

June 4, 2013

New Bedford School Committee Finance Sub-Committee

In attendance: Bruce Oliveira, Chair; Larry Finnerty; Jack Nobrega; Barry Haskell, Interim Business Manager

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. by Mr. Oliveira.
- 2.0 Mr. Oliveira noted that Marlene Pollack, Jack Livramento, and John Fletcher. Mr. Haskell explained that although they were school committee members, they could not participate in the meeting. However, this was a public meeting and they may observe as any other community member.
- 3.0 The next agenda item was a review of accounts receivable. Mr. Haskell gave a brief outline of all accounts. There were no questions.
- 4.0 There was a discussion of the FY13 budget deficit. Mr. Oliveira asked if there was a final figure for the deficit amount. Mr. Haskell said that he and Mr. Gurek felt that the final amount would be approximately \$3 million, but would be certain until mid-July.
- 5.0 Mr. Oliveira introduced the next item which was how the School Committee would deal with a City Council decision to reduce the FY14 budget to \$105 million or some figure other than the requested \$109. Dr. Finnerty asked whether the City Council could reduce the budget below Net School Spending. Mr. Haskell explained that they could reduce the budget but that it might require litigation or the DESE go compel the Council to meet the Net School Spending requirement.

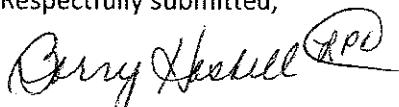
Mr. Nobrega asked what the implications of cuts would be given the anticipated reduction of over 200 positions. Mr. Haskell explained that it would be difficult to staff our schools as each million dollar reduction would require teacher reductions of 40 staff members. Cuts would mean that the Committee would look at elimination of all extra-curricular activities including athletics, marching band and drama as well as closing the small schools such as Rodman, Kempton and Swift.

Mr. Oliveira suggested that the School Committee and administrative team attend the next City Council meeting to be available to answer questions. He felt that the Council needed to have an opportunity to receive input from the School Committee and administrative team in order to make an informed decision.

Mr. Oliveira did entertain questions from the public and media in attendance.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Barry Haskell", with a stylized flourish or initial to the right.

Barry Haskell  
Interim Business Manager