

New Bedford Public Schools  
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building  
New Bedford, MA 02740  
Curriculum Sub Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 16, 2017

Present: Dr. Finnerty, Mr. Amaral, Mr. Livramento

Also in attendance: Dr. Pia Durkin and Dr. Jason DeFalco

Meeting commenced at 6:30pm

Dr. Finnerty called the meeting to order.

Dr. Durkin introduced the topic of the middle school redesign plans and the role enrichment courses will play in the overall recreation of the middle schools. Dr. DeFalco shared that presently each school offers art, music, physical education, health, band and STEM. However, that through the redesign process teachers and administrators may decide to realign positions and create other offerings.

Mr. Amaral asked if there would be any budget implications.

Dr. DeFalco stated that the plans will be as budget neutral as possible.

Mr. Livramento asked how the new enrichments, if any, would come about.

Dr. DeFalco explained that students were being surveyed to get feedback and from there decisions would be made based on interest and that there would be more to come on this topic based on the plans that would be presented in the spring.

Dr. Durkin introduced the overview of the new science curriculum and the need for resources and a program (similar to Reading Street and envisions).

Dr. DeFalco explained that the curriculum is currently being developed by the Office of Instruction and four separate programs were piloted in the Fall and early Winter. Students and staff were surveyed to see what programs they liked best and why. Pearson seemed to have a great deal of support from both students and teachers. The program was cost out for grades 5-8 at approximately \$750,000.00.

Dr. Finnerty commended the district for using a process that asked for student and teacher feedback.

Mr. Amaral stated that the program is definitely much needed and we would have to see how the budget process evolves to determine what can be allocated for funds.