

**NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, November 7, 2011**

**Newburyport High School
Meeting Convened at 7:11 PM**

**Room 118
Mayor Donna Holaday/Bruce Menin Presided**

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chairman Mayor Donna Holaday called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM. A roll call found all members present. 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 Bruce Menin assumed chairmanship of the meeting. He stated the next School Committee meeting in two weeks will start at 7:30 PM.

AWARDING OF THE M.A.S.S. CERTIFICATE OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Marc Kerble awarded the 2011 M.A.S.S. Certificate of Academic Excellence award to NHS Senior Ryan Campbell. He spoke of the academic excellence and extra-curricular activities of Ryan. All those present gave a standing ovation to this highly qualified student.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dr. Ralph Orlando, 4 Wm. Hall DR. **CONCERN:** He praised the teachers involved in the Place Based Education program (GOMI). He spoke of the MCAS, ACT and AP tests. He read comments from several students regarding the lack of science background/labs at NHS. This needs to be addressed. Both Bruce Menin and Dr. Kerble responded that this issue will be on the agenda at the next School Committee meeting in two weeks.

Kathy Flaherty **CONCERN:** She stated she supports the Superintendent and staff but she thinks the School Committee needs to look at some of these things.

Zab Warren, Maple Street **CONCERN:** He stated he has been plugging for getting started early.

Dominique Deare, Warren Street **CONCERN:** She spoke of Place Based Education, and future forums.

Dr. Ralph Orlando **CONCERN:** He wanted the Committee to understand that he was not speaking in a negative manner.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motions

Warrants:

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

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

\$12,352.46

Motion Passed Unanimously

On a motion by Cheryl Sweeney and seconded by Nick deKanter it was

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

\$322,563.64

Motion Passed Unanimously

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 17, 2011.

Motion Passed Unanimously

NHS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

School Committee Student Rep Alex Bradley reported on recent activities at Newburyport High School.

- October 29 – Halloween fundraiser
- Silent Auction
- Witch of Blackbird Pond – last weekend – very successful
- Music Fest – this week
- Color Day approaching
- Freshman Class has an advisor

NHS HAWAIIAN TRIP – FEBRUARY 2012:

NHS educator and chaperone Raphael Matty presented the details of a NHS trip during the February 2012 vacation. The trip will be to Hawaii and the details of the possible trip were explained by Mr. Matty, who explained that he is very familiar with Hawaii as he taught there for three years.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney asked about educational goals and expectations of the trip. Mr. Matty explained.

Bruce Menin asked if Hiroshima was part of this. Mr. Matty said no.

Dan Koen asked if this was a tour or a private trip. Mr. Matty said he did not want a tour, as they are very expensive and he was very, very familiar with Hawaii and felt he could take the place of a tour director and do a very good job. He would take a maximum of 10 with a minimum of 5. **Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell** spoke of her research on insurance for this trip. She also spoke to NHS Principal Mike Parent who has been involved with these discussions regarding this trip.

Steve Cole asked for further explanation of insurance. **Assistant Superintendent Farrell** explained.

Steve Cole asked what is the protection with this. **Assistant Superintendent Farrell** explained.

Steve Cole asked if this was the first teacher to do this.

Nick deKanter asked if any students were committed to this. Mr. Matty said 5 to 7 so far.

Mayor Holaday inquired if any other chaperone was going. Mr. Matty said no – there is a 10 to 1 ratio for chaperones. **Mayor Holaday** said she would feel more comfortable if a second chaperone went with the trip. She is sure this would be a wonderful trip.

Steve Cole asked for the requisites for the trip. He spoke regarding previous field trip requisites. Mr. Matty responded.

Dan Koen inquired if there was course credit involved. Mr. Matty said no.

Bruce Menin said it is not interest that drives the trip but being able to afford to go.

Dr. Kerble said he recommended that the School Committee approve the trip based on the condition that Mr. Matty send him more specifics to meet the School Committee questions.

Steve Cole inquired about Costa Rica-Tour by World Challenge, 1 chaperone – 2 to World Challenge

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Holaday and seconded by Stephanie Weaver it was

VOTED: To approve the February 2012 field trip to Hawaii (during the February vacation) with the stipulation that chaperone Raphael Matty send the Superintendent more specifics to meet the School Committee questions, and to provide a second chaperone for the proposed trip.

Motion Passed

6 – Yes

1 – No – Steve Cole

NAMING OF THE LOWER FIELD RECOMMENDATION:

Dr. Kerble convened a Naming of the Lower Field Committee. The committee consisted of Richie Eaton, Jim Stehlin, Mike Parent, John Daileanes, Bruce Menin, Steve Cole and Dr. Kerble. The committee met and decided to ask the community at large for suggestions on names for the field. There were over 120 responses. Overwhelmingly, 102 people nominated Bill Pettingell, the recently retired baseball coach. The committee recognized Bill’s 40 years of service as baseball coach. He coached other sports and was a longtime teacher at Newburyport High School. The committee also felt that other athletic coaches should be honored and recognized for their service to the district. Members of the committee recommended that an area of the field between the football stadium and the lower field be dedicated to these coaches with some type of memorial. A separate committee would have the charge of overseeing this memorial. Dr. Kerble recommended that the School Committee name the lower field the “Bill Pettingell Lower Field.”

Discussion:

Steve Cole stated a lot of effort has been put into this – he supports this.

Bruce Menin said they must find a way to support other coaches and he will be active in this.

Nick deKanter offered a recommendation that the field be named “Bill Pettingell Field”.

Motion

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Mayor Holaday it was

VOTED: To name the lower field the “Bill Pettingell Lower Field”.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Announcement:

Dr. Kerble announced that Alex Bradley has been named a recipient of the Abigail Adams Scholarship, with is a 4 year tuition to a state school.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S FY12 GOALS:

Bruce Menin presented a draft set of goals for FY12 that the School Committee will set for the Superintendent’s evaluation.

Dr. Kerble stated there are 52 bullets here. He suggested looking this over.

Discussion:

Stephanie Weaver said her biggest concern is measurement – how the Superintendent is ranked needs to be defined.

Mayor Holaday said we are in November – there are too many bullets here – not defined enough – this needs work.

Nick deKanter said he was concerned when he read this – it is a mixture of job description, achievements and goals, what we need is goals – 52 goals is not realistic.

Cheryl Sweeney asked regarding the 4 standards – were these from the state. The answer was yes. She said there are too many things here – it is too much.

Dan Koen said he looked at it – liked it – it is a great document.

Steve Cole said above all this is what he sees in spearheading your role and in affirming the role of public education to the people of Newburyport which is what he would like the Superintendent to focus on.

Bruce Menin said these are the things the Superintendent will be doing, no matter how we define it.

Nick deKanter suggested having a smaller group to work with Dr. Kerble to define the document.

It was decided to have a small committee to resolve this – Mayor Holaday, Bruce Menin, Cheryl Sweeney, Nick deKanter and Dr. Kerble.

FY13 BUDGET OUTLINE:

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell outlined and explained the current draft of the FY 13 budget outline. She asked for feedback.

Discussion:

Cheryl Sweeney stated starting the budget earlier was why the Finance Sub-Committee was reconvened – they have had two meetings – she explained what has transpired.

Nick deKanter said we have a road map – he would like a roadmap – he would like an update in November as to where we are.

Mayor Holaday said she felt incredibly rushed last year – a long list of wish list items is impractical – she needs the figures for step raises and fixed costs now.

Assistant Superintendent Farrell said she will forward these figures to her.

Steve Cole said they will find time to look at things.

Stephanie Weaver said regarding school improvement plans – pull out most significant needs changes – get to the heart of it.

Bruce Menin said regarding school improvement plans – he wants councils engaged – he likes the idea of meeting with the City Council.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT:

Cheryl Sweeney updated the Committee on the conversations the Finance Subcommittee has been having

- identifying major points that they are having and that they are going to have
- taking a look at schools as a whole
- there is a feeling district wide that there is a need for an additional Math coach K-8
- getting the High School to 990 hours
- foreign language – district wide
- what are our priorities district wide
- health insurance figures

Discussion

Bruce Menin said looking at changing the process – what it really is costing us for education.

Assistant Superintendent Farrell said that every end of year we must file a report on monies we have spent – \$34.6 million.

Cheryl Sweeney said the Committee will be provided with all figures of federal and state monies.

Assistant Superintendent Angela Bik will get private grant money figures.

Dan Koen inquired as to the end of year report to the state. **Assistant Superintendent Farrell** explained. **Dan Koen** inquired as to revenue. **Mayor Holaday** explained and said as a community we have done well.

Assistant Superintendent Deirdre Farrell said they looked at choice numbers.

Cheryl Sweeney said they looked at things that came up during the year that weren't budgeted.

Dr. Kerble said last year we have a list of value added items – you never get away from this – the needs we presented last year still present themselves.

MSBA UPDATE:

Assistant Superintendent Farrell said the model school has been selected – the architect has been selected. She is in touch with them regarding fees – she anticipates a report to the School Building Committee on Thursday. Wednesday there is a kick off meeting in Boston at 10 AM with the MSBA. Next Wednesday the requirement for services for the Nock/Molin starts.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Kerble reported on the following:

- MassCue Conference, October 26 & 27: over 30 educators attended the conference and that 7 Newburyport High School teachers presented at the conference.
- John & Abigail Adams Scholars: the following students have qualified to receive a John & Abigail Adams Scholarship, which entitles them to four years of free tuition upon their acceptance to a participating Massachusetts public institution of higher education, such as a University of Massachusetts campus, Massachusetts state university, or a community college, beginning with the fall of 2011 semester. The Adams scholarship rewards high academic achievement on the MCAS tests and provides families of college bound students with financial assistance.

David Arivella	Cady Bennett	Jordan Bensley
Jared Bradbury	Alexander Bradley	John Brophy
Leah Campbell	Ryan Campbell	Hannah Carroll
Eleanor Casey	Beth Castantini	Colleen Chaney
Julia Chatfield	Thalia Chodat	Ella Clayton
Alexis Cole	Keith Conway	Gretchen Cyros
Julia DeNardo	Belle Douglass	Matthew Eagan
Gage Foley	Michelle Fowler	Connor Gravelle
Benjamin Greene	Jordan Gudatis	Noah Jordan
Alex MacDougall	Celina McCarthy	Samantha McCraine
Madeline Moore	Tyler Nardone	Andrew Orlando
Jacqueline Peszynski	Jane Petty	Molly Picillo
Danielle Robidoux	Molly Rowe	Breanna Santospago
Carla Toolan	Spenser Traxier	Tess Van Etten
Jilian Whelan	Rebecca Young	Nicholas Zafris

- NHS Full Production, *Witch of Blackbird Pond*. The Superintendent commented on the play. It was a great job and had a great audience in attendance.
- Update on robust wireless installation at the High School. The NEF has donated \$10,000 to coordinate the wireless.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT:

Assistant Superintendent Bik reported on the upcoming November 8th Staff Development Day. She outlined the various agendas for the day and said it should be a great day.

Discussion:

Mayor Holaday inquired regarding Dr. Chen.

Assistant Superintendent Bik explained.

MEETING ASSESSMENT:

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. The lead sponsor is the Institution for Savings – *Shop Without the Guilt* – raffle tickets will be on sale.

Dr. Kerble thanked Assistant Superintendent Bik for her work on the Release Day and Stephanie Weaver for her work on the auction.

The NEF's Rocktoberfest – October 23 –was a great day – raising \$19,000 – 1,200 in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion

On a motion by Stephanie Weaver and seconded by Cheryl Sweeney it was

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:37 PM.

Motion Passed Unanimously