**From:** Sean Reardon [sreardon@newburyport.k12.ma.us]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:49 AM
**To:** Jared Eigerman
**Cc:** envirom@comcast.net; Charles Tontar; Joseph Devlin; Afroz Khan; Bruce Vogel; christine.wallace.ward4@gmail.com; Byron Lane; Sharif Zeid; Heather Shand; mccauley33@comcast.net
**Subject:** [Ext]Re: School Budget

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Good Morning City Council President Eigerman and the Newburyport City Council,

I hope you are all doing well. I know you have a big meeting ahead of you tonight.

The Newburyport School Committee Vice Chair just sent along a letter signed by all School Committee members except myself. I decided to be consistent and not sign the letter. I was the only dissenting vote on this budget which was taken on August 3rd, almost two months ago. On August 3rd, a budget vote was not on our agenda and there was no public hearing regarding this nine month budget. I voted against the process or lack thereof. We also did not have a plan in place at that time to get our kids back in school which needed to be included in any budget vote (our back to school plan was voted on Aug 17 and it was amended during collective bargaining with the NTA). I appreciate your efforts over the past few years looking for creative ways to increase the funding for our schools. I hope the City Council and School Committee can continue to find ways to collaborate with the collective goal being what is best for the kids of Newburyport.

I am not against the school budget that is being presented to you tonight but I will always advocate for more funds for our schools. I believe process is important and I hope over the coming months the School Committee can work as a collective body at improving our processes, our transparency and our communications. Whatever is voted on tonight should not result in our schools shutting down even for one minute. The learning must continue for all kids. I have three children currently attending our public schools at the Nock, Molin and Bresnahan. They were so excited to be back in the buildings even though it is only for two days a week. I am excited to get high school students back in the building starting next week for some in-person learning. I think the plan presented to you by the Superintendent and Mayor gives us a path to getting students back in the schools full time even though I was hoping the time frame could be sooner. The data should be driving these decisions and the hybrid model is not sustainable over the long term.

I think we all agree that in-person learning is the ultimate goal for everyone and we should be prioritizing getting our kids back into school safely. I applaud the efforts of the school administrators and educators getting our kids back in school during a challenging time. I also want to thank the City Council for doing their due diligence through this process and making sure we are properly funding our school especially during a pandemic.

Thank you for reading, please feel free to reach out with any questions and you can include this in the record tonight. I plan on attending the meeting.

Sean Reardon

Newburyport School Committee

NHS Class of 1993

*Onward! Forward!*