



**REGULAR MEETING**  
**New Bedford School Committee**  
**Keith Middle School: Monday, February 10, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** MAYOR JON MITCHELL (arrived 6:06PM), MR. BRUCE OLIVEIRA, MR. CHRISTOPHER COTTER, MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL, MS. COLLEEN DAWICKI, MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

**ABSENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. MARJORIE FERNANDES, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ROBERT TETRAULT, MR. ARTHUR MONIZ

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: RAINA GRACE

**2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell – YES (arrived 6:06pm)

7-Yeas, 0-Absent, 0-Absent

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira, to accept the following School Committee meeting minutes (*supporting documents #3*). For the record the year was corrected from January 13, 2019 to January 13, 2020 on the meeting minutes.

- Regular Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2020

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Absent

6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Theresa Francisco, PTO president at the Casimir Pulaski Elementary School shared thoughts in regard to the reinstatement of a School Resource Officer (SRO) at the Casimir Pulaski Elementary School located at 1097 Braley Road, NB, MA and the parking situation at that school. Ms. Francisco presented the School Committee with a petition that she asked the Committee to record and place on file. Ms. Francisco added that the parking situation at the Pulaski school is horrendous and not fair to parents. She stated that the City of New Bedford parking enforcement officers are out at the

school scanning parent license plates and mailing parking tickets to them without even making the person aware of the fact that they are receiving a ticket. She went on to explain her and others safety concerns for students, staff and parents in the area that the school is located in. She and others feel an SRO would help alleviate some of these problems. Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked Ms. Francisco to read aloud the petition and accepted it to be placed on file.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Ms. Colleen Dawicki to accept the petition as presented to the School Committee and to place it on file.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Absent

6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

After the motion took place, Mayor Jon Mitchell, School Committee Chairman joined the meeting at 6:06PM.

Ms. Carol Strupczewski, community member and neighbor to the Casimir Pulaski Elementary School came forward to request from the Superintendent of the New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) and the School Committee that extra security cameras be installed in the outside area of the school. She feels with all the wetlands and wildlife that surrounds the Casimir Pulaski Elementary School and no fencing to protect the students and staff in the event of an emergency, such as, a child wandering from a school or wildlife attacking and taking a child could help provide direction as to what happened and what direction the child has gone in.

#### 5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Raina Grace reported a variety of announcements and updates to the School Committee on what the students at New Bedford High School (NBHS) have participated in over the last month. One of the items Ms. Grace shared was that the NBHS Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) held their annual state marksmanship competition on Saturday, January 25, 2020 and 11 schools and over 400 cadets participated. Ms. Grace shared that NBHS cadets placed second in the competition in all three categories: Physical Fitness, Academic/Leadership and Marksmanship. Ms. Grace shared another item on her agenda that she announced to the Committee at the January 13, 2020 meeting regarding the Mr. Whaler Contest, which was held on Saturday, February 8, 2020 at NBHS. She informed the Committee that 10 seniors competed for the title and over 300 people attended the event. Ms. Grace shared a few other events at the high school and finished her report by inviting the Committee and the community to attend the upcoming MIAA Wrestling Division One South Sectional event that NBHS is hosting on Saturday, February 15, 2020.

#### 6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Before Superintendent Thomas Anderson started his report, the School Committee Vice Chairman, Mr. Christopher Cotter made a motion to take item 8B on the meeting agenda out of order and allow for the approval of the Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative (SMEC) amended Capital Reserve Policy and Articles of Agreement to be heard before the School Committee before moving forward with Superintendent Thomas Anderson's report to the committee so the SMEC representative did not have to sit for the entire School Committee meeting.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to accept changing the order of item 8B on the meeting agenda.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes  
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes  
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes  
Mayor Mitchell - Yes  
*7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent*

Mayor Jon Mitchell went on to introduce the information surrounding SMEC. School Committee member and designee to SMEC, Mr. Christopher Cotter introduced the Executive Director of SMEC, Ms. Catherine Cooper to share what the request to the New Bedford School Committee was all about. Ms. Cooper began by explaining what SMEC is and what the changes to the SMEC Articles of Agreement and Capital Reserve Policy were. She explained that approval needed to come from the School Committee's for the school districts involved. Ms. Cooper first explained that the vote was for the Fall River School District to become a partner and hold membership in the SMEC Articles of Agreement. Ms. Cooper explained that after a 2/3 vote from the involved School Committees that the Articles of Agreement would move forward to the Commissioner of Education in Massachusetts who will bring it to the Massachusetts Board of Education for final approval. Second, Ms. Cooper explained that the Capitol Reserve Policy overseen by the SMEC Board of Directors would allow the board to set aside any surplus funds for capital funded projects and/or the SMEC van fleet. Ms. Cooper shared that SMEC owns one building in the far north end of New Bedford at 4238 Acushnet Avenue, and leases a building in Dartmouth, MA on 25 Russell's Mills Road, as well as, in Fairhaven, MA at 56 Bridge Street. She went on to explain to the committee that SMEC does not receive funds from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and seeks out funding elsewhere. Ms. Cooper answered a variety of questions from the School Committee's members prior to the vote.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the changes to Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative's Articles of Agreement and accept the Fall River School District into the collaborative as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes  
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes  
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes  
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes  
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes  
Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes  
*7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent*

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the amended changes to the Southeastern Massachusetts Education Collaborative's Capitol Reserve Policy for item #2 (from \$250,000 to \$500,000) and accept changes and amendments to item #3 (improvements to Collaborative owned or leased property) of that same policy as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes  
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes  
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes  
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes  
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes  
Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes  
*7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent*

- A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson began his report discussing the Black History Month events that took place in the district. He highlighted the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School located at 261 Mt. Pleasant Street, NB, MA by sharing a video of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students Emmanie DaSilva and London Lipford's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Black History Month essays. The essays were written upon the question "What would you do if you were alive during one of Dr. King's speeches and how would you feel?" After reviewing the video, Superintendent Anderson asked Principal Justine Medina and the two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to come forward in front of the committee. During this time, Superintendent Anderson thanked Ms. Medina and her staff for coming out and supporting her students and their families. Superintendent Anderson presented the students with a bookmark, a Barnes and Noble gift card, a Domino Pizza gift certificate and a NBPS backpack filled with assorted NBPS items. Ms. Medina shared how proud she was of the students and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Ms. Flanigan for the experience of the assignment and

the writing they had done. Before proceeding forward with the Superintendent report. Mayor Jon Mitchell, on behalf of the School Committee, thanked Principal Medina for the work that she is doing at the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School and how proud he and the committee is of the students.

- B. Superintendent Anderson introduced Ms. Emily Westgate from Playworks, Program Manager for the Taunton and New Bedford areas. She shared with the committee the impact of recess. She spoke about recess, the power of play and why recess matters. Ms. Westgate asked School Committee member, Ms. Colleen Dawicki, who is part of the NBPS Wellness Committee to update the School Committee on what the Wellness Committee has been working on with Playworks. Ms. Dawicki gave the background and make-up of the committee and how it was re-established in the summer of 2019 and has taken on the task of recess for students and the "Farm to School" initiative with NBPS Food Services department. Ms. Dawicki then turned the subject back over to Ms. Westgate to explain what Playworks has been doing with recess in the NBPS. Ms. Westgate began by giving an example of the "Four Square" game that is used and what things that are not going on during recess. She shared some enlightening statistics and types of play that happens during a Playworks recess. Ms. Westgate stated that there are two cohorts to the program. Cohort 1 is taken place in the James B. Congdon, John B. DeValles, Irwin M. Jacobs, Ellen R. Hathaway and John A. Parker Elementary Schools. Cohort 2 is taking place at Charles S. Ashley, Sgt. William Carney Academy, Elizabeth C. Brooks, Carlos Pacheco, William T. Rodman, Jireh Swift, Betsey B. Winslow and William Taylor Elementary Schools. Ms. Westgate explained the current growth with the program and how Playworks has been able to work with the district. She included student leadership outcomes, which are resiliency, learning & school engagement, and relationships. She shared the outcomes in the classroom and outcomes on the playground which statistics show are all above 93%. School Committee member, Mr. Jack Livramento asked "What's the main difference between cohort 1 and cohort 2". Ms. Westgate explained the differences between the two and Superintendent Anderson shared how each school is different and Playworks sets up the programming by individualizing each school depending on the play space and availability.

Superintendent Anderson continued his report by sharing a newly created program video with the School Committee called "Handle with Care". He explained to the committee that a group of community agencies with NBPS to make this video to show the emergency and school support system that is put in place for students in distress. The Superintendent explained to the committee what NBPS can do when receiving a "Handle with Care" message from the New Bedford Police Department and other local and surrounding emergency agencies. Upon finishing the "Handle with Care" presentation, the Superintendent stated that he'd like to make note that he met with a group of parents at the Thomas R. Rodman Elementary School earlier that day and those parents shared their perspective on how they felt about recess.

- C. Superintendent Anderson report also included some preliminary budget review information. He began discussing the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) and stated he has been meeting with groups of students, families and community organizations to see what their thoughts and feeling are surrounding what is needed for the students and district. He shared with the committee that he met with 125 students at the New Bedford Boys and Girls Club to discuss the SOA and receive the students input on what they would like to see happen with the funds. He also shared with the School Committee that he would be meeting with several community members and organizations for additional input surrounding the SOA, as well as, the district Strategic Plan that was newly presented to the community. He explained to the committee how NBPS is engaging families, the community, collaborating more and taking what is working and replicating those things more.

The Superintendent went on to explain to the committee that the SOA is a 3-year evidence-based plan that will be reviewed the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) commissioner. He included that there are 4 commitments in the plan which consist of: talent development, conditions for student success, enhanced core instruction and targeted student supports. The Superintendent added that DESE identified several high-quality priority programs that school districts are required to consider and included that the following ones are aligned with NBPS focus areas and support the goals, objectives and outcomes in the district

strategic plan which include: Expanded access to full-day pre-k, early literacy programs, early college programs, support educator curriculum, diversify workforce, leadership programs, staffing for more student access, strategies to recruit and retain educators and facilities improvements. Superintendent Anderson shared some upcoming dates for the districts Community Feedback Sessions/Forums with the community regarding the increased funding by the SOA. He went on to tell the committee that he has been working with Chris Garcia from the New Bedford Educator's Association (NBEA) to make sure the teacher voices are being heard in this process, parents, students, etc. and how interesting its been to hear student thoughts are in what they would like to see. He shared a video clip of some of the students thought before Superintendent Anderson stated that all district plans need to be in by Wednesday, April 1, 2020 and that he would be sharing more information at the March School Committee meeting. The Superintendent also shared he has been into 3000 classrooms to date and over 60 classrooms this week alone.

Superintendent Anderson went on to switch the topic and share his insight on what to investments NBPS was focusing on for this year. He shared that creating opportunities, building staff capacity, providing effective student services, providing quality learning spaces and creating competitive salaries. The Superintendent went on to provide the investment in the graduate profiles, updates on the district goals, a breakdown of the student populations with comparisons in growth in the district and state from 2015-2016 to the current school year. He included NBPS mindset is on access and equity for the students and shared the how the impact of low socioeconomic status affects behavior and academic performance. Information was also shared with the committee surrounding the changes and updates to technology, curriculum and facilities standards of care. Superintendent Anderson went on the share the current increased learning opportunities that are going on in the schools: fine art expansion, elementary basketball leagues, robotics team, parent engagement, etc. He added a variety of positions being reviewed to assist with the process including a Curriculum, Data and Assessment Manager for k-12 Magnet and Accelerated Learning programs. He also included what positions were implemented for this 2019-2020 school year and showed how the expenses were broken down for the committee to see.

Superintendent Anderson concluded his report with an overall explanation of the Net School Spending for fiscal year 2021. He shared the level of service was estimated at \$157,066,514, facilities and maintenance around \$750,000 and special education at a cost of \$3,583,486.

## 7. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Finance and Operations Report: Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Mr. Andrew O'Leary began by updating the School Committee on the NBPS Function Code Report. Mr. O'Leary reviewed the report and stated that NBPS is focused on special education and is eager to restore the circuit breaker account in order to have it as a buffer next year for special education. Mr. O'Leary went on to review the general expense report, the salary and transfer reports. Mr. O'Leary shared some of the work being done at the Casimir Pulaski and Thomas R. Rodman Elementary Schools. He also included that facilities preventative maintenance projects would begin in the spring. Committee Vice Chair, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked a few questions about the autism classrooms at the Sgt. William Carney Academy Elementary School and the elimination of a sensory room at that school. Superintendent Anderson stated that he would have the Executive Director of Special Education come to a future meeting to explain the changes and logistics of getting that room up and running.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to accept the Transfer Report as presented.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to accept the Finance and Operations report as presented.

- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services, shared that there were 22 appointments with 8 from Unit A, 4 from AFSCME, 5 paraprofessionals and 5 non-union, as well as, 3 retirements with 1 from Unit A, 1 paraprofessional and 1AFSCME. Ms. Emsley added that there we're a total of 6 resignations with 1 from Unit A, 2 non-union, and 3 paraprofessionals. She concluded that there were 15 substitutes with 9 from Food Service, 5 teachers and 1 custodian and a total of 2 transfers which consisted of 1 paraprofessional and 1 AFSCME.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the Personnel Report to put on file.

- C. School Committee Report: Mr. Bruce Oliveira shared he and his wife had the pleasure of attending the Mr. Whaler contest at NBHS. He shared he was glad to see it back and enjoyed the event. Mr. Joshua Amaral added in that he attended the Black History Month event for Jibreel Kazan of the Greensboro Four. He shared that the Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School students from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program did a phenomenal job in honoring Mr. Kazan at their event.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Joshua Amaral explained to the committee that the Policy Sub-Committee vetted the "Tutoring for Pay" policy. He stated the reason for the amendment was to cover the paraprofessional under this same policy that is used for faculty

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to pass to a second motion of the reading of the Tutoring for Pay policy.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>6-Yeas, 1-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

- B. Agenda was approved to be taken out of order. See beginning of Superintendent Report for the information.
- C. Mayor Jon Mitchell asked Superintendent Anderson to explain the reason for bringing the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school calendars. Superintendent Anderson explained that NBPS was getting an early approval of the calendars so the district could begin future projections and to be more able to be proactive within the school system.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 calendars as presented.

9. ADJOURN at 7:32pm

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to adjourn the School Committee meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

The roll call was as follows:

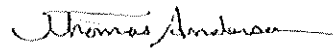
Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes  
Senior Executive Assistant  
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent  
Secretary, School Committee