

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
-MINUTES-

PRESENT: MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA, DR. FINNERTY

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, DR. RABINOVITCH, MR. DEFALCO, MR. CARVALHO
(RECORDING)

Dr. Durkin presented her preliminary budget priorities to the Subcommittee. Dr. Durkin noted that last year's budget total request, which was approved, was \$116.4 million, which represents the beginning of the recovery for New Bedford Public Schools. Dr. Durkin stressed the continued need for necessary resources to prevent decline in achievement and that fiscal recovery that began in Fiscal Year 2015 must continue.

Under required areas of need under budget/not budgeted, Dr. Durkin and Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Subcommittee that 247 special education students moved to New Bedford this fiscal year and that Circuit Breaker reimbursements were used as revenue to pay anticipated costs down, leaving no reserve for move-ins. Minimal safety requirements that were under-budgeted in FY 2015 included \$180,000 in minimal safety requirements.

Dr. Durkin updated the Subcommittee that in areas of need/increased costs for FY 2016, technology maintenance is slated at \$367,864; the Governor's mid-year budget cuts include \$88,270 reduction in Quality Kindergarten grant; \$1,252 reduction in Innovation Schools grant; \$180,000 in ELL Academy grant; \$11,000 in Adult Basic Education; and \$66,000 in Mental Health and Substance Abuse grant.

Dr. Durkin informed the Subcommittee that loss of the Quality Kindergarten grant for FY 2016 and absorption into the FY 2016 budget would be at a cost of \$348,623.

Under requirements for the FY 2016 budget, Dr. Durkin informed the Subcommittee that continued support and resources are required for Level 4 school New Bedford High School and Level 5 school John A. Parker School. Dr. Durkin said the cost of a new elementary math program replacing inconsistent and outdated programs would be \$347,130 for three years; a total of 8 teaching and learning specialists would be \$400,000.

Dr. Durkin updated the School Committee on priorities for the FY 2016 budget: full-day Fridays and common planning time for elementary schools (\$1,000,000); ELL services and teachers (20 ELL teachers at \$1,000,000); Grade 7 and 8 novels and texts to align with state standards (\$100,000 per grade at two grades for a total of \$200,000); Social studies textbooks for middle school (\$199,500).

Under new business:

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Subcommittee UNANIMOUSLY approved the waiver of fees.

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Subcommittee UNANIMOUSLY approved the transfer of funds.

- Dr. Rabinovitch reported that HCS is now entering new employees in the MUNIS system.
- Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the MSBA project at NBHS is slated to be complete by the end of April 2015, as is VOIP at the high school.
- Dr. Rabinovitch updated the Subcommittee that MSBA is due to visit five schools in New Bedford on 4/14 to examine new windows and two schools in New Bedford on 4/16 relating to past MSBA projects. Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Subcommittee that the MSBA paperwork for Taylor School at the SeaLab site on Portland Street has been received by the MSBA.
- Dr. Rabinovitch updated the Subcommittee on the formation of a facilities revolving account that Mr. Ari Sky, city CFO, will bring before the City Council; a second revolving account already exists that will be used for SeaLab tuitions.

At 7:02 p.m. a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to adjourn the meeting was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Submitted by,


Jonathan Carvalho

Reviewed by,


Barry Rabinovitch, PhD.