

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, DR. FLETCHER, ATTY. CLARK, MS. POLLOCK, MR. NOBREGA, DR. FINNERTY, MRS. USSACH

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. BONNER, DR. SOUZA, D. WINN, H. LARKIN, DR. FRANCIS, L. OLIVEIRA, L. DUNAWAY (Acting recording secretary)

Taylor Garron, an alternate Student Representative, was in attendance.

Mayor Lang appointed Mr. Nobrega as Chairman on Credentials of New Members. Mr. Nobrega verified that Dr. Lawrence Finnerty was duly elected on November 3, 2009, as the new member of the School Committee.

Public Input was as follows:

Mary Ann Rogers - Spoke to the committee regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.  
Denise Fisher-Rose – Spoke to the committee regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation.  
Kathryn Duff – Suggests future ways to conduct Superintendent's Evaluation.  
Joseph Silva – Looking for apology for what he feels is unfair treatment.

At this time Mayor Lang stated that in the future, the public forum time limit of two to three minutes would be adhered to.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark to take a building usage request out of order.

At this time Ward 4 City Councillor Bruce Duarte spoke on behalf of his request to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Bedford Idol auditions at Normandin or Roosevelt Middle School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to grant a request by Bruce Duarte, Jr./City Councillor/City of New Bedford to use the cafetorium at either Normandin or Roosevelt Middle School on the following Saturdays: March 6, March, 13, March 20, April 10, April 17, April 24, May 8 and May 15, 2010, from 10 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Bedford Idol, with a waiver of all fees

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

**A: APPOINTMENTS**

**UNIT A**

**Name**

**Position**

**School**

Kristen E. Eastman	Academic Coach	Roosevelt Middle
Kristin H. Shurtleff	Special Education	Carney Academy
Vanila R. Silva-DaRosa	World Language – Spanish	New Bedford High
Laurie A. Sommer	Preschool – Grant funded	Gomes

**B: RETIREMENTS****CIVIL SERVICE**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>School</u></b>
Sharyn Frias	12-16-2009	4 hour Cafeteria Helper	Gomes
Linda Robinson	12-23-2009	7 hour Cafeteria Helper	New Bedford High
Jo-Ann Sniatkowski	01-09-2010	Clerk/Typist	PRAB

**C: TRANSFERS****CIVIL SERVICE**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>From</u></b>	<b><u>To</u></b>
Lisa M. Sylvia	Clerk/Typist – Project Support – PRAB	Clerk/Typist – Technology Services & Athletics - PRAB

**D: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

Gloria Costa	Joshua T. DaPonte	Marco DeBrito
Brittany B. DeJesus	Lance R. Gagnon	Amanda J. Kimble
Robert C. Massoud	Sharon K. Pereira	Natasha P. Pinho
Justin T. Rainville	Sean P. Riley	Michelle M. Russell
Constance Rodrigues	Alexander I. Simon	Amy J. Tamagini

At this time, nominations opened for School Committee Vice-Chairperson.

A motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to nominate Jill Ussach as the 2010 Vice-Chairperson of the New Bedford School Committee.

A motion was made by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark to nominate Marlene Pollock as the 2010 Vice-Chairperson of the New Bedford School Committee.

VOTED unanimously on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark to close nominations.

A Roll Call vote was taken as follows:

Mayor Lang	Pass	Atty. Clark	Marlene Pollock
Dr. Finnerty	Jill Ussach	Ms. Pollock	Marlene Pollock
Dr. Fletcher	Marlene Pollock	Mrs. Ussach	Jill Ussach
Mr. Nobrega	Jill Ussach		

3 – Marlene Pollock

3 – Jill Ussach

1 - Pass

A motion was made by Atty. Clark and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to nominate Dr. John Fletcher as the 2010 Vice-Chairperson of the New Bedford School Committee.

A motion was made by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to close nominations and elect Dr. John Fletcher as the 2010 Vice-Chairperson of the New Bedford School Committee.

The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Dr. John Fletcher	Atty. Clark	Dr. John Fletcher
Dr. Finnerty	Dr. John Fletcher	Ms. Pollock	Dr. John Fletcher
Dr. Fletcher	Dr. John Fletcher	Mrs. Ussach	Dr. John Fletcher
Mr. Nobrega	Dr. John Fletcher		

7 - Dr. John Fletcher

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock to receive and place on file the minutes of the December 14, 2009 (Sub-Committee/Finance); December 14, 2009 (School Committee Meeting).

At this time, Meg Hebert from City of New Bedford Recycling Department/Greater New Bedford Refuse District picked DeValles School as the January recycling contest winner. Winners receive \$500 worth of Recycling themed books. Schools that applied this year are: Swift, Parker, Pulaski, Roosevelt, Hathaway, Hayden McFadden, Congdon, DeValles, Phillips Ave. and Winslow.

Superintendent's Report was as follows:

Race to the Top – reminder that this is a Federal grant for which the State is applying and ultimately affects our district. 50% of the funds will be allocated to title I districts, which would amount in approximately an additional 1 million dollars for the next three years, totaling 3 million. In order to even apply for these funds as a district, we (school committee, Superintendent and the NBEA) must agree to the criteria in the Memorandum of Understanding as a first step. This agreement does not preclude the bargaining rights of the union in changes to work conditions as a result of receipt of these funds. The MOU is due on January 13 and it is imperative that the committee decides whether they want to participate or not this evening.

Separate from the RTT, the district will be eligible for additional grant dollars through Title I G grants for schools that are designated as underperforming under the new education reform legislation. It was good that the school committee approved the identification of The Whaling City Alternative School and Trinity Day Academy as separate schools and not programs from the high school. This will allow greater eligibility of funding for these schools as well. However, the School Committee needs to decide prior to April what diploma will students from these two alternative schools receive. Currently the district diploma reads New Bedford High School.

The Parental survey for Lincoln, Phillips Ave and Ottiwell schools to assist us with the future vision and direction of the school were collected and tallied. A total of 260 parents responded and are very interested in the school becoming a neighborhood magnet school focused on the theme of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). A neighborhood magnet means that it only allows students from the three neighborhoods to enroll; this is different from the magnet schools that currently exist in the district.

We have completed our district training for School Council Members – a school council is a representative – school based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, and community members and at the secondary level students as required by Mass General Law (Chapter 71, section 59C). All of the district schools participated with the exception of Lincoln Elementary School. I want to thank parents, community members, staff and administrators for their time and hope that the training was useful. In the upcoming months we are planning some training with our PTO's and parent volunteers.

I am requesting that school committee consider calling a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss the school construction in the south end of town so that we can move forward.

A reminder to parents that we are continuing to emphasize literacy with our winter challenge! We are asking every child in grades K-8 to read a minimum of three books by February. The student who reads the most books is invited to have lunch with the superintendent, and the class that reads the most books will receive a pizza party. For a list of suggested books for your child's grade level, please refer to the summer list or ask your child's teacher.

In continuing to meet the goals that are a part of the district strategic plan – we are working on two areas that not only addresses setting high academic standards but building character and self confidence in our students. Through the Student Services department, Assistant Supt Heather Larkin and staff have been working on an initiative to improve attendance and college readiness. Tonight we are launching five short vignettes that were created by Bob Perotti and students to be aired on the Cable Access and run on the website with the

anticipation that it will raise awareness of the importance of not only attending school but staying in school. Currently the high school's attendance rate average 82-83%.

Thank you to the staff of the Pulaski School for inviting me to tag along to the see "Wicked". I had a very enjoyable day with students and staff.

At this time, a Drop Out Prevention Media Campaign presentation was put on by Bob Perotti and Heather Larkin in conjunction with Whaling City Alternative School. The presentation involved real life stories with respect to staying in school vs. not staying in school. Student Isaiah Ferguson and a teacher, Nick Baptist, from Whaling City Alternative School also spoke about the campaign and its possible effectiveness.

Taylor Garron, alternate student representative gave an update of the events taking place at New Bedford High School.

School Committee reports followed by several Committee members.

Dr. Finnerty gave a few remarks to the Committee regarding his position as a new School Committee member. He said that his one goal is to improve student performance by: Being a co-operating member of the School Committee and by supporting the Superintendent; all disagreements will be kept professional and not personal.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the School Committee and Student Representative reports.

Sub-Committee on Finance report was given by Dr. Fletcher.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve the following consent agenda item: Financial Statement from the Office of Finance and Operations (January 11, 2010 Finance Committee).

Mr. Oliveira mentioned that in July the budget gap in salaries and wages by \$452,000. It is now down to \$67,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve the following consent agenda item: Schedule of Bills for the month of November, 2009 from the Office of Finance and Operations (January 11, 2010 Finance Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve the following requests to transfer funds:

- Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt Middle School to transfer \$810 from 4001-2451-21-415-54-8006 (Computers/Scanners/Digital Cameras) to 4001-2420-21-415-00-8002 (Equipment).
- Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden McFadden School to transfer \$3100 from 4001-2410-11-078-00-5030 (Textbooks) to 4001-2420-11-078-00-8002 (Equipment)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to remove a request from P.A.C.E. off the table. (This item was tabled at the December 14, 2009 School Committee meeting.)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to appoint Dr. Lawrence Finnerty to represent the School Committee on the People Acting in Community Endeavors (P.A.C.E.) Board of Directors.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to remove from the table a request to sign an agreement with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. (This item was tabled at the December 14, 2009 School Committee meeting.)

After a discussion on the merits of signing the agreement it was...

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to sign an agreement with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that establishes a framework of collaboration, roles and responsibilities in support of Massachusetts in its implementation of an approved *Race to the Top* grant project.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Yes
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

7 - Yeas

0 - Nays

0 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up all donation requests including Addendum items together

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock to accept the following donations:

- Jo-Anne Hodgson/Principal/Lincoln School - \$13.96 from SuperValu/Community Rewards.
- Paula Benedetti/Keith Middle School - \$1000 to support after school programs from the Women's Fund.
- Susan Beck/Principal/Dunbar School - \$163 from General Mills Box Tops for Education
- Jo-Anne Hodgson/Principal/Lincoln School - \$251.90 from General Mills Box Tops for Education
- Jamie Camacho/Principal/Pulaski - \$66.67 from Upromise, Inc.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up all building usage requests together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the following building usage requests:

- Meghan Abella-Bowen/Director/SMART Program/BCC to use the pool at New Bedford High School on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 from 3-6:00 P.M. to conduct the Citizen Schools Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition between apprentice teams from Keith and Normandin Middle Schools with a waiver of all fees.
- Ronald Moss, Dept. of Youth Services to use the gymnasium at Carney Academy, Keith or Roosevelt Middle School on one day (to be determined) between Feb. 16 and Feb. 19, 2010, for three hours, for recreational activity for approximately 20 participants, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to table until Executive Session, a proposal to enter into an agreement with the New Bedford Educators Association to modify the provisions of Article 12, Section K, Article 13 *Transfers and Reassignments*, as stated in the Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to grant a request from Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt Middle School for permission for 12 students to travel to Newport, RI on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, to compete against Portsmouth Middle School in a math competition.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file a Communication from the New Bedford City Council requesting that the School Committee explore the possibility of adding a School Resource Officer to each NBPS elementary school.

At 8:50, a roll call vote was taken to go into Executive Session and to return to open session to vote on two items related to personnel:

Mayor Lang	Yes
Dr. Finnerty	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes

Atty. Clark	Yes
Ms. Pollock	Yes
Mrs. Ussach	Yes

7 - Yeas

0 – Nays

0 - Absent

At 9:15, the Committee returned to Open Session.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to enter into an agreement with the New Bedford Educators Association to modify the provisions of Article 12, Section K, Article 13 *Transfers and Reassignments*, as stated in the Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement effective July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.

This agreement is in regards to staffing at the new Lincoln Elementary school.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark to form a legal team that includes Atty. Arthur Caron, Atty. Jane Medeiros-Friedman and Atty. Walter Smith to aid in labor negotiations.

At 9:18 P.M., a motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to adjourn the meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes
Dr. Finnerty	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes

Atty. Clark	Yes
Ms. Pollock	Yes
Mrs. Ussach	Yes

7 - Yeas

0 – Nays

0 - Absent

Submitted by,

Portia S. Bonner, Ph.D.  
Secretary, School Committee

PSB/lpd