

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

New Bedford Public Schools  
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building  
455 County Street, Room 224  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
**Also remote via NBPS website**

Finance Subcommittee Meeting (Committee of the whole, inviting all School Committee members)  
January 7, 2021  
6:00 – 7:15 PM

Present: Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Joaquim (Jack) Livramento, Mr. John Oliveira, Mr. Joshua Amaral, Ms. Colleen Dawicki (via Zoom)

Also in attendance: Mr. Andrew O’Leary, Ms. Theresa Cormier, Ms. Rachel Bento-Cunha, Mr. Robert Shaheen (via Zoom)

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM. As the December 2020 Finance Subcommittee Meeting did not occur, minutes from the November 1, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Ms. Dawicki to approve the minutes.

Mr. O’Leary presented and discussed the November and December 2020 Finance Reports, demonstrating an emerging salary surplus and a possible healthcare surplus. Mr. O’Leary mentioned the expected increase in the budget due to the additional state and local appropriation of \$6,503,133. The strategy for allocating these funds is twofold: to restore balances to the ESSER grant – which is available for expenditure until at least December 2021 – and to spend the balance on non-recurring costs that address the district facilities and curriculum needs. Mr. John Oliveira asked about the proposal to cover ESSER building-based substitute expenses from the additional appropriation, noting he had objected to this year’s School Committee raise in the BBS rate of daily pay.

Mr. O’Leary presented and discussed the November and December 2020 Transfers. Mr. O’Leary pointed out that most transfers are centered on school principal requests. Mr. O’Leary said he was pleased to note additional transfer of funds into the Fine Arts department’s stage improvement projects at schools like Hathaway and NBHS. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to approve the Transfers and seconded by Ms. Dawicki.

The reports concluded with the presentation of the Fiscal Reports with a focus on the ESSER grant funding and Covid-19 Relief Funding. Mr. O’Leary briefly presented and discussed the Net School Spending Estimates and discussions with the City.

Mr. O’Leary presented the Committee with an overview of property insurance. The following buildings are insured at the listed annual cost: Jacob School: \$41,242, Taylor School: \$28,869, Lincoln School: \$20,621, Keith Middle School: \$43,106, New Bedford High School: \$162,275.

Donation Acceptance Request Forms were discussed. Several Committee members were pleased to see positive remarks by donors. Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to approve the Transfers and seconded by Ms. Dawicki.

Mr. Robert Shaheen, Food Service Director, was introduced to discuss the proposed purchase of a new property for the USDA NSLP program, Central Kitchen. The project has been through several steps and requires full School Committee vote to move toward finalizing a purchase. Mr. Shaheen demonstrated the shortcomings of the current building. Several members asked about current and future funding projections. Mr. Shaheen and Mr. O’Leary discussed the need to invest the current USDA fund surplus and the ability to maintain a surplus to meet program needs well into the future. Mr. John Oliveira praised the efforts of the Food Service team and predicted that the project will contribute to improvements he has seen in the program.

Voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.



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Andrew B. O’Leary  
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

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<sup>1</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