

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, May 15, 2023

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

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 6:30 PM. Roll call found all members present except Steve Cole. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point Vice-Chair Sarah Hall took over chairmanship of the Business Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS:

The School Committee thanked two high school seniors, Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser, for their dedication and commitment while serving as student representatives to the School Committee for the past two years.

STAFF RECOGNITIONS:

Grade 8 Science teacher, Mary Kate Allan, was recognized for her hard work, dedication and commitment to the Newburyport students and community.

SWASEY FUND PRESENTATION:

Members of the Swasey Fund Board of Directors (James Marshall, Thomas Bean, Nonie Olson, Mark Littlefield and Renee Ames) presented a \$275,000 check to Newburyport Public Schools to be used for professional development opportunities for teachers. Board member Mark Littlefield provided a brief historical background of the Swasey Fund.

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 8085 FY23	\$265,709.73
AWarrant	\$ 16,192.56
<u>Warrant 8085A FY23</u>	<u>\$589,874.20</u>

\$871,776.49

Motion Passed
Steve Cole absent for vote

Minutes:

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes of the May 1, 2023 School Committee Business meeting.

Motion Passed
Steve Cole absent for vote

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

Seniors Avery Hochheiser and Olivia Hansen provided the student report that included an update regarding MCAS & AP testing, the upcoming Bresnahan Steam Expo, athletic accomplishments, and important dates. The full report is included with the minutes.

K-8 ASSESSMENT DATA PRESENTATIONS:

Assistant Superintendent LisaMarie Ippolito provided a detailed presentation of the K-8 assessment data, including a review of the Literacy and Math data scores, how data is collected, and how they plan to use this data. Principal Nick Markos and Principal Jamie Sokolowski presented current intervention utilities being used at the Bresnahan, Molin and Nock for grades K – 8.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

Brian Callahan said the next meeting will be held on Thursday (May 18th).

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker reviewed the summary of policy revisions that were presented for a second reading for sections A, Section B and Section C. (details in the packet)

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the policy changes to Section A as presented.

Motion Passed
Steve Cole absent for vote

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept all changes to Section B as presented except policies BDE, BE, BEDG, and BEDH.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

Motion:

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

VOTED: to accept the changes to Section C as presented except policy CBI.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

BDE – Subcommittees of the School Committee: A vote on the proposed changes will be on hold until the next School Committee meeting. Brian Callahan said the Finance section will be reviewed at the upcoming FINCOM meeting. Bruce Menin will review the Superintendent Evaluation section. If either section needs to be modified, changes need to be submitted before the next meeting to be included in the packet.

BE – School Committee Meetings

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

VOTED: to accept the changes to Policy BE as presented.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

BEDG – Minutes: Juliet Walker explained that the policy does not distinguish holidays or weekends in the statement “copies of minutes will be sent to all committee members at least 72 hours in advance....” . Members were satisfied with the explanation.

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

VOTED: to accept the changes to Policy BEDG as presented.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

BEDH – Public Comments at School Committee Meetings: Due to lengthy discussions regarding item #3, specifically the wording as to whether or not to limit public comment to items on the agenda, further discussion and/or changes to this policy will be on hold until the next School Committee meeting.

CBI – Evaluation of the Superintendent: A vote on the proposed changes will be on hold until the next School Committee meeting to allow Bruce Menin time to review the information and propose any changes.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee:

Bruce Menin send a draft of the Superintendent Evaluation form to members on May 4th. He reviewed the evaluation process. Members need to complete the evaluation form by July 31.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

- Superintendent Sean Gallagher will email the MCAS dates to the School Committee.
- Rick Wormeli, author of the book *Fair Isn't Always Equal* being used by the Skills Based PLC Class, will be working with NPS teachers on May 16. Rick has also agreed to be the keynote speaker on opening day next year.
- Superintendent Gallagher, along with other administrators, has been working with Allovue, Inc. to review their financial software program which ties to Munis and is designed for school districts to allocate, budget and manage resources.
- Both Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Mayor Sean Reardon were invited by Marc Tucker to a recent breakfast event sponsored by the ADL. Local law enforcement, educators and students also attended. The event had several great speakers, and was very motivational with a message of how we all can come together to fight hate.
- Both Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Bruce Menin attended the dress rehearsal of the play, "Terezin, Children of the Holocaust" at the Firehouse Theatre.

NEW BUSINESS:

Superintendent Sean Gallagher requested additional slots for school choice at the high school, specifically in grades 10 and 11.

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

VOTED: to waive the rules to allow for a vote on this item.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to accept the recommendation by the Superintendent to open additional school choice slots at the high school - 5 slots in grades 10 and 11.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote

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 9:06 PM.

Motion Passed

Steve Cole absent for vote