

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, May 2, 2022**

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Brian Callahan, Sheila Spalding, Bruce Menin, and 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 6:34 PM. Roll call found all members present.

At this time Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kerry Glynn, Salem St., Newburyport

She commented on new programs, full transparency and an open forum.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

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

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

Warrant 8050 \$203,871.02

Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS:

Eight Newburyport Youth Council members were recognized by Superintendent Gallagher for their participation in the Community Conversation event that was held at the Senior Center on April 14, 2022. The Youth Council presented the results of the Attitudes and Behavior Survey, as well as participated in a community discussion of the effects of the pandemic on our youth and how we can support them and build a healthier Newburyport. They were: Grade 8: James Moore, Eve Bennett, Quinn Morrissey, Caleigh Saboliauskas, and Grade 7: Evan Dutcher, Isabel BoMee Weese, Bethany Bentley, and Henry Galoski.

Sarah Hall and Juliet Walker both commented on what a great job they did.

DISTRICT CULTURAL COMPETENCY WORK & SEL OVERVIEW:

Superintendent Gallagher provided a district overview and update of the ongoing work with social emotional learning and cultural competency as follows:

- Legal Background - Every child is required by law to attend school
- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Dept. of Elementary and Secondary
Special Ed
Civil Rights and other General Education Requirements
English Learners
- DESE Recommended Tools
- Smartie Goals and Equity Walks
- Sample Equity Walk Rubric Checklists
- Social Emotional Learning Core Competencies
Positive Behavior Intervention & Support Programs
- Professional Development
- Everyone is Welcome
- Every Child & Adult should be able to say “I Belong Here”
- NPS Mission Statement
- NPS Vision
- Building Welcoming School Communities
- Culture7 Consulting: Building Cultural Competency Skills
- Using the Cultural Competency Framework
- Essential Partners: Developing Dialogic Skills
- Collaborative Partnerships: Building Restorative Policies and Programs
- We are in this together!

June 6 Forum at 6:30 PM

Mayor Reardon commented on the discussion/timeline.

PROPOSED CHANGE TO 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Based on the AFSCME Union contract, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day are paid holidays. Should any holiday fall on an employee’s normal day off, the nearest scheduled working day will be considered to be the holiday (Saturday holidays would be observed on a Friday, and Sunday holidays would be observed on a Monday). As both Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve fall on a Saturday, the holiday for the union members would be observed on Friday, December 23 (Christmas Eve) and Friday, December 30 (New Year’s Eve). This calendar change would push out the projected last day of school for grades 1-12 to June 14, 2023.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To approve the calendar change which would push the projected last day of school for grades 1-12 to June 14, 2023.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Juliet Walker asked if it was necessary to vote on every calendar change.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan said they will be meeting on the 12th.

Policy Subcommittee

Sheila Spalding said they will be meeting on the 11th.

Joint Education Subcommittee

Bruce Menin said they will be meeting tomorrow.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent LisaMarie Ippolito provided an overview of the Math Academy that was held during the April vacation break. This was part 2 of 2 - 67 students participated. It was a fabulous week of math skills - Stem Program.

Bruce Menin inquired how many more students participated from the February program –

Answer: 6 more.

Sarah Hall inquired of the percentage of how many students participated returned – Answer: 85%.

Juliet Walker inquired about Stem.

Steve Cole recognized all teachers/parents/students who participated.

Sarah Hall inquired about summer programs.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher provided updates on the following:

- First he thanked Assistant Superintendent Ippolito for her hard work on the Math Academy.
Sheila Spalding inquired about age grouping.
- Hiring - An Assistant Principal was hired for the Nock Middle School.
- COVID - numbers are going up - 22 students - 8 staff members last week.
- International students - up to 12 students for next year.
- School Choice - he gave the numbers for slots remaining in various grades.
- Walking Wednesdays - May 4 - Walk to School Day

NEW BUSINESS:

Juliet Walker said the Transportation Committee will meet next Tuesday at 4PM.

Superintendent Gallagher commented on the bench at the Nock School.

Sarah Hall spoke about the possibility of canceling the June 21st meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:50 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously