

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, October 17 2011**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:08 PM**

**Room 118
Bruce Menin Presided**

**Present: Steve Cole, Bruce Menin, Stephanie Weaver, Nick deKanter, Dan Koen
Absent: Cheryl Sweeney, Mayor Donna Holaday**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Vice-Chairman Bruce Menin called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. A roll call found two members absent – Cheryl Sweeney and Mayor Donna Holaday. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

READING OF MISSION STATEMENT:

Bruce Menin read the Newburyport School Committee Mission Statement.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN: He cautioned that if the Committee wanted to engage the public they should publicize things that will be on the agenda.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$4,734.24

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following warrant:
\$237,916.33

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Minutes

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the Newburyport School Committee meeting minutes of Monday, October 3, 2011.

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

NHS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

School Committee Student Advisor Alex Haley reported on recent activities at Newburyport High School.

- Thursday of this week a blood drive will be held sponsored by the NHS National Honor Society.
- The new student X2 portal is up and working. Teachers and students alike have been using this and it is saving time in class.
- On Saturday, October 12th a Club Fair will be held in room 118 to give students the opportunity to receive information about the various clubs and to sign up if interested.
- The freshman class has an advisor – Mrs. Riccossi has volunteered to take on the job.
- Color Day preparations are in full swing by the classes. The senior class is basing their theme on reality TV.

Superintendent Dr. Marc Kerble stated that he recently interviewed Alex, and the interview will be shown shortly on the local cable TV network.

MCAS SPRING 2011 PRESENTATION:

In Spring, 2011, Grades 3 through 10 participated in various testing through the states Massachusetts Curriculum Assessment System (MCAS). Superintendent Kerble and Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik together presented to the Committee the results of the testing district wide.

Superintendent Kerble gave a short overview as to what content area was tested.

Assistant Superintendent Bik presented and explained the English Language Arts portion of the testing which included:

- % of Students at each Performance Level – grades 3, 4, 5
- 2010-2011 ELA Comparison Gr. 3, 4, 5 – Improvement in 9 categories
- 2011 ELA Needs Improvement Students Grade 3 (28%), Grade 4 (30%), & Grade 5 (18%) – Detailed Distribution Upper to Lower Band (# of Students)
- ELA 2011 % of Students at each Performance Level Grades 6, 7, 8, 10
- 2010-2011 ELA Comparison Gr. 6, 7, 8, 10 – Improvement in 7 categories
- Spring 2011 ELA Needs Improvement Students Grade 6 (13%), Grade 7 (10%), & Grade 8 (8%) – Detailed Distribution Upper to Lower Band (# of Students)
- Spring 2011 ELA Proficient # of Students at Upper Band Score of 256-258 within 4 points of Advanced
- English Language Arts Cohorts
- 2011 ELA – Grades 4, 8 & 10 - % of Advanced & Proficient Students
- English Language Arts Findings
- English Language Arts Actions

Discussion:

Dan Koen inquired regarding the 4th grade – “is there a developmental issue – what is the problem?” Assistant Superintendent Bik stated this has been a focus for us and there was improvement this year.

Bruce Menin inquired regarding the impact of inclusionary practices. Karen Brann said they are still looking at the data.

Superintendent Kerble presented and explained the Mathematics portion of the testing which included the following:

- 2011 Mathematics - % of Students at Each Performance Level
- Math 2011 – Grades 3, 4, 5 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- 2010-2011 Math Comparison Gr. 3, 4, 5 – Improvement in 5 categories

- Spring 2011 Math Needs Improvement Students – Grade 3 (21%), Grade 4 (45%), & Grade 5 (28%) – Detailed Distribution Upper to Lower Band (# of Students)
- Math 2011 - % of Students at each Performance Level – Grades 6, 7, 8, 10
- 2010-2011 Math Gr. 6, 7, 8, 10 – Improvement in 5 categories
- Spring 2011 Math Needs Improvement Students – Grade 6 (34%), Grade 7 (22%), & Grade 8 (18%) – Detailed Distribution Upper to Lower Band (# of Students)
- Spring 2011 Math Proficient # of Students at Upper Band Score of 256-258 within 4 points of Advanced
- Mathematics Cohorts
- 2011 Math – Grades 4, 8, & 10 - % of Advanced & Proficient Students
- Mathematics Findings
- Mathematics Actions

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired regarding the Middle School struggling with math scores. Superintendent Kerble stated teachers are more confident in teaching math – we are doing things different.

Stephanie Weaver asked when do teachers find out which students are “on the edge” of improving. Assistant Superintendent Bik said this is happening now.

Steve Cole inquired regarding the after school program – resources – where are they coming from – aggregate data – can we identify kids who have dropped. Superintendent Kerble and Assistant Superintendent Bik explained.

Dan Koen asked if they were surprised at the performance of the 4th grade. Assistant Superintendent Bik said they were disappointed and explained further.

Stephanie Weaver stated regarding the timing and weather last year, is Massachusetts giving strategies in preparing for these kinds of things. Superintendent Kerble explained and stated the High School went to a different schedule and there was no dip there.

Bruce Menin stated the decisions we make now as a community have repercussions. Two literacy and 2 math coaches went to 2 literacy and 1 math coach.

Assistant Superintendent Bik presented and explained the Science & Technology Engineering portion of the testing which included the following:

- 2011 Science & Technology Engineering % of Students at Each Performance Level
- Science Technology Engineering 2011 – Grades 5 & 8 – Biology Grade 9 - % of Students at each Performance Level
- 2010-2011 Sci/Tech Comparison Gr. 5, 8 – Biology Grade 9 – Improvement in 4 categories
- Spring 2011 Sci-Tech/Bio Needs Improvement Students – Grade 5 (18%), Grade 8 (26%), & Grade 9 (8%) – Detailed Distribution Upper to Lower Band (# of Students)
- Spring 2011 Sci-Tech/Bio Proficient # of Students at Upper Band Score of 256-258 within 4 points of Advanced
- Science Tech/Engineering and Biology Cohorts
- 2011 Sci-Tech/Eng – Grades 5 & 8, Biology Grade 9 - % of Advanced & Proficient Students
- Science & Tech/Eng Findings
- Science & Tech/Eng Actions

Discussion:

Nick deKanter inquired with the adaption of core curriculum, where are we going next. Assistant Superintendent Bik said the plan is to phase out MCAS as we know it – and then going to Common Core – she explained the evolution.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Christine **CONCERN:** Regarding students who didn't sustain their high scores - she suggested that these students are at risk and need attention.

Dr. Ralph Orlando **CONCERN:** He stated we should challenge the scores that are presented to you – proficient is average – how do we base subjects that are not tested. We need to look at interclass variability. Put classes on video.

Dominique Deere **CONCERN:** Regarding engaging students who are in college – this is a new mode of education – think outside the box.

At this point Vice-Chair Bruce Menin called a short recess – 8:37 PM.
The Committee reconvened at 8:45 PM.

MSBA UPDATES:

Dan Koen reported the members of the Building Committee interviewed four architectural firms, recommended by MSBA for the Model schools program. The firms that submitted bids for the new Bresnahan building on the evenings of October 11 & 12 were:

- JCJ Architecture
- Flansburgh Architects
- Kaestle Boos Associates, Inc.
- HMFH Architects

The School Building Committee unanimously voted to hire HMFH Architects on the evening of October 12. They built the East Fairhaven Elementary School, which the new Bresnahan Elementary School will be modeled after. They were also the most economical per square foot available to us. He stated the Committee did a wonderful job – HMFH primarily build elementary schools. The next step is to negotiate a fee proposal. They are now getting ready for the Nock-Molin process.

Discussion:

Nick deKanter stated that when the visitation committee visited the East Fairhaven School they noted that people were very happy inside – he feels the committee made a fabulous choice.

Motion

On a motion by Dan Koen and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve the hiring of the Architectural firm HMFH as recommended by the building committee as the architect for the new Bresnahan Elementary School.

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

MASC RESOLUTIONS:

Bruce Menin inquired if any member of the Committee would be attending the MASS/MASC Joint Conference in early November. Steve Cole and Dan Koen stated they might be able to attend. The Committee then reviewed and voted on the various resolutions that will be presented at the conference.

Resolution #1 – It was decided to empower the delegate to get a further explanation at the conference.

Resolution #2 – Motion

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve and support Resolution #2 (Teacher Evaluation).

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Resolution #3 – Motion

On a motion by Nick deKanter and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve and support Resolution #3 (Charter School Funding).

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Resolution #4 – Motion

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To approve and support Resolution #4 (Enactment of a freeze on federal regulations pending the reauthorization of No Child Left Behind).

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

Resolution #5 – Motion

On a motion by Steve Cole and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve and support Resolution #5 (State Educator Evaluation Process).

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Kerble reported on the following:

- Update on Naming of the Lower Field Committee – There will be a meeting of this committee next week and results of that meeting will be shared with the Committee.
- Concussion forum – A Concussion forum was held at NHS and facilitated by Anna Jaques Hospital – it was an excellent forum.
- Follow up to the Networking luncheon – There are plans in place to make connections with teachers, businesses and the community.
- GLEC update – At a meeting last week a lot of attention was paid to detail of GLEC – there will be an open search after January for a new director.
- Educatious, Inc. – 5 slots will be open at NHS for foreign students with an application process – this company works with districts to bring in foreign students – families pay Newburyport tuition and host families – Newburyport has a say on what students are accepted into the program. Assistant Superintendent Bik stated that NHS Principal Mike Parent will conduct interviews with applicants over SKYPE. Students can only stay at NHS one year.
- Calendar Ad Hoc Committee – The Committee met and will meet again in a couple of weeks.
- Open House at Molin/Middle School – There was a great open house – a huge number of parents attended.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Superintendent Kerble thanked Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell for all her work on the MSBA project.

Assistant Superintendent Bik reported on the *Using Data Leadership Academy for Administrators* by TERC. This was her first experience with TERC and she stated it was a powerful day and a little overwhelming. Job positions will be put out to teachers and they will be receiving applications. This was a very exciting time and generated a lot of excitement. Background Information consists of:

Targeted Outcomes

- Develop a shared understanding of the history of data use – the successes and challenges
- Understand the overall Using Data Model “roadmap” for continuous improvement, materials and processes
- Develop a shared understanding and beginning vision for continuous data use
- Engage in Data Driven Dialogue (structured data analysis protocol) and use collaborative tools
- Understand the role of the Data Coach and Data Teams and have identified those who should be engaged
- Develop an initial Plan for Continuous Data Usage (based on the Pyramid of Data Use)
- Identify next steps for integrating the Using Data model and processes in the district or school (e.g. how staff will be engaged, which structures will be used, what the content areas of focus will be, etc.)

MEETING ASSESSMENT:

Sunday, November 6 – Spenser Pierce Little Farm – Fall Family Music Festival

November 19 – NEF Auction – this year they are doing an on-line auction as well – thanks were extended to the generous people who have donated to this – all proceeds will go to the schools.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Dan Koen it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:29 PM.

Motion Passed

Cheryl Sweeney absent for vote

Mayor Holaday absent for vote