Bruce Menin.

Juliet Walker stated that the audit of the district policies is underway. Chapters A and B are completed, and will be presented to the School Committee for their review after the budget process (i.e. May). Chapter C is currently under review.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher presented an update of the FY24 Budget process. He continues to work with his administration and as of March 20th, the proposed total FY24 aspirational budget presented on March 6th has been reduced to \$43,177,645 (7.6% increase from 8.9%), and the proposed city portion has been reduced to \$37,074,001 (5.8% increase from 7.5%). This presentation will be added to the website.

Juliet Walker noted that there are implications to grant money, and asked about the actual cost of grants (i.e. time spent gathering and administering grants). Superintendent Sean Gallagher is working on that information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- MASC is once again offering Charting the Course workshops. Juliet Walker plans to attend the May 6th workshop. She will send the link to the School Committee members.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:30 PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Sean Reardon absent