

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

**PRESENT:** MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. AMARAL, MR. LIVRAMENTO,  
MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA (arr. 6:15), MS. POLLOCK

**ABSENT:** NONE

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

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to accept and approve the following minutes as submitted:

- Sub Committee Meeting – Policy – November 14, 2013
- Sub Committee Meeting - Finance: December 12, 2013
- Regular Meeting – December 16, 2013
- Special Meeting - January 2, 2014

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Durkin introduced Ms. Kim Marshall as the Interim Principal at the Rodman School.

Level 4 New Bedford High School update:

School Redesign Team (SRT) - 16 teachers are involved in working to reinvent the structure of New Bedford High School. The team is looking at the following:

- Graduation Requirements
- Career Pathways
- Program of Studies
- Summer Academy Programs
- Student Interest Survey
- Advisor/Advisee Programs

Dr. Durkin told the Committee that she plans to meet with the Student Advisory Council at the high school on February 11 and parents on February 27 and March 3 to answer questions they may have about the changes that will take place at the school next year.

The re-application process has also started for staff at the high school. Due to expressed concerns about the timeline, the deadline has been extended to February 24.

At 6:15, Mr. Oliveira arrived at the meeting.

Dr. Finnerty asked about the Student Interest Survey. Bernadette Coelho, who was invited to answer, responded that the survey will have a number of general questions regarding career pathways to see where the students' interests lie.

Mr. Livramento asked if information was getting out to students and parents that the Level 4 designation will not affect admission to colleges and universities. Ms. Coelho responded that the Student Advisory Committee has sent out information about this. Dr. Durkin responded that the designation is in no way listed on students' official transcripts.

Dr. Durkin stated that she was asked to serve as the Commissioner's Designee to oversee the Level 5 Parker School. A plan is currently being worked on and dates are being organized to negotiate with the unions regarding working conditions and compensation. If no agreement is reached, the Commissioner will make the decision.

To a question asked by Ms. Pollock, Dr. Durkin responded that funding for Parker School cannot be predicted. The school did not receive grant funding when declared a Level 4 School several years ago.

Dr. Durkin made a point to thank Principal Debra Letendre and her staff for the time and effort they are putting in to turnaround the Parker School.

Dr. Durkin informed the Committee that the Central Office will be reorganized. She mentioned that three positions were being requested at this time to continue with the reorganization. Dr. Durkin went on to say that these new positions will take the place of, or combine current ones, and that current funding allocations will be used.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to take agenda item 6A out of order.

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

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted to approve a request to create the following positions (supporting documents 6A):

- Executive Director of Human Capital Services
- Equity, Diversity and Recruitment Specialist
- Assistant Superintendent for Academic Interventions and Professional Development

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

At this time, Dr. Finnerty asked Dr. Durkin about the Innovation School and how it is working in relation to the district. Dr. Durkin responded that she has met with the Governing Board of the Renaissance School and will have a report for the Committee at the March meeting.

Mr. Livramento asked if Dr. Durkin wanted to comment on the recent story by Channel 6 in relation to New Bedford High School. Mayor Mitchell responded that he felt it was irresponsible reporting and the news story was aired during "sweeps week". He also mentioned that the video of a fight shown was not current but rather one that appeared on social media 21 months ago.

## Business Office Report

Mr. Murphy highlighted the following:

- Working to forecast “exits” – compensation for staff retiring or resigning
- On track with programs being encumbered
- Funding for heating with gas and oil
- Fiscal 2015 budget

Mr. Nobrega asked if snow removal was having an impact on the budget. Mr. Murphy responded that most of the work is being done during the day/working hours and at this time has not had a large impact.

To a question asked by Dr. Finnerty, Mr. Murphy responded that it would take a couple of seasons to see what affect the solar panels at New Bedford High School have on energy costs.

Ms. Pollock asked if there was a concern for electricity costs to which Mr. Murphy answered that he is mostly concerned about the gas and oil. At this time, electricity is on budget.

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

## Personnel Report

Ms. Bradshaw highlighted the following:

- Explanation on waivers
- Fingerprinting process deadline moved. All staff hired this year will have to have their fingerprints taken by Sept., 2014. All other staff by 2016.

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

Several School Committee members gave reports.

Student Representative gave his report.

## Public Comment

- Sarah Hope, student at NBHS – Scheduling concerns

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve the following requests for out of state field trips (Supporting documents 6B 1 & 2):

1. Neil Macedo/Varsity Volleyball Coach/NBHS - for permission to take 14 students and five chaperones to Orlando, FL, to attend a pre-season volleyball tournament at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex, from August 27 – 31, 2014. (No cost to the district.)
2. Jane Jacobsen/Entrepreneurship/NBHS – for permission to take 50 students and six chaperones to New York City on May 1, 2014, to visit the NYC Wholesale District. (No cost to the district.)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request by Karen Regan, RN, MSN/Supervisor of Nurses, for permission to travel to Washington, D.C. from 3/10/14 – 3/12/14, to attend the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Family at no cost to the district. (Supporting document 6C)

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) under the Accelerated Repair Program as written (see below). (Supporting document 6D)

*That the City of New Bedford appropriate the amount of thirty five thousand, one hundred and seventy five (\$35,175.00) Dollars for the purpose of paying costs of the replacement of one (1) HB Smith series boiler for the John B DeValles Elementary School, 120 Katherine Street, New Bedford 02744, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto (the*

*"Project"), which proposed replacement project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the City of New Bedford has applied for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said amount to be expended under the direction of New Bedford School Committee. To meet this appropriation the City Treasurer is authorized to borrow said amount under M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The City of New Bedford acknowledges that the MSBA's grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and if the MSBA's Board of Directors votes to invite the City to collaborate with the MSBA on this proposed replacement project, any project costs the City of New Bedford incurs in excess of any grant that may be approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the City of New Bedford; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon an affirmative vote of the City to exempt the amounts required for the payment of interest and principal on said borrowing from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 2½); and that, if invited to collaborate with the MSBA on the proposed replacement project, the amount of borrowing authorized pursuant to this vote shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the City of New Bedford and the MSBA.*

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

At 7:20 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Pollock, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session for the following purposes and to return to Open Session:

1. To discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining (negotiations)
2. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (NBEA- Unit A Level III grievance)
3. To discuss strategy 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 – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	
7 – Yeas	0 – Nays
	0 – Absent

At 8:10 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to reconvene Open Session.

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

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement with Unit A of the New Bedford Educators, dated January 15, 2014 in regard to working conditions for employees at New Bedford High School.

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 - Abstain	

6 – Yeas            0 – Nays            0 – Absent            1 - Abstention

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement with Unit B of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc., dated January 23, 2014 in regard to working conditions for employees at New Bedford High School.

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 - Abstain	

6 – Yeas            0 – Nays            0 – Absent            1 - Abstention

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to authorize the Superintendent to negotiate an amendment to the Memorandums of Agreement dated January 15, 2014 for Unit A (Article 7 Section B-2) and January 23, 2014 for Unit B (Article 4 Section C), to change the date of notification for resignation/retirement from March 1, 2014 to April 1, 2014. Said amendment to be for 2014 only.

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 - Abstain	

6 – Yeas            0 –        Nays            0 – Absent            1 - Abstention

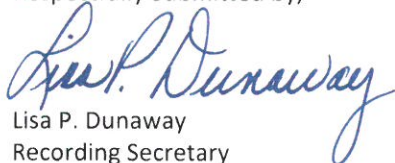
At 8:20 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to adjourn.

The roll call vote was as follows:

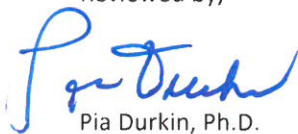
Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas            0 – Nays            0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Lisa P. Dunaway  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

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

