

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, March 21, 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 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present,

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Karina Moltz She spoke regarding school safety, school shootings, and suicide prevention.

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 warrants:

Warrant 8051	\$ 430,071.91
	<u>34,633.96</u>
	\$ 464,705.87

Motion Passed Unanimously

MINUTES:

Motions:

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

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business Meeting Minutes of
Thursday, March 3, 2022 (as amended).

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business Meeting Minutes of
Monday, March 7, 2022 (as amended).

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT:

NHS Student representatives Olivia Hansen and Avery Hochheiser reported on the following:

- They thanked the High School Student Council for all the work they did to plan Spirit Week last week which was a great success.
- NHS would like to acknowledge Jasmine and Aiya Al Khatib for coordinating a social skating event for our new students and their peer mentors. This took place on Saturday at the Graf Rink. Everyone had a great time.
- After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the NHS chapter of the German Honor Society (Massachusetts Rho) is up and running again. Eleven new members were inducted in January. At the first meeting in February new officers were chosen and regularly scheduled meetings are now taking place.
- The National Art Honor Society inducted 22 new members on Thursday, March 17.
- NHS Senior Art Students had a reception for their work on exhibit at the Newburyport Art Association on Sunday, March 20. The work remains on exhibit until March 28.
- NHS Freshman, Cedar Schumacher participated in a fabulous concert with the Northeastern Senior District Jazz Ensemble on Sunday. Cedar was the first chair trumpet player among mostly upperclassmen. The concert was a success and the music department, as well as NHS as a whole, are super proud of Cedar's accomplishment.
- Spring Sports Practice started today at NHS.
- Last week the Nock School held an MCAS practice test. The purpose of the test was to expose our students to a test setting and begin to focus their mindset on the MCAS importance for their academic performance and growth. It is a great data tool for us to continue to examine, along with the array of other points we utilize to guide our instruction and target their learning needs.
- The Nock recital was a success. They made the front page of the Newburyport Daily News.
- The Nock Student Leadership Council will continue to create opportunities for student voice and bill student leaders. They will be seeking students to serve as grade level representatives on the Nock Student Leadership Council. This council will assist the Nock Administrative Team on issues that impact our student experience. Topics will focus on cafeteria, recess, flex. The students will also have input on when our new blacktop is repaved and how we can continue to build our student experience.

REIMAGINE TEACHING & LEARNING PRESENTATION - Dr. THOMAS ABRAMS:

Dr. Abrams and several students presented an overview of a new class offered at NHS. The class looks to reimagine teaching and learning by offering students a chance to work with government and non-profit agencies to develop a project to mitigate potential targeted threats to a community. It combines history, literacy, business, marketing, civics, statistics and science in a way that provides students the opportunity to apply these skills to the real world.

The presentation was as follows:

Listen to Learn the Great Escape

- What it is

- How We Work
- Some of the Data we used
Psychographic characteristics of our population
- What we did
Project one Listen to Learn
- Students creating the Survey
- What we did - Project Two the Great Escape
- Students designing and implementing marketing
- Social Media
- Assessing efficiency
- National Awareness
- Our Goal
- Some of the skills kids developed

Juliet Walker stated the future is really bright - she was impressed. She asked the students their personal reasons for participating. Their answers were:

- Something so different - it was project oriented
- Close to community
- Project based class

Bruce Menin inquired if this was an elective. Answer - it hopefully will be offered again.

Sarah Hall asked are the projects happening soon? Answer - collecting stories. She asked if there was feedback. Answer - It was a little premature - escape room May 26 & 27.

Superintendent Gallagher thanked the presenters.

FY22 STATEMENT OF INTEREST (SOI) RESUBMISSION:

Sarah Hall read the Statement of Interest.

Motion:

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

VOTED: To resubmit the FY22 SOI to the Massachusetts Building Authority (MSBA) as well as the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Projects Priority List.

Bruce Menin asked if this could be separated. Answer - can't separate.

Mayor Reardon asked NHS Principal Wulf what this project looks like to him. Principal Wulf explained.

Mayor Reardon asked Steve Bergholm how much he envisioned the roof to cost. Answer approximately \$900,000.

Bruce Menin asked if the labs could be designed to expand programs. Answer - Yes.

Mayor Reardon asked what kind of disruption will it be. Answer - 3 to 4 years out - most disruption will be over the summer but disruption will occur. They are working with designers - a feasibility study will occur.

Bruce Menin asked:

- The Superintendent re: time submitting this. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.
- Did we get feedback? Answer - we received positive feedback and were asked to resubmit it as is.

Juliet Walker said this was a no-brainer and it doesn't bind us.

Steve Cole asked if there was something we can do between now and then to provide more lab work for our students - cultivate partnerships? Mr. Wulf explained they were solidifying partnerships.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SY23 NPS SCHOOL CALENDAR (draft):

Superintendent Gallagher presented and explained the first draft of the Newburyport Public Schools 2022-2023 calendar.

Brian Callahan asked:

- If there would be an election on November 8. Answer - yes.
- Winter break - why Thursday, Friday off

Bruce Menin commented re: election day - making sure teachers can vote.

Sarah Hall said there was very little room for snow days and was there a requirement for Professional Development days.

Bruce Menin said there are requirements.

Brian Callahan asked why Pre-K got out earlier? **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

Juliet Walker asked why 2 days before Xmas?

Mayor Reardon asked re: January 13. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

SY23 SCHOOL CHOICE PROJECTIONS:

Superintendent Gallagher provided an update regarding SY22-23 school choice possibilities as follows:

- Bresnahan
 - Grade 1 - 10 openings
 - Grade 2 - 10 openings
- Molin - school choice will not be offered for grades 4 and 5
- Nock
 - Grade 6 - 10 openings
 - Grade 7 - 10 openings
 - Grade 8 - 5 openings
- High School
 - Grade 9 - 15 openings
 - Grade 10 - 5 openings
 - Grade 11 - 4 openings

Motion:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To approve the School Choice projections as presented.

Bruce Menin said this was the most openings presented in a number of years and asked why. **Superintendent Gallagher** explained.

Brian Callahan asked the Superintendent for an explanation of the process.

Sheila Spalding asked if we anticipated any more families coming to Newburyport?

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance:

Brian Callahan said they met last Thursday and discussed the Capital Improvement Plan and Food Service.

Bruce Menin asked if this has been dovetailed with Mass. Building Grant.

Policy:

Sheila Spalding said they met March 14 and discussed MASC, Wellness Policy, Anti-Discrimination Policy and Dress Code.

Joint Education:

Bruce Menin said they will meet on April 5.

SECURE GUN STORAGE RESOLUTION:

Sheila Spalding read the resolution. This resolution is to confirm that NPS will continue to work with local law, health and nonprofit agencies to increase efforts to inform those in the District of secure firearms storage.

Sarah Hall asked the Superintendent how did he see this. **Superintendent Gallagher** said this was to increase awareness. He has reached out to the District Attorney's office regarding school safety.

Motion:

On a motion by **Sheila Spalding** and seconded by **Juliet Walker** it was

VOTED: To approve the Secure Gun Storage Resolution.

Juliet Walker commented on the importance of this resolution.

Bruce Menin said he strongly supported this resolution.

Motion Passed Unanimously

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- On-Going Budget Process
 - FY23 Budget Overview, March 3, 2022
 - FY23 Budget Overview, March 21, 2022
- Strategic Additions and Updates - Reimagine
 - Reimagining Teaching and Learning - Bresnahan Arts
 - Reimagining Teaching and Learning - Molin-Nock Music
 - Reimagining Teaching and Learning - Molin-Nock Video and Podcasting
 - Reimagining Teaching and Learning - NHS Integrated Arts

Reimagine Self-discovery and Personal Achievement - NHS 1:1 Instructional Technology

Reimagining Organizational Design and Operations - District

- Budget Steps
- He thanked the NEF for the Green Screen and Robot Fun

Juliet Walker said she appreciated this presentation - a bullet point on Impact on the budget.

Bruce Menin inquired if the Nock/Molin Video will be accessible.

Mayor Reardon said he appreciated the Arts presentation. He inquired re: Arts at the Bresnahan School.

NEW BUSINESS:

Juliet Walker commented on the Bus Transportation Fees - an Ad Hoc Committee has been formed - exploring overall transportation fees/goals. They will meet once a month.

Bruce Menin said we should look at Public Transportation.

Mayor Reardon said Public Transportation is open to conversation.

Sheila Spalding said they should survey parents who drop students off.

Sarah Hall wondered if electric buses would be part of the conversation.

Superintendent Gallagher made a presentation to the Daily News Reporter Heather as it was her last report. He presented her with a tee shirt and flowers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

On a motion by **Sarah Hall** and seconded by **Mayor Reardon** it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 8:20 PM for the purpose of discussing Contract negotiations, possible litigation and legal matters. They will not be reconvening to Open Session.

Motion Passed Unanimously