

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2012**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:02 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Cheryl Sweeney Presided**

Present: Bruce Menin, Steve Cole (arrived at 7:10), Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday, Nick deKanter, Audrey McCarthy, Dan Koen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. A roll call found all members present except Steve Cole, who arrived at 7:10 PM) All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Mayor Holaday read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

At this point Vice-Chairman Cheryl Sweeney assumed chairmanship of the meeting.
Steve Cole arrived at 7:10 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pam Mosesian **CONCERN:** She stated she wants a better Kindergarten program – adequate preparation for first grade. The Kindergarten Ad Hoc Committee visited Kindergartens around the state – all of these had free full day Kindergarten. She stated she would like to hear from the Ad Hoc Committee.

Derek Harper, 22 Jackson Street **CONCERN:** He stated he served on the Kindergarten Ad Hoc Committee – he explained their position. He stated he felt we need full day Kindergarten.

Marianna Lynch **CONCERN:** She stated she is very passionate about the need for full day Kindergarten.

Dr. Ralph Orlando, Wm. Hall Dr. **CONCERN:** He stated this has to be a forum for larger group of people to speak. He would like to see more discussion on issues – how to make this a better district, extending the school day, school year and other issues.

Dominique Deare, 5 Warren Street **CONCERN:** She stated she agreed with Dr. Orlando – we need discussion.

Kathy Flaherty, 30 Columbus Avenue **CONCERN:** She stated this is the first time she has heard a parent speak out about quality programming – she encouraged people to stay involved.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
Following warrant:
\$22,660.92

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the
following warrant:
\$498,589.06

Motion Passed

Mayor Holaday voted present

Minutes

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Organizational
Meeting minutes of Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee Meeting
minutes of Monday, January 10, 2012.

Motion Passed Unanimously

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representative Alex Bradley reported on the following activities at Newburyport High School:

- There are 71 school days left
- "Rent" – the musical – on March 15th participating students arrived home from New York City – they had a great time.
- Institution for Savings Bank Branch at NHS recently opened.
- No Talent/Talent Show – will happen on March 22 – Alex invited anyone who was interested to participate. This is being sponsored by the Senior Class.

INSTITUTION FOR SAVINGS BANK – NHS BRANCH:

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble announced the opening on January 23rd of the Institution for Savings Bank Branch at NHS, under the management of Mrs. Norton from the Institution for Savings. There are 14 student interns involved in the running of the bank, two for each of the seven periods, working with NHS School-to Career Counselor, Cheryl Zaino. Mrs. Zaino states that the students will be evaluated with a tool devised from the DESE, the MA Workbase Learning Plan. The hours of the branch are 10:30 to 2:30 daily. Dr. Kerble expressed his thanks to the Institution for Savings. All expenses for this project were funded by the Institution for Savings.

UPDATE ON THE NHS SCIENCE PROGRAM:

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik gave an update on the progress of the NHS Science Program:

- We have been very busy – Science Consultant Dr. David Lyons has started at NHS. We are extremely excited to have him on board. A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Lyons was distributed to Committee members.
- We are developing common assessments – have developed mid-term exams that are 80% in common.
- Grading sheets – we are turning them into rubrics.
- She gave an update on Lab logs/reports
- We will meet again on Monday.

Discussion:

Dan Koen inquired if there has been parent involvement/direct communication. Ms. Bik said no, but it is a good suggestion and she will address it.

Nick deKanter questioned Lab reports. Ms. Bik explained.

Steve Cole questioned common assessments. Ms. Bik explained.

Steve Cole stated we need to establish baselines. He inquired regarding grades for exams. He wanted to make sure students aren't being penalized with an experiment. Ms. Bik explained – she felt students were not being experimented with.

Steve Cole asked if teachers can make adjustments, and did Ms. Bik see this being repeated every year. Ms. Bik explained.

Bruce Menin spoke of the advantage of common assessments. He inquired if syllabuses are posted on the website. Ms. Bik said yes they are.

Cheryl Sweeney stated she is looking forward to updates on this.

ELEMENTARY PTO REQUEST FOR SUNDAY MORNING USE OF FACILITIES:

Cheryl Sweeney explained that the Elementary PTO is requesting the use of the Bresnahan School on Sunday, May 6, 2012, for the purpose of the Spring 5K and family fun run. The Elementary PTO would like to use the building for preparation beginning at 8:00 AM. The Family Fun Run is held on the back baseball field/playground at 12:00 noon. All festivities should be ended at approximately 4:00 PM.

Motion:

On a motion by Bruce Menin and seconded by Steve Cole it was

VOTED: To approve the use of the Bresnahan School and fields on Sunday, May 6, 2012, (prior to the 1:00 PM policy) from 8:00 AM to approximately 4:00 PM, for the purpose of the Spring 5K and family fun run.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday stated this is a wonderful event.

Dr. Kerble stated this was one of the first events he participated in. The work and effort by parents in this event is great. They raise a lot of money.

Motion Passed Unanimously

2012-2013 SCHOOL CALENDAR SECOND READING:

Background Information:

Dr. Kerble convened a School Calendar Ad Hoc Committee this fall. As a result of several meetings, the attached calendar is being presented. The Labor Day holiday is September 3, 2012. Due to the early holiday, it was determined that the teachers will begin on Tuesday, September 4, and students will begin the school year on Wednesday, September 5. Other notes:

- The two full staff development dates are Tuesday, November 6 (election day); and Monday, March 18
- Monthly Early Release days are on Fridays. There is not an Early Release day in November due to the multitude of holidays and the full staff development day on the 6th.

The change to Monday (full release day), and Friday (early release days) is a result of the Ad Hoc recommendations to ease the burden of scheduling for families. NTA President, Pat Levitt, presented this calendar scenario to the NTA executive board and they have agreed to this draft calendar as presented.

At the First Reading on December 19, the Committee asked the Superintendent to survey parents about their desire for Early Release days on Thursdays or Fridays. He presented the Committee with the results of that survey. 706 completed the survey; 54 in favor of Thursday, and 610 preferring a Friday early release

Motion:

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To approve the Second and Final Reading of the 2012-2013 school calendar (Draft #4) as presented.

Discussion:

Dan Koen stated he will approve this, but would like school to start in the future before Labor Day. He will be curious about repercussions of the Friday early release days. He suggested changing the name to "Teacher Training Day".

Steve Cole said he is supportive of the after Labor Day start – he cautioned about Friday 1/2 days for High School students – they may decide to sleep in – blow off the day. He would like attendance checked (absentee rate – vs a vs Thursday/Friday).

Dr. Kerble will send data to the Committee. The teachers union will monitor attendance as well.

Nick deKanter asked this to be measured re: attendance.

Mayor Holaday said she has heard from parents and businesses. She is concerned re: April early release/vacation. We need to look at this – keep an open mind – look at this next year.

Audrey McCarthy stated early release days for working parents cost money. Students lose momentum – will support this reluctantly.

Bruce Menin said the number of people who responded to the survey is extraordinary. Early release days barely fulfill time required for teacher trainings that are required by the State. These are very valuable days. Re – Labor Day Start – parents of older students prefer a before Labor Day start – parents of younger students prefer an after Labor Day start. He will support this, but felt we need further conversations.

Cheryl Sweeney stated as she has a teacher background, early release days from a teacher point of view are essential. She supports early release days – would like data collected in coming years.

Motion Passed Unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathy Flaherty: **CONCERN:** She gave her thanks for the Science presentation. It is important to get lab skills for students – we need to work on the program.

Ralph Orlando: **CONCERN:** He stated he was pleased with the comments tonight – he read the comments from parents – would like to see what is going on – would like to see rubrics regarding curriculum.

Dominique Deare **CONCERN:** She suggested a future agenda item – programming – let parents know – put it on the calendar.

KINDERGARTEN HALF-DAY PROGRAM DISCUSSION:

Background Information:

The Kindergarten half-day programs (morning and afternoon) are currently two and a half (2.5) hours per day. The principal and representatives of the Brown School staff met with Superintendent, Dr. Kerble, and Assistant Superintendent, Deirdre Farrell, to discuss increasing the amount of the half-day program by fifteen minutes per session.

Dr. Kerble stated the purpose of this item is for the School Committee to approve adding fifteen (15) minutes to the Kindergarten half-day morning program and the fifteen (15) minutes to the Kindergarten half-day program. 15 minutes per day adds 45 hours to these programs during the school year.

Brown School Principal Amy Sullivan spoke of the value of adding the 15 minutes to each program.

Discussion:

Dan Koen asked if we put a price tag on the added 15 minutes. Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell said there is no cost.

Dan Koen inquired about time on learning. Principal Sullivan explained.

Cheryl Sweeney stated she served on the Ad Hoc Committee – they felt the 15 minutes was a really good beginning and we will take a look at this when the new school is built. Have an Ad Hoc Committee look at having Kindergarten and younger students start at the same time.

Bruce Menin commented on Chapter 70 funding. He is pleased of the process that has come about at the Brown School – there is more to do.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To add fifteen (15) minutes to the Kindergarten half-day morning program and fifteen (15) minutes to the Kindergarten half-day afternoon program.

Motion Passed Unanimously

KINDERGARTEN TUITION RATES FOR 2012-2013:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell explained the current tuition rate for the full day Kindergarten program is \$3,500. There is a sliding fee scale available for low income families to apply (provided by DESE). She recommended no increase in this fee for the school year 2012-2013.

Motion:

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Bruce Menin it was

VOTED: To maintain the tuition for full day Kindergarten program at \$3,500, with sliding fee scale available for low income families to apply (provided by DESE) for the school year 2012-2013.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter asked if we have competitive rates. Ms. Farrell said no.

Dan Koen commended Ms. Farrell and Ms. Sullivan for keeping the rate steady.

Motion Passed 6-Yes, 1-No

Nick DeKanter -No

MSBA UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell updated the Committee on all of the meetings with MSBA and building project activity to date:

- School Building Committee says updated plans last week – the next meeting will be Tuesday.
- Submittal due February 2 – will be sent 70 to 80% - the rest is due Feb 16
- March 28 – MSBA executive board design building budget meeting
- Nock/Molin Project – working meeting with the Architect – fee proposal – they have been coming in on weekends
- February 11 – boring work inside the building will be done
- It has been reported that the building has “good bones” (structurally sound)
- Next meeting – next Thursday

Discussion:

Dan Koen commended the Mayor on the choosing of the Building Committee – he also commended Ms. Farrell

Nick deKanter stated the report is very exciting. He inquired if the Architect could come to a School Committee meeting. Ms. Farrell said she would see if this could be arranged.

Bruce Menin said it would be helpful to have a “rainy day” meeting with the architect. Ms. Farrell said this has happened, as during one of their visits it was pouring outside and the architect saw all the leaks.

Dan Koen said he doesn’t know how far the dollars are going in this building.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance:

Chairman Steve Cole reported on the January 13th meeting

1. Reviewed 3 goals from the School Committee finance subcommittee workgroup. Regarding site based tours – they should include at a minimum the school principal, teacher, school council member and student whenever possible. This group should be

involved in the budget meeting that follows. Discussion led to a proposal of 5 site based presentations (Brown, Molin, Nock, Bresnahan and NHS) beginning in March on Wednesdays. Beginning at 6:30 PM at each school site. Each will begin with a 45 minute tour of the school that will include areas of the building and programs that the principal wishes to highlight. A budget meeting will occur from 7:30 – 9:00 PM, structure and process TBA. Proposed dates at this time are 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 and 4/4. Asst. Supt. Farrell will follow-up with Supt. Kerble to finalize with input from principals. It is proposed that the meetings will be videotaped by Port Media, and broadcast as available.

2. Asst. Supt. Farrell introduced the importance of reinstating this subcommittee and monthly meeting. It will allow a return to the routine at School Committee meetings of reporting out expenses to date, an enhanced review of quarterly reports, other fiscal topics and increase fiscal discussion in general. Members noted the importance of increasing public discussion whenever possible.
3. Warrant review and process was introduced by Dan Koen with an eye towards including more detail about the process prior to the School Committee vote on each warrant. Since Dan will be the designee to sign payroll and vouchers, as voted by the School Committee on 1/20/12 he is interested in increasing public knowledge and committee response regarding the warrants. The next set of warrants, along with the process will be reviewed on 2/12/12.
4. The following meeting dates were established for the finance subcommittee, to be held at the Supt. Of School's Office conference room: 2/17/12, 3/1/12, 4/13/12, 5/18/12, 6/15/12. All meetings begin at 8:30 AM.

Policy:

Chairman Bruce Menin stated the committee has not met as yet.

Joint Ed:

Chairman Audrey McCarthy stated they will be meeting February 6th at 5:30 PM.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following activities and topics:

- Martin Luther King Breakfast – he was very impressed with this event.
- English teacher, Deb Szabo, received the Nancy Peace Prize Award – he was impressed with the admiration shown towards Ms. Szabo who is a popular teacher at NHS.
- Post Cards to Parent Campaign – youth services
- New Teacher Evaluation System – the sub-committee will need to spend time with him studying the new rules.
- Interest Based Bargaining training – 23 of them met – he thanked all who participated
- Place Based Education – there was a meeting last night – 9 attended
- Boston Globe's Scholastic Arts Awards
 - Gold Key Recipients:
 - Jordan Bensley – digital photography (gold & silver)
 - Nora Casey – drawing
 - Connor Gravelle – architecture (2 golds)

- Olivia Jackson – photography
- Silver Key Recipients:
 - Taylor Abatiell – drawing
 - Byron Brendon – Digital Art
 - Ella Clayton – drawing (2 silvers)
 - Marley Maginnis – photography
 - Elise Ogden – Digital Art
- Honorable Mentions:
 - Emma Bartol
 - Felicia Bosehetto
 - Charley Cabral
 - Gabrielle Cole
 - Kelly Conway
 - Kellie Delnde
 - Delaney Hulbert
 - Blake Quintal
 - Steven Simkins

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell reported on the following:

- Anti-bullying speaker (January 17), Dr. Elizabeth Englander – Ms. Farrell gave out a flyer – this will be on Channel 9 and Port Media website
- FY13 Budget schedule and calendar

<u>School Committee</u>	<u>Central Office</u>	<u>Budget Presentations</u>
SIP's Room 118 HS 7:00 PM	Budget Review Supt. Office 1:00 – 4:00	Wednesdays Site Based with Tour 6:30 PM
January 23 rd	January 31 st <i>SW, Steve, Don</i>	March 7 th <i>Brown School</i>
February 6 th	February 7 th <i>Brown School</i>	March 14 ^t <i>Molin School</i>
February 28 th (Tuesday)	February 14 th <i>Molin School 1:00</i>	March 21 st <i>Bresnahan School</i>
March 5 th	February 21 st <i>Bresnahan School</i>	March 28 th <i>Nock Middle School</i>
March 19 th <i>HS SIP Update</i>	February 28 th <i>HS 1:00</i> <i>MS 2:30</i>	April 4 th <i>High School, Athletics</i>

April 2nd
Brown School SIP

April 24th (Tuesday)
Public Hearing

Discussion:

Bruce Menin inquired if we could get Dr. Elizabeth Englander back

Cheryl Sweeney stated she attended this presentation – many students attended

Assistant Superintendent Bik reported on the following:

- New Evaluation System – the new teacher evaluation system committee is doing a lot of work – they are also reviewing improved teaching methods
- Data Team Training – February 13, 14 – district data teams, building based teams working independently

Dr. Kerble reported on the budget process:

- Principals are working with staff
- Angela Bik is meeting with principals re: programs
- Karen Brann is meeting with principals
- Dr. Kerble, Ms. Farrell, Ms. Bik, Ms. Brann will then meet

ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To adjourn to Executive Session at 9:30 PM for the purpose of contract negotiations. They will not be returning to Regular Session.

Motion Passed Unanimously