

**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, DR. LARKIN,
MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

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

- Regular Meeting – January 13, 2014

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Durkin announced and introduced the following new appointees (FY15):

Kathleen Dawson – Headmaster New Bedford High School

Michael Lazzareschi- Principal – Lower School/New Bedford High School, Grades 9 & 10

Sean McNiff – Principal – Upper School/New Bedford High School, Grades 11 & 12

During the introduction, Dr. Durkin stated that the magnitude of the decision was greater due to the New Bedford High School being designated as a Level 4 School. She also mentioned that Ms. Dawson, Mr. Lazzareschi and Mr. McNiff had resilience in overcoming adversity in their careers and they also possess experience that will be valuable to the turnaround of the high school.

After the candidates greeted the Committee and the audience, Mayor Mitchell welcomed them to New Bedford and wished them well as they look forward to starting their new positions.

Before Dr. Durkin presented the Superintendent's Mid-Cycle Review of Goals, Dr. Finnerty reviewed the timeline of the Superintendent's Evaluation process. He also mentioned that the process is new to all members and will answer questions they may have during the next few months.

The superintendent's mid-cycle review consists of 6 focused goals, reflecting the district's priorities for improvement. During a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Durkin explained as follows:

Student Learning Goal: New Bedford Public Schools will reduce by at least 40% the number of students who are not proficient or advanced on the ELA and Math MCAS by the end of the year.

Overall, the district is on track to meet the end-of-year target of reducing by 40% the number of students who are not proficient/advanced in ELA.

In many grades, the reduction in students who are not proficient/advanced so far this year surpasses student growth from all of last year.

Overall, the district is on track to meet the end-of-year target of reducing by 40% the number of students who are not proficient/advanced in math in many grades.

In many grades, the reduction in students who are not proficient/advanced so far this year surpasses student growth from all of last year.

Professional Practice Goal: Through the Urban Superintendents' Network, Dr. Durkin stated that she will improve her practice by learning from and with colleagues from other urban districts as to the most effective strategies for raising achievement in a Level 4 district as well as manage the DESE requirements for NBHS and Parker as a result of their new Level 4 and 5 designations.

Status of Level, 3, 4 and 5 Schools:

Level 4: New Bedford High School

- Turnaround plan submitted on time to ESE
- Feedback from ESE to be received by Friday, March 14
- School Redesign Team leading on-the-ground implementation work
- School Redesign Grant application underway

Level 5: Parker Elementary School

- Only Superintendent to be named Receiver of a Level 5 school
- Commissioner made plan public on March 7
- Main strategies in the plan align with the district's priorities for improvement

Level 3 Schools:

- Install new literacy program
- Create an Office of Instruction to support student learning
- Provide intensive supports for middle schools through a state grant

District Improvement Goal 1: By End of Year (EOY), the district data team, school instructional leadership teams, and teacher collaboration teams will be functioning at an effective level as evidenced by a representative sampling of team meeting observations, review of minutes, and the impact of meeting decisions on classroom practice.

Work of Data Teams:

District Data Team meets every two weeks; School Instructional Leadership Team (SILT) meet weekly; Teacher Collaboration Team (TCT)- Elementary meet twice per month, Secondary meet weekly.

All teams working to identify and assess trends and priority standards.

District Improvement Goal 2: By the end of the year, 100% of evaluators will be demonstrating improvement toward proficiency in identifying effective instruction with a focus on rigor as measured by the quality of observations, growth-producing feedback, and overall use of the educator evaluation tool.

Increasing Principal Understanding of Effective Instruction:

- Principals' trainings are conducted once or twice per month throughout the year.
- Principals collaboration teams apply content learned in the Principals' Training
- One on one coaching to reinforce principal understanding of effective instruction
- Principals are expected to spend at least 600 minutes a week on instructional leadership and conduct at least 10 mini-observations a week.

District Improvement Goal 3: The FY15 budget will be devised and proposed according to agreed-upon timelines, reflecting the district's priorities outlined within the district's Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) and communicated to all stakeholders so that the connection between the district's educational plan and the necessary fiscal plan is clear.

District Priorities Addressed in the Budget:

Reduce the number of Level 3 schools

- Reading Street

- Office of Instruction
- English Language Learner supports

Turn around Level 4 & 5 schools

- Increased time for learning
- Reading Street
- Positions to support turnaround efforts

District Improvement Goal 4: By the end of the year, over 70% of families and community members responding to a survey will demonstrate an understanding of the overall vision and new direction for New Bedford Public Schools.

NEXT STEPS:

Stay on course toward maximizing the number of students who will move from Warning/Needs Improvement to Proficient/Advanced status

Continue to support Principals and teachers to unpack data and information to make mid-course corrections as well as continue best practices

Continue to meet Level 4 and Level 5 requirements and aggressively move forward with the School Redesign Grant application for New Bedford High School

Communicate and advocate for the district's needs outlined within the FY15 Budget

Continue to outreach to families and the community to discuss the reform agenda for New Bedford's schools

After the Power Point presentation, Dr. Durkin continued with the following:

Partnership for Assessment or Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) – Dr. Durkin told the Committee that certain schools and classes were testing the pilot. The PARCC test will be given after MCAS testing and parents will be notified if their children will be taking both tests.

Level 4 New Bedford High School update:

Mass Core Requirements: Bernadette Coelho addressed the Committee to explain the proposed graduation requirement that would now be aligned with Mass Core requirements.

School Climate: Dr. Durkin stated that the school is moving in the right direction; issues of altercations are decreasing. School climate will be a key goal of the new administration.

Professional Development: Currently taking place after school in which 85 teachers are voluntarily participating. Jason DeFalco addressed the Committee and reported that eight sessions are given in PD in fundamentals of classroom instruction, coaching sessions to implement programs of study and development of a thriving AP program.

Request to create positions: Dr. Durkin explained the positions of Chief of Teaching and Learning Advancement and Chief of Operations. She also said that three Unit B Assistant Principal job postings will be going out within the next few days.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to approve a request to create the positions of Chief of Teaching and Learning Advancement and Chief of Operations. (Supporting document 6A)

Reapplication Process: Dr. Durkin stated that no one has been terminated or fired and explained that the vast majority of staff will return to the high school who have the commitment to bringing the high school to a higher level of teaching and the will to promote a collegial atmosphere with students and staff. Positions may be eliminated if certain courses within the program of studies are eliminated. Some teachers will be able to move to another position elsewhere in the district if they are certified in the appropriate area. Others will be invited to an interview.

Dr. Durkin briefly reviewed the FY 15 budget that was discussed at the budget session on March 6 and stated that another budget session will be held on March 26 with the Public Hearing scheduled before the Regular Meeting on April 14.

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

Business Office Report:

Mr. Murphy said that retirement/resignation payoffs will be reviewed in April; utility bills on target and gave an update on MUNIS

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to accept the Business Office Report.

Personnel Report:

Ms. Bradshaw stated that teacher resignations and retirements are coming in before the April 1 deadline so they will be eligible to receive the incentive.

There are eight recruiting events scheduled and NBPS will be sponsoring a recruitment fair on March 29 at Keith Middle School between 10:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Positions will be open to fill vacancies and to attract teachers for ELL and SPED positions.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to accept the Personnel Report. (Supporting document 4C.)

At this time Mayor Mitchell requested that certain agenda items be taken out of order.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to take agenda items listed as 6C through 6F out of order.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to approve a request from Marcia Letourneau/Teacher/NBHS, for permission to travel to Kansas City, MO from 6/10/14 – 6/18/14, to attend the Advance Placement Exam Reading conference at no cost to the district. (Supporting document 6C)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to approve a request from Eric Drew/Music/Band Teacher/NBHS for permission to take 37 students and eight chaperones to Washington D.C. from April 24 – April 27, 2014, to perform at the National Festival at no cost to the district.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira to approve a request by Michael Florio/Teacher/NBHS for permission to take 11 students and three chaperones to The Forks, ME from June 6 – June 8, 2014, to go white water rafting as part of a Great Outdoors Club activity at no cost to the district. (Supporting document 6D)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request by Michael Florio/Teacher/NBHS for permission to take six students and two chaperones to Gilford, NH/Gunstock Ski Resort on March 27, 2014, as part of a Great Outdoors Club activity at no cost to the district. (Supporting document 6D)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock to approve a request by Melanie Zugg/Katie Weaver/Teachers/Normandin Middle School for permission to take 50 students and six chaperones to Mystic, CT on May 22, 2014, to visit the Mystic Aquarium as no cost to the district. (Supporting document 6D)

Mayor Mitchell informed the Committee that the agenda item involving the New Bedford Bay Sox should possibly be tabled at this time.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to table a request from Patrick O'Connor/President/New Bedford Bay Sox, to sell beer and wine (pending seasonal license approval) at Bay Sox games during non-school hours at Paul Walsh Field.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira to approve a request from Simone Bourgeois/Facilitator/Sea Lab to raise the 2014 Summer Sea Lab tuition as follows: (Supporting document 6F)

New Bedford Residents: \$365 to \$370 Non-residents: \$465 to \$470

At this time, several Committee members gave their reports.

Student Representative gave his report.

Public Comment: Carol Strupzcewski: Concerned about Pulaski school grounds and handicap ramp cuts in sidewalks

Regarding a School Committee policy on graduation, Dr. Durkin explained to the Committee that the Graduation Requirement should be amended to be aligned with Mass Core. After a brief discussion the Committee voted as follows:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to waive the second reading to amend New Bedford Public Schools Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements as presented by the Policy Sub-Committee.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to amend New Bedford Public Schools Policy IKF – Graduation Requirements as presented by the Policy Sub-Committee. (Supporting document 6E)

At 8:00 P.M. the Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to go into Executive Session without returning to Open Session for the following purposes:

- To discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining – Negotiations Unit A
- To discuss strategies with respect to collective bargaining – Negotiations Unit B
- To discuss strategy 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

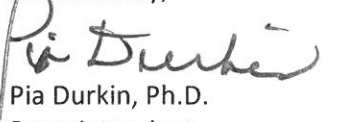
0 – Nays

0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway

Reviewed by,


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

