

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING & BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, April 1, 2024**

PUBLIC HEARING - FY25 BUDGET

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Andrew Boger, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins, Kathleen Shaw and Juliet Walker

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee FY25 Budget Public Hearing to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

FY25 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented the proposed NPS FY25 budget, beginning with a review of the FY25 priorities and budget assumptions. He explained the City appropriation is 4.99% and the overall change is 2.99%, followed by a brief overview of the Level Service use of funds, budget assumptions and accompanying charts. Chapter 70 Program Funding and School Choice background information was also discussed.

Business Manager Phil Littlehale joined Superintendent Gallagher to answer questions pertaining to each section of the proposed FY25 Budget book, as well as provided a brief grants overview.

- Phil will clarify the Math and ELA Intervention positions and add additional comments throughout the book as needed. He will also obtain a breakdown of costs to play a sport, for uniforms, and fees per sport.

A budget vote will occur at the next School Committee Business meeting on April 23rd.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no Public Comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Public Budget Hearing Meeting at 7:24 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously

*** regular business meeting – next page ***

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

Monday, April 1, 2024

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Andrew Boger, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins, Kathleen Shaw and Juliet Walker

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:25 PM. Roll call found all members present. At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

CONSENT AGENDA

Warrants

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following Warrant:

Warrant 8114	\$ 95,517.55
A-Warrant	\$ <u>6,760.03</u>
	\$102,277.58

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Juliet Walker it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented, to include changes on page 4 to clarify why two votes took place.

Motion Passed

Team Facilitator Job Description

- Superintendent Gallagher explained this is an existing position and the “report to” section is being changed as part of the restructuring plan.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the updated Team Facilitator job description to support the reorganization plan that was approved at the last meeting in accordance with Policy GCA - Professional Staff Positions.

Motion Passed

Chronic Absenteeism Presentation

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided an overview of DESE attendance requirements. He reviewed district policies, procedures, interventions, and strategies currently in place by the district, along with absenteeism data and next steps for students identified as at-risk for chronic absenteeism.
- The Chronic Absenteeism Grant funds need to be used by September 30, 2024. (\$10K)
- Sean Gallagher will provide a break down for social-emotional absences at the Bresnahan.
- Another absenteeism presentation may be scheduled in June.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

- A regular meeting will be held on the morning of April 11th that will include a review of the transportation bids.

Policy Subcommittee

- Recommended changes to Policies JICB, JRD, EEAEC and Policy Sections “K” – Community Relations and “L” – Education Agency Relations were reviewed. (1st read – see attached)

Fundraising Advisory Committee

- Brian Callahan and Juliet Walker met. Fundraising policies will be reviewed at the next FINCOM meeting; goal is to report out at the next regular school committee meeting.

CISL Subcommittee – no update

Communications Subcommittee

- A meeting was held on March 28th and they feel this subcommittee has the potential to enhance communications with the district, city council, tax payers etc. They will meet again on April 25th.

Superintendent's Report

- MA School Wellness Champion: In recognition of this award, several staff members from the Wellness Committee will attend the Healthy Kids, Healthy Programs summit free of cost.
- Transportation Bid Update: Two bids were received and are under review.
- School Choice Update: There has been a lot of interest; 35 applications already received.
- Special Ed Tiered Focus Monitoring Update: A draft report of the results has been received indicating that 45 criteria were reviewed by the visiting team and there were no findings.

New Business

- Whittier Task Force will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd in Amesbury.
- Mayor Reardon anticipates having a better idea of budget numbers after completing budget reviews with each department (appx April 12).
- Superintendent Gallagher shared that a local company has inquired to use the Bresnahan for a photo session involving a “back to school” line of children’s water bottles.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:24PM.

Motion Passed