

## FINANCE MEETING MINUTES <sup>i</sup>

New Bedford Public Schools  
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building  
455 County Street, Room 119  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Finance Subcommittee Meeting  
February 6, 2020  
6:00pm – 6:30pm

Present: Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Ms. Colleen Dawicki  
Also in attendance: Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Ms. Theresa Cormier, Mr. Al Oliveira

The meeting commenced at 6:00 pm.

The minutes from the January 9, 2020 Finance Subcommittee Meeting were reviewed. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira to approve the minutes.

Mr. Bruce Oliveira asked for a discussion of the salary savings process and questioned why salary savings accrue and appear to remain large, even though he acknowledged that the percentage is similar to past years. Mr. O'Leary responded that this is something we monitor closely and fully budgeting out salaries is the safest way to proceed, especially since the Committee has experience making media transfers to undertake non-recurring projects or support special-education and other stabilization accounts.

Mr. Al Oliveira described in detail the transfers to allow spring/summer work to take place via the Facilities Department. Mr. Al Oliveira described how additional preventative maintenance would be taking place earlier this year, including a boost cycle at schools that have large numbers of work orders on hold. Including HVAC, work money will be transferred from salary savings in that department. Mr. O'Leary described how the salary savings were already earned from July 1<sup>st</sup>. The district remains fully projected for salaries through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. O'Leary presented the Financial Report and the FY2019 & FY2020 Grant Reports.

Mr. O'Leary discussed briefly the Student Opportunity Act and increases New Bedford gained via the Act. He discussed his concerns with the low-income formula, which was changed from the previous fiscal year and may change again for fiscal year 2022.

Mr. O'Leary discussed a Capital Improvement Plan that the City has developed, which includes some items for the School Department.

Mr. O'Leary presented and discussed correspondence that was given to the Committee pertaining to Impact Aid federal reimbursements for federally dependent children. He also discussed potential Foster Care transportation reimbursement and the fact that the City Council is expected to approve an MOU that will allow the district to obtain this reimbursement.

Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Dawicki and seconded by Mr. Amaral to adjourn.  
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.



Andrew B. O'Leary, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

<sup>i</sup> The Open Meeting Law requires public bodies to create and approve minutes in a timely manner. A "timely manner" is considered to be within the next three public body meetings or 30 days from the date of the meeting, whichever is later, unless the public body can show good cause for further delay