

**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. EMSLEY, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Genesis Galan, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to accept and approve the following School Committee meeting minutes: (Supporting documents labeled "3")

- Sub Committee on Policy – January 23, 2014
- Sub Committee on Transportation – March 27, 2014

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin): (Supporting documents labeled "4A")

- Dr. Durkin issued the first "Above and Beyond" Recognition Awards to the following staff:
Jim Duggan (Carney) and Julie Mador, Eliany Grace, Cristina Holzer, Patricia Morck (Welcome Center), Lee Thomas and Diane Furtado (Sped Office)
- Class Sizes and Enrollment - Dr. Durkin issued the following report:

General Information

As of September 12, enrollment within New Bedford Public Schools has increased from 12,745 in SY13-14 to 12,806 in our current year reflecting a net increase of 61 students. Please note, as a public school system, there is no cut-off enrollment date and public school students enroll each and every day that the school system is open during the full calendar year. Though the general enrollment numbers have not increased substantially, we have seen significant shifts in grade enrollments in some schools.

We have made staffing changes to meet those grade enrollment shifts.

- Two (2) positions at Ashley School were restored.
- One (1) position was moved from Parker to Hathaway due to a shift in enrollment as well as transfer requests.
- We added one (1) Grade 1 position to DeValles.
- We added one (1) Kindergarten position to Gomes.
- We added one (1) Kindergarten position to Winslow.
- We added one (1) Kindergarten position to Rodman.

Addressing Class Size Issues/Physical Space

- Ashley's Grade 5 has been reviewed by the Principal
- Lincoln's 1st and 2nd Grade will have three (3) additional paras to provide additional support.
- Winslow 1st and 2nd grade will have two (2) additional paras to provide additional support.
- All of these positions are supported within the current FY15 Budget.

Out-of-District Transfers

- Across the district, there were 400 requests for out-of-district transfers. Each was reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Chief Academic Officer along with other administrators relevant to the individual student's needs. Equity and access was provided, in that all requests, with the appropriate documentation, were approved. It was the administration's understanding that this was not done in the past. We also took into account balancing out class sizes and keeping siblings together in the same school.
- The entire process for out-of-district transfers is currently being reviewed and we will be bringing forward suggestions and recommendations for the future.

Reasons for Enrollment Increases

- DeValles' overall enrollment is the same but there was a shift in teacher assignments due to the shift in student enrollment
- Lincoln's overall enrollment increased by 4 students but there was a shift in enrollment leading to an increase in Grades 1 and 2 (with families moving in and moving out of the city)
- Winslow's overall enrollment has increased from 279 to 322 which is an increase in 43 students. Thirty-two (32) students are out-of-district; eleven (11) students are within the Winslow district. Twenty-three (23) of those 43 students are students attending the new Kindergarten classroom. Nine (9) students of the 43 are in Grades 1-5 and 11 were new registrations (from within the Winslow area) which were received this past month. Four (4) students transferred out of Winslow to other schools. The increase in Grades 1 and 2 are from within-district registrations.

A discussion was held on the out of district transfers. Mr. Oliveira stated that the district boundaries should be reviewed. Dr. Durkin mentioned that she would like to see strong after school child care at several schools so families could have their children attend their neighborhood schools rather than ask for out of district permission to go elsewhere for child care purposes.

Dr. Durkin also stated that class size will continue to be reviewed to keep appropriate numbers and in the future, the magnet programs will be reviewed to study proper opportunities.

Regarding the transportation issues at the start of the year, Dr. Durkin stated that many problems were attributed to data entry issues and a new software program. She assured the Committee that it would not happen again.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, JoAnn Smith, Transportation Supervisor, said that she did not meet with the former Transportation Supervisor. She went on to explain that once the software is completely updated, it will be very helpful to the district, including the help it provides in determining the two mile radius.

Mayor Mitchell stated that more communication was needed to let parents know that there was going to be a change to the system.

➤ New Bedford High School

Ms. Dawson, Headmaster, addressed the Committee with the following:

- Teachers/students came to school very eager.
- Teachers rallied and showed support and it was noticed by students.
- Scheduling is an issue – noting that IPass is a challenge. The team and staff worked night and day to try and get changes corrected. Staff is making sure that we are in compliance with IEPs and ELL student placements.
- Classroom observations are ready to start.

- Initial drafts of students' requests were given out in June. The schedules were then tweaked to go from block scheduling to seven periods. All schedules (2300) were put together by hand.
- Most freshmen received their schedules during orientation.
- Some students do not have completed schedules.
- Migration to a new student information system will start and we hope to be ready before June.
- First Student Advisory session will begin on September 24 and continue every other Wednesday.

Mayor Mitchell stated that the High School climate is very different and this should be conveyed again and again to the public to inform them of the environment and the educational opportunities.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Ms. Dawson responded that there was no report on staff attendance as our current system is labor intensive to follow staff absences. The new system may be brought forward next year to follow attendance.

At this time, Mr. Amaral asked if there was an update on the Reading Street curriculum. Mr. DeFalco stated that he met with the representative and general manager of the text book company and the district will be getting a return for the company's missteps (late deliveries, back orders, damages, etc.). Dr. Durkin stated that all schools have received the core parts of the program and updates are provided on a regular basis.

Business Office Report (Mr. Murphy): (Supporting documents labeled "4B")

Mr. Murphy addressed the Committee with the following update:

- Updating the actual FY15 staff and salaries are top priority
- A review and update of the Administrative Cost Agreement with the City and School Department has been drafted. This agreement has not been updated for seven or eight years.
- Free Universal breakfast and lunch started on the first day of school. Milk is not free unless it is part of a meal. Year over year meal totals comparison will be available at the end of September.
- Facilities staff responded to flooding at Carney Academy the weekend prior to school starting. The City Solicitors office will provide documentation to recover costs for the NBHS and Keith vandalism incidents.

Mr. Murphy provided the Committee with the following update on MSBA projects:

- New Bedford High School: ACG is the owner's project manager and the Mt. Vernon Group is the architect overseeing the project. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of November.
- Taylor at Sea Lab: ACG is the owner's project manager and the Mt. Vernon Group is the architect overseeing the project. The current timeline indicates that the entire Sea Lab project will be completed not later than September 2016.
- Hannigan Feasibility Project: Daedelus is the owner's project manager and T2 is the architect overseeing the feasibility project. Discussion will take place on movement of students before Taylor/Hannigan are completed.

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

Ms. Emsley reviewed the Personnel Report and explained to the Committee that other urban transformation districts are going through the same transitions with resignations. Staff that are resigning are going to non-urban districts. Ms. Emsley went on to report that of the 130 new teachers, there are a mixture of new graduates and others who have come from other districts with experience. Those on waivers may come from other states and are waiting to complete mandates set forth by the DESE.

Ms. Emsley stated that there are currently 14 openings at the High School and five more throughout the district in the critical needs areas: math, science, ELL, and Special Education.

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

At this time, Mayor Mitchell brought up the matter of the City Council requesting explanations and appearances by the Superintendent and individual School Committee members. The Mayor stated that the City Council has recently taken up matters that involve the school system and appreciates their concern however, calls from constituents should be forwarded to the School Committee or Superintendent's Office. A letter to be sent to City Council President, Joseph Lopes, was read into the record as follows

Dear Councillor Lopes:

We write in response to several recent inquiries by the City Council concerning the affairs of the school department. Specifically, the Council has requested that the superintendent and school committee members explain, either before the Council or by letter, the department's policies and practices concerning school bussing, student uniforms, class scheduling, school building alarm systems, and class scheduling.

While we appreciate the Council's concern about these matters and agree that they are important to the performance of the school system and the welfare of its students, school operational matters like these fall within the exclusive province of the school committee, as the Council well knows. The School Committee has taken up these issues in the past, and will continue to do so as necessary.

We encourage City Councilors to refer constituent matters to the School Committee and the superintendent. We also invite Councilors to attend School Committee meetings to stay abreast of developments.

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to sign and send the above stated letter to the City Council in care of City Council President Lopes.

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

(School Committee members signed the letter. (Supporting document labeled "4D")

Several School Committee Members gave reports.

The Student Representative gave her report.

Public Comment:

- Carol Strupczewski: Concern that there is no second point of entry to the Pulaski School Grounds for Emergency Personnel
- Brian Fernandes: Announcement of the Greater New Bedford Suicide Prevention Awareness walk

After a brief discussion the issues to be discussed and voted on at the annual MASS/MASC Joint Conference in November, 2014, the Committee voted the following:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to direct Mr. Livramento to vote in the affirmative on the following resolutions that will be presented at the MASC/MASS Joint Conference annual business meeting on November 5, 2014: (Supporting documents labeled 6A")

RESOLUTION 1: GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUT OF DISTRICT PLACEMENT COSTS (Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees file for and support legislation that will require institutions providing out-of-district placements for education to file End-of-Year Reports that reflect in detail and inclusiveness that of corporate annual reports and stock offering schedules, and post salaries with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

RESOLUTION 2 - UNIVERSAL QUALITY PRE-KINDERGARTEN ACCESS IN MASSACHUSETTS

(Sponsored by the Framingham School Committee)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file or support legislation that will provide the appropriation for universal pre-K in Massachusetts and will take the steps necessary to provide access to good, quality universal pre-k for all children in Massachusetts.

RESOLUTION 3: CHARTER SCHOOL REFORM

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC call upon the legislature to enact charter school reform legislation that will include provisions that:

- Require BESE to consider social and economic impact upon the districts from which new or expanding charter schools would recruit students.
- Require a strong provision to prevent skimming and suspensions from charter schools that return students whom they no longer wish to enroll to the sending districts.
- Charter school expropriations from local Chapter 70 funding does not severely damage the sending districts.
- Require timely reporting on accountability with meaningful data on student attendance, expulsions and suspensions, student at economic risk (low income) in comparison with sending districts.
- Establishment of benchmarks to measure success
- Establishment of a formula for evaluating school districts that uses a "growth" component that is not less than 50% of the formula.
- Require on an annual basis the reporting of best practices and innovation to the "sending" school districts.

RESOLUTION 4: FINGERPRINTING

(Submitted by the MASC Resolutions Committee)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls upon the legislature to establish such legislation and require that the administering agencies:

- Conduct a periodic system review to consider means of streamlining and reducing costs of operation.
- Ensure that teachers be fingerprinted upon their initial licensure under the supervision of DESE.
- Establish the requirement that teachers be fingerprinted upon their re-certification if they are not already fingerprinted.
- Establish DESE as the clearinghouse for all background checks for all educators.

RESOLUTION 5: REINSTITUTION OF EARMARKING

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC supports the reinstatement of federal earmarks for school district, regional school districts and municipalities through the federal appropriations process.

RESOLUTION 6: UNFUNDED MANDATES AND NEW TESTING

(Submitted by the Arlington, Chelmsford, Lincoln-Sudbury, Mendon-Upton, Northbridge, Holbrook, Woburn, Worcester School Committees)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls on the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the legislature to refrain from adding new mandates including new tests and other initiatives and to revisit the mandates already imposed on districts with a view to reducing interference with classroom instruction, thus allowing educators to do their work.

RESOLUTION 7: ASSESSMENT SYSTEM IN MASSACHUSETTS

(Submitted by the MASC Board of Directors)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education conduct further examination of options for a state evaluation and accountability system and to substantially involve educators and school committee members in the process of choosing an assessment instrument, and to refrain from committing to any instrument before this process is complete.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at Normandin Middle School and Paul Rodrigues Administration Building. (Supporting documents labeled "6B")

At 8:15 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock, 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
Ms. Pollock – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

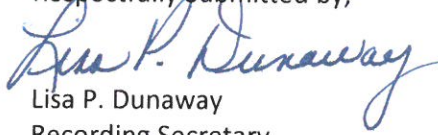
Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas

0 – Nays

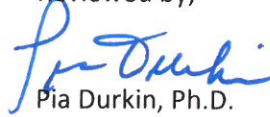
0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,



Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



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