

CITY OF NEWBURYPORT



IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED:

April 8, 2024

THAT, the City Council of the City of Newburyport votes to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c.71, §37M which provides that a city may consolidate administrative functions, including but not limited to financial, personnel, and maintenance functions, of the school committee with those of the city; provided, however, that such consolidation may occur only upon a majority vote of both the school committee and in a city, the city council, with approval of the mayor required by law.

Councillor Edward C. Cameron, Jr.

In City Council April 8, 2024:

Motion to collectively refer ORDR00551, ORDR00552, ORDR00553 to Budget & Finance, and ORDR00554, ORDR00555, ORDR00556, ORDR00557, ORDR00558 to Budget & Finance and COTW by Councillor Zeid, seconded by Councillor McCauley. Roll call vote, 10 yes, 1 absent, motion passes.

MEMORANDUM

To: Council President Ed Cameron and Members

From: Mayor Sean Reardon

Date: March 11, 2024

Re: Accepting MGL c. 71 §37M on School and City Consolidation of Administrative Functions

This memorandum explains my support for the City of Newburyport accepting the provisions of Massachusetts General Law c. 71 §37M. Accepting these provisions would allow the City and Schools to consolidate administrative functions of the school committee with the City. These include financial, personnel, and maintenance functions that are performed by both the Schools and the City, and would allow us to consolidate them into one entity. Any individual decision on whether to consolidate a function would still require majority votes of both the City Council and School Committee. The Council and School Committee could also vote to end such a consolidation with a majority vote.

The Superintendent and the Administration have been discussing the possibility of consolidating certain functions, with the focus at this time on facilities and grounds management. While no proposals have been finalized, adopting this order now would clear the first hurdle for potentially taking this step. The School Department received an opinion from their Counsel regarding this proposal that stated that the first step in any consolidation would be to accept these provisions. The City Solicitor concurred with this, and encouraged adoption at this time to provide the ability to continue these conversations on consolidation.

The Administration will continue working with the School Committee and Superintendent on plans for specific consolidation arrangements. Any consolidation will require an agreement signed by the School Committee and Council that details responsibilities and processes for the consolidated functions complete with implications on budget and operations.