Greetings Team NBPS,

We just wrapped up the first month of 2020 with a very successful unveiling of the district’s new Strategic Plan last week. This plan is a blueprint of our work, now and in the future. It is available on www.newbedfordschools.org.

In our next steps, we will be hosting several forums to gather feedback from our staff, parents, and community members. In addition, we will hold daytime feedback sessions at various community organizations to engage a wide range of people. These meetings will add to the information I receive from the parent coffees and student lunch meetings I routinely have at schools across the district.

I invite you to participate in this ongoing process of building the future of New Bedford Public Schools by providing feedback on the Strategic Plan. It is a ‘living document’ and we will update it every year so we can incorporate information and insight from you to make improvements. Your feedback is critical. It is essential to provide you with the opportunity and space to share your thoughts and recommendations on what resources you believe we need or programs we should implement – to make NBPS an excellent school system. Staff Forums are planned for:

- **Tuesday** Feb. 11 – Keith MS  3:30 PM - 4:30 PM – Staff
- **Monday** Feb. 24 – Roosevelt MS  2:30 PM - 3:30 PM – Staff
- **Wednesday** Feb. 26 – Normandin MS  3:30 PM - 4:30 PM – Staff
- **Thursday** Feb. 27 – Keith MS  6:15 PM - 7:30 PM – Parents/Community/Staff

These sessions will also serve to solicit feedback regarding the increased funding from the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). As you may know, after more than 20 years, last November state legislatures passed an historic bill, the SOA, to increase funding to schools and change the formula in which funding is allocated. The process of how the Massachusetts provides funding to school districts has been drastically improved and like some other districts, New Bedford Public Schools is expected to receive a financial increase over the next 7 years.

Although I plan to seek feedback each year as we refine our strategic plan, this year – aligned with the SOA and the DESE requirements based on the new law – I must submit a plan to the Department of Education by April 1 for approval. I am confident that we will have informative feedback from each of you. As always, thank you for your support of New Bedford Public Schools and I look forward to hearing your voice.

Thank you,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Diana Barboza  
Clerk  
Casimir Pulaski Elementary School

Diana Barboza has worked with New Bedford Public Schools since 2008! She is one of our irreplaceable secretaries at Casimir Pulaski Elementary School, where she has worked for the past eight years. Some of the words that her associates use to describe Mrs. Barboza include: organized, hardworking, diligent, dependable, trustworthy and kind. There isn’t any problem that she will not tackle and no amount of effort that she will not spare to help a student or assist a family member. Melissa Rego, Principal of Pulaski School said, “She works daily to help create a safe and welcoming environment for Pulaski students, staff and families. Her dedication and commitment are worth noting as she ALWAYS goes above and beyond. Diana Barboza is a valued member of the Pulaski team and we are lucky to have her!”

Doug Motta  
Teacher, Academy of Information of Technology,  
New Bedford High School

Spotlight heard about Doug Motta’s work from CVTE Manager Chris Cummings: “Doug is special because that is precisely the way he views New Bedford High School, his colleagues and his students. He is driven; prepping his students to produce compelling video programming about the Whaler Community. As teacher of NBHS’ digital media elective and the NFA-based Information Technology Academy, it is not uncommon for his students to be recording events, classroom sessions and learning lab experiences, or interviewing stakeholders in preparation for NBHS’ weekly newscast, The Whaler Show. In addition to providing meaningful instruction, Doug helps to raise the profile of NBHS and showcases what makes it exceptional learning community. Recently, he directed students’ video production Finance Lab’s grand opening ceremony. He is currently facilitating the video production for the Mr. Whaler event, a long-standing and fun-filled tradition that exemplifies school spirit. Passion, care for students and staff, and a dedication to share the good news of NBHS are what make Doug Motta especially special.”
Around Our Schools

Hayden-McFadden writing and book publishing

Pulaski students

NBHS musicians at the S.E. Mass. Senior District Festival

Sea Lab Class

"Number Detective Academy"

Lunch With Learners with Superintendent Anderson

National School Counselor Week, Feb. 3-7

NBHS Financial Services Lab
Around our schools

Learning about the phases of the moon

Gomes Students honor city resident Jibreel Khazan, one of the Greensboro 4

Parents watch their students’ PowerPoints

Dr. Jason Falk, 8-year volunteer at NBPS

Students “into” their books during independent reading time

Pulaski’s Display of Learning: Topic: Portugal

Carney on the court

Working on their Egg-Drop presentation
Thank you to the NBEA for your donations! Your contributions provide many essential items to our school nurses for NBPS students.

Voices from the History of Education

“There is inevitably a gap between aspiration and achievement in education, and between ideal and reality. And there is frequently a gap between stated intentions and revealed preferences. Moreover, ideals are themselves commonly modified by circumstance. Nonetheless, they have a life and validity of their own and they influence education profoundly, however flawed their substance or imperfect their realization. They are well worth examining, debating, and improving, for there is much more to paideia than mere ideology.”

Lawrence A. Cremin (1925-1990)
Professor, History of Education
Teachers College, Columbia University
Superintendent Thomas Anderson unveiled New Bedford Public Schools District Strategic Plan 2020 at a media event on January 20 at Keith Middle School. Speakers included Mayor Jon Mitchell, school committee, students, teachers and community members.

The plan is the result of input from more than 80 individuals, including students, parents, teachers/staff, administrators, and community members over the course of a year. Also informing the Strategic Plan is the collective feedback from nearly 50 partner organizations representing a wide range of perspectives from across the community.

Mayor Jon Mitchell said, “The schools’ strategic plan has the depth and clarity that New Bedford Public Schools families, and the city as a whole, can appreciate and support. It’s up to all of us to ensure the district’s continued success for our students, but it is clear that meaningful, measurable progress is already happening. New Bedford’s schools have turned the page and are focused on the future; this document collects the community’s shared vision and charts a detailed course for further progress.”

*Strategic Plan 2020 – Unlocking the Future,* is a comprehensive roadmap for reaching district goals, benchmarks, action items and priorities. Divided into three sections, the plan provides an outline on “Lessons Learned” and spells out an action plan with “Strategic Enhancements” which include “New Data Collection, Analysis Systems and New Strategic Monitoring.” The 26-page document identifies district benchmarks and measurable outcomes through 2022.

Introducing the plan, Superintendent Thomas Anderson related how in 2019, NBPS transitioned to a District Strategic Action Plan utilizing the “Planning for Success” model, which does not require the oversight of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). “However, our new goals – building from the initial AIP objectives – use continuous acts of planning, training, measuring, analyzing progress and implementing strategies,” he said, adding “the action plan has been in place and has been guiding our processes as we work to enhance the teaching and learning process.”

Caitlyn Sentes, a 14-year educator and 6th grade ELA teacher at Keith participated in the year-long process of creating the plan. “Our main focus as a committee was to review the current district goals and build a new plan that would help us to improve different aspects of our schools to ensure that our students receive a high quality, balanced education in order to prepare them to compete on the global level,” she said, noting “the opportunity to collaborate with people from so many facets of our city was invaluable.”

The new Strategic Plan lays out agreed-upon strategies to realize the district’s five goals: 1) High Quality Instruction – Increase student achievement by strengthening teaching and learning; 2) Effective Student Support Systems – Create an inclusive, culturally responsive learning environment; 3) Strong Family/Community Relationships – Empower families and the community through collaboration; 4) Organizational Team Excellence – Cultivate and recruit a highly skilled workforce; and 5) Public Confidence and Pride – Implement effective strategies to raise the profile and reputation of NBPS.

Additional speakers included Raquel Reis, New Bedford High School junior; Joaquim “Jack” Livramento, School Committee; Maria A. Rosario, Executive Director, North Star Learning Centers; Richard Leeman, Principal, Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School; Christopher Garcia, President, New Bedford Educators Association; and Jennifer Ferland, Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives & Partnerships NBPS.
Healthy, Non-Food Rewards in Schools

Samantha Therrien, MS, RDN, LDN, Assistant Director Food and Nutrition Services

While sugar-sweetened treats like ice cream, cookies and hot cocoa can motivate children, such rewards for good behavior or academic performance can lead to negative, long-term consequences. As stated by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, “When food is given as a reward, children start to connect it with something good or bad, rather than to see food as fuel for their body. In the long run, this could lead to emotional eating as adults and generate an unhealthy relationship with food. Food rewards also teach kids to expect food when they’ve done something well, which can lead to poor nutrient intakes, eating when not hungry and excess calories. And it teaches them that the food rewarded is more desirable than other foods.”

Action for Healthy Kids reports that verbal recognition is often the best reward. Other options such as classroom awards, eating lunch in a special place, outdoor activities, stickers, or fun physical activity breaks can also be effective.

Download Healthy Kids Tip Sheets here:

Non-food rewards can keep students engaged while supporting a safe and healthy opportunity for them to learn and practice healthy habits that can last a lifetime!

View our menus and nutritional information on www.NBPSmeals.com or through the smartphone app, Web Menus by ISite Software. Stay tuned for more exciting changes!

FOLLOW US: @NewBedfordEATS

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The NBHS Performing Arts Department Presents

A Night at the Pops

Gonsalves/Beardsworth

Gymnasium @ NBHS
Friday, March 13th 7PM

Limited Premium Cabaret-style seating - $15
General Admission - $10
All proceeds benefit Performing Arts Scholarships
What is Public Access Channel 95?

NBTV95 is a non-commercial television channel that airs original programming created by the residents and organizations of New Bedford. Community members produce a wide variety of cable television programs about their experiences, concerns, and interests.

Free training is provided to New Bedford residents and organizations to help them produce quality television programs. This hands-on training covers studio production, field cameras and video editing.

New Bedford Cable Network believes that Public Access Television is a powerful vehicle for promoting greater awareness of New Bedford’s issues and the diversity of its people. We strive to provide outreach to all segments of our multi-cultural and multi-lingual community, ascertaining areas of programming needs, and assessing community response to public access programming. We share our Public studios with New Bedford Government Access Channel 18 and Educational Access Channel 9.

Training classes are held periodically throughout the year, and are free to NB residents and non-profit organizations. To get started, call 508-979-1775 or 508-979-1463 to reach the Public Access Director.
I’M SAVING FOR Vacation.
WE’LL GET YOU STARTED WITH $100*
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www.firstcitizens.org | 800-642-7515

FIRST CITIZENS’ FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

*Valid February 1, 2020 through February 28, 2020. Open a new Statement, Hero, Champion or Club Savings Account with autotransfer from a First Citizens’ Checking Account and complete 15 point of sale Debit Card transactions within the first 60 days of opening account and you could earn a $100 bonus. Once confirmed, $100 bonus will be deposited into your First Citizens’ Savings Account. Cash bonus may be subject to IRS reporting. This offer cannot be combined with any other current or ongoing offers, promotions, & discounts. This is a limited time offer and may be withdrawn at any time. Rates subject to change at any time. Promo code SAV100.