

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

High School, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, March 4, 2024

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:39 PM. Roll call found all members present except Breanna Higgins.

Mayor Reardon paused for a moment of silence in remembrance of Reverend Helen Murgida of the First Religious Society.

All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. At this point in the meeting, Sarah Hall took over.

Public Comment – none

Student Recognition

Grade 3 student Robbie Edwards was recognized for exceeding the MCAS Alt exam and for being recognized by Commissioner Reilly for her extraordinary achievement.

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 8112	\$126,899.03
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Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2024 School Committee Business meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Student Representative Report

NHS student, Theo Roberts, provided the student report that included highlights of the Bresnahan Clipper Readathon, Molin's after-school Drama Club, CPR training at the Nock, and NHS sports (attached).

Principal/School Council FY25 Budget Presentations

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher provided a brief review of the proposed overall FY25 Budget, explaining, that at this time, the change to the City's appropriation of the FY25 Level Service Budget from last year is 6.65% (overall is 4.12%), and the City's appropriation of the FY25 Aspirational Budget from last year is 7.05% (overall is 4.57%).
- Principals from each school presented their proposed FY25 Budget: Jamie Sokolowski (Bresnahan), Tara Rossi (Molin), Nick Markos (Nock) and Andy Wulf (High School). The principals thanked their School Council for their participation with the SIP and budget process during the past year. Each principal presented a review of their school's accomplishments, ongoing work, school improvement goals, and FY25 budget related investments.

District-wide FY25 Budget Presentation

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher thanked the building principals, Central Office and all budget holders for their work developing the proposed FY25 Budget.
- District budget recommendations for Building & Grounds, Special Education and Operations were reviewed by the Superintendent, along with next steps in the budget process and the recent exploration of creating an onsite daycare for school employees.

2024-2025 School Calendar

- Brian Callahan suggested early release days should fall before Monday holidays or before vacation dates.
- Superintendent Sean Gallagher will present absenteeism data for early release days and Friday before vacations at the next school committee meeting.
- Mayor Reardon commented that when the school calendar is reviewed next year, the "school start date" may need to be moved due to the Juneteenth holiday.

Motion:

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

VOTED: to approve the 2024-2025 School Calendar as presented, in accordance to Policy IC/ICA School Year Calendar.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan voted – Present

Breanna Higgins absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

- Brian Callahan reported the next meeting will be held with City Council at 5PM on March 14th in the Nock library.

Policy Subcommittee – no update

Fundraising Advisory Committee – no update

CISL Subcommittee – no update

Superintendent's Report

- **FY24-25 School Choice:** The Superintendent reviewed school choice projections for next year, suggesting that openings may be possible in grade 2, grade 4, and grades 5 thru 10. He hopes to be ready for further review and vote at the March 18th School Committee meeting.
- **Greenlights Grant Initiative:** COPS will be offering a Secure Our Schools grant (SOS), which offers federal funds to assist with development of school safety. The area NPS would fit into is under security upgrades that are either in-process or already in-place. It is anticipated the grant will be released in mid-March. NPS has begun working on this with a few area districts that have previously received this funding.
- **Genocide Grant:** This is a competitive grant that teaches about the holocaust. The district applied, and is awaiting official notification that we will be receiving \$40K. Part of the funding will be used to bring a play to the Nock, *Terezin – Children of the Holocaust*, in addition to professional development and DESE curriculum.
- **Tiered Focus Monitoring:** The district has completed tiered focus monitoring for Special Education, Food Services and the EL program. Assistant Superintendent Lisa Ippolito explained the various stages of the recent EL program review. She was thrilled to share that the state reported “no findings” and expects the formal message from the State to be sent to the district soon.
- **Title Grants:** The district has submitted for Title 1, 2 and 4A grants and is waiting to hear back. Assistant LisaMarie Ippolito explained the submission process, areas looked at, and what the funding is used for.

New Business

- SEPAC will hold a Meet & Greet at 6PM at the Nock on March 13th. Recently hired Student Services Director, Brad Brooks, will be attending.
- Mayor Reardon shared that the first meeting of the Whittier Task force will be held this week on Wednesday (March 6).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:32 PM.

Motion Passed

Absent: Breanna Higgins

City of Newburyport
School Committee Business Meeting
Newburyport High School, March 4, 2024

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Student Representative Report, Submitted by Theo Roberts

Bresnahan Elementary School:

The Clipper Readathon will kick off 3/15-3/29! One highlight of this event is that every student will be able to attend a library campout during the school day- where they will sit around a campfire to listen to a read aloud and then read in pop-up tents. Parents and older students can also read to the younger students. Thank you to the PTO for planning and supporting this program.

Edward Molin Upper Elementary/Rupert Nock Middle Schools:

The after-school drama club is back at the Molin. It is being organized by Stephanie Philips and Shannon Booth. Stay tuned for the performance of their upcoming production "Seussical". The Molin is also beginning its planning of the annual STEM Showcase, which allows students to explore their interests and curiosities in the sciences and mathematics.

The Nock Middle School has teamed up with the Director of School Health Services, Katie Vozeolas, to provide training to all 7th grade students in Hands-On CPR. The program entitled "You Can Save a Life" and will be provided to all of our 7th graders during the Advisory/Explore block during the next 4 weeks. Students have hands-on experience with their own manikin, in addition to learning about the heart and events that may lead to a cardiac arrest, and the importance of calling 911 and getting an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).

Newburyport High School:

Congratulations to Boys Hockey and Boys and Girls Basketball on moving forward in the MIAA tournament. Boys Hockey is in the elite 8 and will play Wednesday against Woburn. Boys and Girls Basketball are in the Sweet 16. Both will play tomorrow night. The boys will play Tantasqua Regional at home and the girls will play Watertown.