

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY (Arr. @ 7:10), MR. AMARAL, MR. LIVRAMENTO,
MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. POLLOCK

ABSENT: MR. NOBREGA

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording
Secretary)

Genesis Galan, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept and approve the following School Committee meeting minutes:

- Sub Committee on Facilities – August 5, 2014
- Regular Meeting – July 14, 2014
- Regular Meeting – August 25, 2014

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin):

- Dr. Durkin introduced:
 - Lynn Dessert, new Data and Assessment Manager
 - Bonzie Colson, new Boys' Head Basketball Coach
- Dr. Durkin presented the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) as follows:

Objectives:

1. High-Quality Teaching
2. Data Use
3. Team Excellence
4. Community Engagement

Where Are We Now?

MCAS proficiency-

- increased by 2 percentage points, to 47% in English Language Arts (ELA) and 39% in Mathematics which are generally on par with other Commissioner's Districts.

MCAS warning/failure-

- declined by 2 percentage points, slightly outpacing other Commissioner's Districts.

Student Subgroups-

- high needs students, low-income students, English Language Learners, and students with disabilities – demonstrated improvement of 4-5 percentage points, as measured by academic performance and growth over previous years.

NBPS showed progress in narrowing the "proficiency gap," making progress in 10 of the 12 targets in ELA and 8 of the 12 targets in Math.

- We are showing progress with all students making steady improvement reflected in the PPI (Progress and Performance Index).
- We need to increase overall achievement gains to raise schools toward higher percentile ranks reflected in the CPI (Composite Performance Index).

Points of Light ~ A Strong Focus on Teaching and Learning

- John B. DeValles- Double digit decrease in warning/failing percentages with significant increases of students in the advanced category
- Elwyn G. Campbell- Moved from Level 3 to Level 2
- Casimir Pulaski- Made on or above target growth in each tested area moving 6 out of the 10 student groups to double digit student growth gains
- Jireh Swift- A Level 1 school, moved from the 25th percentile to the 32nd percentile in statewide performance

Dr. Durkin also added that the principals at the above mentioned schools adapted their leadership to what needed to be done to support staff and students and looked at data to assess needs.

What Are We Doing Differently?

Students

- Focus on core instruction
- Small group targeted support
- Engagement through rigor

Teachers

- Focus on core instruction
- Growth producing feedback
- Strategic support
- Collaboration time

Principals

- School and classroom visits with growth producing feedback
- Principal learning groups
- Focused leadership, curriculum and instructional coaching
- Weekly instructional newsletter

High Quality Teaching and Learning

- Expand teacher expertise in curriculum development
- Defining rigor and student engagement
- Growth-producing feedback and follow-up supervision

Data Use

- Teacher Collaboration Teams
- Shift from analysis to “acting on” the data

Communication as a work in progress

- Whaler 180/Weekly Instruction Newsletter
- Marketing the AIP
- New district website

Community Engagement

- Work with families to serve as partners in their child’s education
- Teachers conduct and maintain consistent communication with families using multiple methods
- Conversation with the Commissioner
- Various family nights
- Active Family Engagement Center

- Technology use
- Community connections/organizations
- General support resources

Saturday Opportunities

- “Shares” - parent café and breakfast, supporting literacy at home (in multiple languages)

Team Excellence

- Human Capital Services
- Newly constructed Office of Instruction
- Superintendent’s Guiding Coalition Team (GCT)
- Messaging throughout the administration building

Challenges

Shift in Thinking
Implementation of Reading Street
Staff development
Adult collaboration
Time

Opportunities

Strengthen practice
Improved literacy skills and student achievement
Improved expertise in leadership, curriculum and instruction
Building an excellent school district

NEXT STEPS

Marketing the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP)

School Improvement Plans (SIPs): in process

Educator Evaluation Process: goal setting, etc.

Administrator Evaluation Goal Process:

- 90-day evaluations – process will see missteps early on – encouragement will be given to those who need support.
- Annual process

Superintendent Evaluation: Annual goals coming on November 17th

To a question by Mr. Livramento, Dr. Durkin explained that in order to get everyone on board, planning and support had to come from administration to principals to teachers.

Mr. DeFalco explained, after a question by Ms. Pollock, that principals, assistant principals/TLS and other staff help to develop the School Improvement Plan.

To a question from Dr. Finnerty, Dr. Durkin stated that the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) testing will be done with paper and pencil and computers will not be used until there is an influx of resources to help bring the district to be where it should be regarding the standards of technology.

Mayor Mitchell commented that the intensity felt in the district is a good sign of how people are working. Planning, preparation and instruction are keys to success in the classroom.

➤ **Advanced Placement Courses**

- More students are taking the courses; 419 total which is a significant increase from the 199 students enrolled in 2013-2014.
- Seven period schedule permits more flexibility to students.
- Teachers are willing to take on AP classes and to participate in training.
- Saturday sessions will begin for the first time at NBHS.
- All students who take AP courses will be required to take AP exams.

Mayor Mitchell commented that middle school parents should think about NBHS and the amount of opportunities that are available for students to have a better chance to get into top colleges and universities.

- NBPS - New Website
 - Rob Tetreault and Jen Carling gave a demonstration of the new website for the Committee. Mr. Tetreault also stated the new site was professional, had ease of navigation and staff will strive to have correct and updated information.
- Dr. Durkin delivered a security update stating that there are two security work groups in place and the findings will be provided at the December 15 School Committee meeting. Proposals from three security companies have been received to date and alarms will be tested at least three times per year by principals.
- Dr. Durkin reported that at the October 16 Facilities Sub Committee meeting, a discussion took place regarding a concern for a lack of a second egress to arrive or depart from the Pulaski School property. It was proposed that another emergency route should be studied with representatives from the City.
- Fund raiser protocols (receiving of funds) have been put into place.

Business Office Report (Dr. Rabinovitch): (Supporting documents labeled "4B")

Dr. Rabinovitch addressed the Committee with the following update:

- The FY Budget updates and spend-down report was reviewed.
- New money handling protocol was explained. (School fund raisers, etc.)
- MSBA Update: Weekly meetings are taking place at the high school to monitor progress. Work is scheduled to be completed by mid-winter. Meetings every two weeks are taking place on the Taylor/Sea Lab project. Meeting is being scheduled within the next few weeks to complete an education vision for this building. Openings are scheduled for 9/2016 and 9/2017 (Taylor/Hannigan) respectively.
- Food Service: There is a 9% increase in school lunch and a 5% increase in school breakfast participation.

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

Public Comment:

- Donald Gomes: Update and clarification on the Keith Francis plaque.
- Ciera Vicente: Announcement regarding suicide prevention awareness and an upcoming fund raiser

Personnel Report (Ms. Emsley): (Supporting documents labeled "4C")

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Ms. Emsley responded that the district partners with Bridgewater State University to provide courses in special education areas to teachers on waivers.

Ms. Emsley responded to a question by Mr. Amaral that there are 20 openings district wide; 17 at the high school. She maintained that the district looks for the best candidates and does not lower the standards. Classes at the high school are being filled by teachers in the building or by substitutes. The science area classes have been redistributed to accommodate the teacher vacancies.

Exit interviews will be put in place in the future when a staff member plans to leave the district.

Mr. Livramento questioned what the district is doing to plan for next year. Ms. Emsley said a timeline for outreach to colleges and job fairs are planned to recruit staff members.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to accept the Personnel Report.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Head Basketball Coach, Bonzie Colson, for permission to take the NBHS Boys Basketball Team to Orlando, FL From December 26, 2014 through January 1, 2015 to participate in the annual KSA Holiday Basketball Tournament in Disney World with all expenses paid by the NB Basketball Boosters Club.

Several School Committee Members gave reports.

The Student Representative gave her report.

At this time, Dr. Durkin asked the Committee for their consideration in approving the appointment of Dr. Barry Rabinovitch as the Interim Business Manager.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve the appointment of Dr. Barry Rabinovitch as the Interim Business Manager to serve through June 30, 2015.

At 8:40 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, without returning to Open Session, for the following purposes:

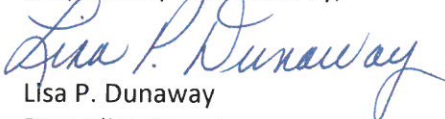
- To discuss issues related to school security
- To discuss strategies in preparation for negotiations with union personnel
- To discuss strategies in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel

The roll call vote was as follows:

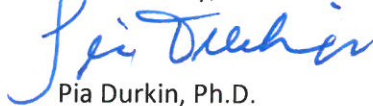
Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Absent	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas	0 – Nays	1 – Absent
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Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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