

**PUBLIC HEARING on the SCHOOL DEPARTMENT'S
Fiscal Year 2015 Budget**

**PUBLIC HEARING on School Choice Participation for the
School Year 2014-2015**

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
~MINUTES~**

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. AMARAL, MR. LIVRAMENTO,
MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA MS. POLLOCK

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. MURPHY, MS. BRADSHAW, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was in attendance.

The meeting commenced with an updated Power Point presentation given by Dr. Durkin. She also explained that the budget proposal is reduced to \$116.4M from the original sum of \$118.7M.

- **FY15 Superintendent's Preliminary Budget (updated)**
- FY 14 Budget - \$109.4 (no freezes/on budget)
- FY 15 Budget "keep the lights on" - \$114.1
- FY 15 Budget (original school requests) - \$130
- FY 15 Budget (review of priorities) -\$122
- FY 15 Budget (Preliminary Budget presented February 12) -\$118,683,560
- FY 15 Budget (Ongoing adjustments and review during last three months)
- FY 15 Superintendent's Budget: Request for Support and Approval = **\$116,400,000**

- **Matching the Fiscal Plan to the Education Plan for New Bedford's 12,600 students**
- Adjustments and Review
- Reduction of \$1,119,639 for deferred payment of the K-5 Core Literacy Program – funds for professional development retained
- Reduction of \$160,000 for current program supplies
- Reduction of \$150,000 from start-up grant allocated by DESE for Parker
- Reduction of \$30,000 from phone vendor contract
- Vacancy salary savings of \$823,921 from hiring highly qualified staff to replace retiring staff
- Total Reductions: \$2,283,560

- **FY 15 Superintendent's Budget Included within the \$116.4 FY15 Budget:**
- K-5 Core Literacy Program for every elementary school
- New Bedford High School Level 4 Turnaround Plan
- Parker Level 5 Turnaround Plan
- Support and services for current Level 3 schools
- Starting to fill the gap of much needed services lacking in the FY14 Budget (nurses, ELL teachers, etc.)

- No layoffs due to budgetary constraints
- Central office support to schools through realignment of current positions with new roles and responsibilities resulting in a net cost of approximately \$130,000
- Admin. cost is 2.6% of total budget – (MA state average is 3.2%)
- **FY 15 Superintendent's Budget NOT Included within the \$116.4 FY15 Budget:**
- A new K-8 Math program
- Upgraded new technology
- Additional library needs
- Filling the total gap of English Language Learner services
- Additional needed support services
- Addressing the shortened school day for 6,000 elementary students on Fridays
- Cost of deferred payments for the literacy program in FY16 and FY17

Total Request: \$116,400,000

This number represents a request of 1.8% above Net School Spending operating budget calculation.

To several questions asked by School Committee members, Dr. Durkin responded as follows:

- Preparation is ongoing to prioritize technology and the English Language Learner (ELL) programs with the FY16 budget
- Good coaching, follow up and more time for professional development for teachers to learn new techniques will take place where there are no assistants in the classrooms.
- Regarding a new math program – the cost will be approximately \$3M. This will be considered going forward.
- Per pupil cost is approximately \$13,000
- In order to eliminate early dismissal on Fridays for elementary school students, more art, music and phys. Ed. Teachers will have to be hired to provide the preparation time for teachers during the regular school day.
- Funding will be needed in the FY 16 budget for the library at NBHS to satisfy needs and accreditation specifics under NEASC.
- Middle Schools sports to be funded at \$60K and was included in the original budget proposal

Mayor Mitchell stated that the budget process was understandable and done early enough. Dr. Durkin, Mr. Murphy and staff worked hard to get to this amount. People can look forward to stability in the next coming year.

Public Hearing:

1. Tom Davis – Community/Business Leader - Support for the FY 15 budget
2. Danielle Medeiros – Support for the FY 15 budget
3. Pete Selley – Bristol County Bank – Support for budget and will support tax increase if necessary
4. Carl Taber – BayCoast Bank – Support for the FY 15 budget
5. Lynn Mastera – Precix – Support for the FY 15 budget. Hiring 500 workers in the future and will need educated workers.
6. Richard Motta – Joseph Abhoud Mfg. – Support for the FY15 budget. City cannot compete with if there are educational deficits.
7. Ellyn Gallant – Principal/Gomes School – Support for the FY15 budget. Needs Sped. ELL and library support.
8. Lina DeJesus – Principal/Lincoln School – Support for the FY15 budget. Need support for professional development and technology.

At this time, Mayor Mitchell called for a motion to consider the approval of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget in the amount of \$116,400,000.

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to approve the Fiscal Year 2015 budget in the amount of \$116,400,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	
7 – Yeas	0 – Nays
	0 – Absent

The Regular Meeting of the School Committee commenced.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2013 Sub Committee Meeting on Facilities.

Superintendent's Report:

The following administrators were introduced:

- Carrie Cetenich – Assistant Principal, grades 11 & 12/NBHS
- Kathryn Rezendes – Assistant Principal, grade 10/NBHS
- Robert Siciliano – Chief Operations Officer/NBHS
- Akilah Alleyne – Equity, Diversity and Recruitment Specialist
- Heather Emsley – Executive Director of Human Capital Services
- The future Administrators at New Bedford High School, Kathleen Dawson, Sean McNiff and Michael Lazzareschi along with Chief Academic Officer, Jason DeFalco, gave a Power Point presentation on the “New” Bedford High School.

The presentation, in its entirety is as follows:

New Bedford High School: Upcoming Changes

Next Year

- 7 Periods
- MassCore graduation requirements and 5 Choices of Majors
- Advisory
- Clear administrative structure and accountability
- Aligned Professional development and 6 Content Instructional Leaders

Now

- 4 blocks
- Little discussion of future areas of study
- Limited advisory experiences
- Less focused administrative structure

- Limited professional development and support

Focusing on Positive Culture & Climate

- Set school-wide expectations, rules, rewards and consequences for behavior.
- Identify core values and beliefs that we all contribute to the positive climate.
- Implement an Advisory program.
- Start a Restorative Justice program at NBHS.
- Visibility, accessibility and availability of all administrators.
- Summer professional development on guided discipline and student support. (20 hours)
- Engaging classrooms where learning is the priority and students are focused and on task.
- Consistency and follow through.
- Support and coaching will be on-going and throughout the school.

Focusing on the Program of Studies (POS)

Course selections built on:

- college & career readiness factors,
- interest of the students' survey results,
- successful programs currently in place
- the needs of industries.

Choices of 5 Majors:

(Four of which are National Academy Foundation Career Academies)

- Academy of Arts & Humanities
- Academy of Engineering
- Academy of Finance
- Academy of Health Sciences
- Academy of Information Technology

Each major requires students to take and pass at least four courses in the major and to participate in dual enrollment and internships whenever possible.

Students choose their major toward the end of their freshman year after exploratory of each major.

Academy of Arts & Humanities

Built on the strong program currently present.

Involves academic disciplines that study human culture to help our students better understand their human experiences.

Courses: Art, Music, Theater Arts, Criminal Justice, Pre-Law & Legal, Psychology and AP Human Geography.

Concentrations: art, music, criminal justice, pre-law, world language

Academy of Engineering

Responds to an acute need for engineers in this country. The Academy will use curriculum from well- established and proven organizations.

Courses include: Intro to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering & Architecture, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Digital Electronics, Green Methods, Biotechnical Engineering and Robotics.

Concentrations: robotics, renewable energy and manufacturing

Academy of Finance

Connects students with the world of financial services and personal finance

Courses: Applied Finance, Business Economics, Business in Global Economy, Entrepreneurship, Ethics in Business, Financial Planning, Financial Services, Insurance, Managerial Accounting, and Principles of Accounting.

Concentrations: accounting, economics, finance and entrepreneurship

Academy of Health Sciences

Addresses the critical achievement gap in STEM fields and develops a pipeline of students prepared to pursue health-related degrees and professions in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy

Courses: Health Careers Explorations, Foundations of Anatomy & Physiology I & II, Global Health, Biotechnology, Diagnostic Services/Medical Diagnostics, Therapeutic Services/Medical Therapeutics, Health Informatics/Principles of Health Informatics.

Certifications: Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA).

Concentrations: Pre-med, EMT, Emergency Medical Responder and CNA

Academy of Information Technology

Prepares students for career opportunities in programming, database administration, web design and administration, digital networks, and other areas in the expanding digital workplace.

Courses: Computer Networking, Computer Systems, Database Design, Digital Video Production, Graphic Design, Introduction to Programming, Principles of IT, IC³ Extension, Microsoft Office Specialist Extension, Web Design, Visual Basics, C++, App Development, AP Computer Programming

Concentrations: computer programming, web design, and Microsoft office specialist

So what does this look like for our students?

Our Vision for Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning in NBPS and NBHS- every student- every day- enhancing student strengths and supporting their areas for growth.

Scheduling, program of studies, and professional development was designed to support our vision for teaching and learning.

The programming at NBHS will be unique in its design and not offered in smaller surrounding communities.

Two Levels of Rigorous Standard-Based Instruction: College & Career Readiness

Common Core Standards--CCS Level formerly called pre-AP

Keeping same curriculum while putting emphasis on the common core skill sets required of all students.

Advanced Placement—AP Level

Currently offering 12 AP level courses

Looking to add three more AP level courses:

AP Human Geography, AP Music Theory & AP Studio Art

All AP teachers attending training this summer

Professional development and coaching this summer and throughout the year.

Freshman Year—Year of Preparation

Success for all students by providing:

- Safe & engaging school environment
- Positive relationships
- Clear academic & social expectations

Students will be placed based on 8th grade performance data, including attendance, discipline, and academic performance.

Students requiring enrichment: access to additional challenging opportunities in ELA & Math.

Students requiring acceleration: receive scaffolding to ensure success in current ELA & Math classes.

Through exploratory projects and support, freshmen will choose their major toward end of their first year.

Summer Acceleration Academy

Collaborating now with middle school administrators and teachers to identify 100 students for the program. Using grade 8 Galileo Data, discipline data, attendance, and middle school transcripts as a means of student selection.

Ensuring timely communication with parents, students, and teachers.

Developing projects for students that will give them a chance to showcase what they have learned.

Planning continued support and follow - up throughout the year.

General Updates:

- Schedule for every student by end of school year
- Scheduling student and faculty information sessions for all students before the end of school year
- Continuing hiring
- Selecting new Student Information System
- Infrastructure upgrade for the school underway
- Organizing out-reach to middle schools, families in their communities, neighboring communities, local colleges & universities and industries
- NBHS is on the road to success for ALL students and faculty!
Together We Will Be Successful!

Ms. Dawson, future Headmaster, stated that lots of outreach is going on to help parents and students prepare for the new structure of the High School. Also, a new student information system will be up and running for the 2014-2015 school year.

Mayor Mitchell asked how the five academies were selected. Ms. Dawson responded that the School Redesign Team sent out surveys to see what offering would be most popular. Mass Insight also recommended pathways – employers looking for future workers. The majors that are at the high school will be built upon and hiring will be done to meet the needs of the students.

Mayor Mitchell also asked how the decision was arrived at to place all freshmen at the same level. Ms. Dawson explained that according to teachers, the curriculum was not always equitable. Core curriculum was not reaching the AP students as it should. Teachers will be trained and will receive professional development to add to their craft to teach students and push at every level. Ms. Dawson, Mr. McNiff, Mr. Lazzareschi and Mr. DeFalco all reiterated that the foundation must be in place first; students will be identified as to whether they need enrichment or accelerated programs beyond the common core class and all students can achieve, not matter what their level of learning.

Dr. Durkin continued with her Superintendent's Report:

- Parker School – A parent meeting was held at the school. Many applicants for positions.
- RETELL – DESE initiative to give teachers endorsement by making courses available to help teachers be more proficient in helping ELL students
- K12 Insight Survey – Launched today to give the community the opportunity to participate on district initiatives, especially area of communication.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to accept the Superintendent's Report.

Business Office Report (Patrick Murphy):

- Principals advised to spend down their accounts
- Food Service preparing to offer universal free breakfast and lunch to all students next year
- Transportation – Preparing for new software

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral to accept the Business Office report.

Personnel Report (Ms. Bradshaw):

- Gearing up for next year
- MUNIS training continuing

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral to accept the Personnel report.

Several members gave reports.

Dr. Finnerty offered the following dates to commence and conclude the Superintendent's Evaluation:

- Special Meeting – May 28, 2104
- Regular School Committee Meeting – June 16, 2014

Student Representative, Adam Vieira, gave his last report and was complimented and thanked for his two-year participation on the School Committee. Adam was presented with a plaque and gifts by the Committee.

Public Hearing and vote on School Choice Participation for School Year 2014-2015.

(The school choice program allows parents to send their children to schools in communities other than the city or town in which they reside. Tuition is paid by the sending district to the receiving district. Districts may elect not to enroll school choice students if no space is available.)

No one came forward to speak at the Public Hearing.

Dr. Durkin's recommendations was to not participate in School Choice.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to not participate in School Choice for the 2014-2015 school year.

Informational - Notification from Andrew Kulak/Headmaster/NBHS, that Genesis Galan (Class of 2015) has been elected to serve as Student Representative to the School Committee with Sarah Hope (Class of 2015) serving as alternate, effective June 16, 2014.

Committee members welcomed Ms. Galan and Ms. Hope.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to create the positions of English as a Second Language Teachers (ESL) and Family Welcome Center Specialist & Registrar.

Dr. Durkin addressed the Committee in regard to the school calendar for the next school year. She mentioned that Parker School will have their own calendar and that it was reviewed by the district's union presidents.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve the 2014-2015 School Calendar.

Requests for Out of State Field Trips:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to take up all requests for Out of State Field Trips together.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve all requests for Out of State Field Trips as follows:

1. Request from Chris Parker/Teacher/NBHS to take eight students and two chaperones to Hattiesburg, MS from May 16-18, 2014, to compete in the Seaperch National Championship. (Cost to be paid by NBHS budget.)

2. Request from Anthony DiFonso/Principal/Swift School, for permission to take 243 students and 17+ chaperones to Rhode Island, on June 19, 2014, to visit the Roger Williams Park Zoo. (No cost to the local budget.)
3. Request from R. Bruce/J. Ferreira/M. Ferro/J. Ferreira/D. Rebeiro/Teachers/Carney Academy to take 92 students and 12 chaperones to Rhode Island on June 10, 2014 to visit the Providence Children's Museum. (No cost to the local budget.)
4. Request approval from Michael Florio/Teacher/NBHS to take eight students and three chaperones to Jaffrey, NH on May 24, 2014 to go hiking in the Mt. Monadnock area as part of a Great Outdoors Club activity. (No cost to the local district.)
5. Request for Louise Wheeler/Hannah Beaulieu/Teachers/Taylor School, for permission to take 29 students and four chaperones to Mystic, CT on June 23, 2014 to visit the Mystic Aquarium. (No cost to the local budget.)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve a request from Patricia Keefe/Ashley Pereira/Guidance Counselors/NBHS to travel to Manchester, NH from June 4-6, 2014 to attend the New England Assoc. for College Admissions Course (NEACAC) annual meeting and conference. (No cost to the local budget.)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at New Bedford High School and Gomes School.

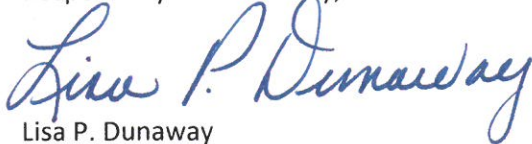
At 9:35 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session for the following purposes:

- To discuss strategies in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel
- To discuss strategies in preparation for negotiations with union personnel
- Non-union personnel matter

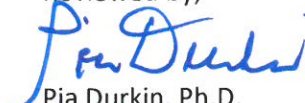
The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	
7 – Yeas	0 – Nays
	0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway

Reviewed by,


Pia Durkin, Ph.D.
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee