

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, L. OLIVEIRA,
L. DUNAWAY (Acting recording secretary)

Filipe Andre, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Input was as follows:

1. Carol Strupczewski – Spoke in favor of keeping the Abraham Lincoln School name.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up the approval of the minutes altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the minutes from January 11, 2010 (Sub-Committee/Finance); January 11, 2010 (School Committee Meeting); January 25, 2010 (Sub-Committee/Transportation); and to amend that minutes of the February 1, 2010 (Sub-Committee/Facilities, Maintenance & School Buildings).

At 7:08 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session and to return to Open Session.

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

At 7:45 P.M., Open Session resumed.

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

A: APPOINTMENTS

ADMINISTRATORS

Name

Position

School

Kyle Riley	Principal	Trinity Day Academy
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UNIT A

Fresia Varela	World Language – Spanish	New Bedford High
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CIVIL SERVICE

Maria Biscaia	4-hour Cafeteria Helper	Gomes
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Catherine Hughes	4-hour Cafeteria Helper	New Bedford High
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PARAPROFESSIONAL

Jeanne A. Jeronymo	Lunch Aide (effective 09-08-2009)	Parker
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NON-UNION

Bruce Feno	Facilities Manager	PRAB
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B: RETIREMENTS

ADMINISTRATORS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Jo-Anne Mello Hodgson	06-30-2010	Principal	Lincoln

UNIT B

Rhoda Purcell	06-30-2010	Instructional Coordinator	New Bedford High
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UNIT A

John Gomes	06-30-2010	Computer Program Developer	PRAB
Manuel C. Torres	06-16-2010	Math	Keith Middle

C: RESIGNATIONS

CIVIL SERVICE

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Terrence D. Lopes	01-05-2010	PI Cafeteria Helper	PRAB
Janice L. Watkins	12-18-2009	PI Cafeteria Helper	PRAB

ATHLETICS

Stephanie Farland	01-07-2010	Assistant Winter Track Coach	New Bedford High
John T. Giasson	01-21-2010	Head Girls Spring Track Coach	New Bedford High
Isaiah Houtman	02-01-2010	Assistant Girls Spring Track Coach	New Bedford High

D: TRANSFERS

CIVIL SERVICE

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Lori Almeida	4-hour Cafeteria Helper at Normandin	6 ½-hour Cafeteria Helper at Hayden McFadden
Paul Almeida	(was assigned to New Bedford High)	4-hour Cafeteria Helper at New Bedford High
Christine Fouquette	4-hour Cafeteria Helper at New Bedford High	6 ½-hour Cafeteria Helper at New Bedford High
Renay Ribeiro	4-hour Cafeteria Helper at Keith	4-hour Cafeteria Helper at Gomes

E: TERMINATIONS

UNIT A

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Jeffrey Day	01-29-2010	Family & Consumer Science	New Bedford High

Glenn J. Gonsalves	01-18-2010	Grade 4	Gomes
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F: SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

Jessica Adams	Jessica Billings-White	Pamela Bullard
Dwight Cheetham	Admir DaSilva	Jacob Ditata
Christian Garris	Marques Houtman	Dannie James-Green
Amelia Leontire-White	Raquel Senna	Brandy Silva
Kristen Tavares	William Villineau	

G: SUBSTITUTE PARAPROFESSIONALS

Yolanda Fernandez	Angela Rose	
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H: ATHLETICS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>School</u>
Sara Charbonneau	Assistant Girl's Volleyball Coach	New Bedford High
Jessica Gaffney	Assistant Winter Track Coach (Emergency Assignment)	New Bedford High
Dennis Matos	Assistant Boy's Soccer Coach	New Bedford High

Mayor Lang requested that Committee be furnished with a list of upcoming retirements and the estimated cost associated with said retirements.

Superintendent's Report was as follows:

Tonight's report focuses on what our students are doing during the last few weeks and the month of February:

Our schools are celebrating black history month by engaging in multiple lessons about famous African Americans who have contributed to our history; such lessons included students who performed African Folktales, engaged in reading literature about or written by African American Authors; writing compositions, creating poetry, celebrating the music of African American artists, committing to a day of service, and special assemblies. Although I highlighted some of the special lessons, we are making an effort to celebrate our heritage and cultural diversity throughout the curriculum as we update our curriculum to be more culturally responsive.

Secondly, as our students embrace their civic duty humanities and understand the importance of global citizenship and awareness, our students conducted numerous activities to assist with the relief of our brothers and sisters in Haiti. These activities include collection of important items to raising money for the Haiti Relief fund. Our schools have:

- Contributed to UNICEF, Red Cross and Gifts to Give
- Collected money for Hat day
- Collected bottles, cans, and pennies
- Contributed donations to the Rotary Club
- Fund raised through bake sales
- Donated school store profits
- Created crisis care kits
- Matched monetary donations by improving behavior

Our teachers have been creative in taking a real life event and incorporating it into science, history, and geography lessons. I want to thank the children, staff and administration for their gift of love that was given in multiple ways.

At this time, Meg Hebert from City of New Bedford Recycling Department/Greater New Bedford Refuse District picked Roosevelt Middle School as the February 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.

The Student Representative report and several School Committee reports were given.

At this time Mayor Lang announced that he created two new Sub-Committees as follows:

Sub-Committee on Equity and Diversity: Dr. Finnerty, Dr. Fletcher, and Ms. Pollock

Sub-Committee on Collective Bargaining: Atty. Clark, Mr. Nobrega and Mrs. Ussach

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark to accept the Student Representative report and School Committee reports.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to receive and place on file the following Sub-Committee reports:

Finance – Atty. Clark

Curriculum – Mrs. Ussach

Transportation – Ms. Pollock

Facilities, Maintenance and School Buildings – Mr. Nobrega

Atty. Clark mentioned that the budget shortfall is \$70,000 and that he is hopeful that the shortfall will be at “zero” by June 30, 2010. He also suggested that Committee members meet either individually or together to have input into the construction of the new budget.

Dr. Bonner asked for clarity on such meetings. Atty. Clark said that individual meetings should be arranged with Committee members with either Dr. Bonner or Mr. Oliveira to have input with the original budget so there is no adversarial situations surrounding the budget. Dr. Bonner said, as in the past, the Superintendent puts together the recommended budget, therefore the Committee members would meet with her as well as Mr. Oliveira.

Mayor Lang explained that his expectation would be that the Committee members will have input into the construction of the budget before it is presented to the Committee. He explained the budget process and said everyone will work together.

Dr. Bonner mentioned that Committee members should plan to meet within the next two to three weeks if they wish to have input.

Mayor Lang said that Committee members could also submit their suggestions or recommendations in writing to the Superintendent.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve the following consent agenda item: Financial Statement from the Office of Finance and Operations (February 8, 2010 Finance Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the following consent agenda item: Schedule of Bills for the month of December, 2009 from the Office of Finance and Operations (February 8, 2010 Finance Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, take up all Transfer of Funds requests together.

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

- Raymond Letendre/Principal/Carney Academy to transfer \$3497 from 4001-2410-12-045-00-5030 (SPED Textbooks); \$4000 from 4001-2415-11-045-00-5031 (Workbooks); \$3500 from 4001-2455-11-045-00-5027 from (Computer Software); \$2580 from 4001-2430-12-045-00-5026 (SPED Supplies) to 4001-2430-11-045-00-5026 (Supplies)
- Steven Machado/Principal/Congdon to transfer \$4000 from 4001-2415-11-040-00-5031 (Workbooks); \$3000 from 4001-2420-11-040-00-8002; \$860 from 4001-2430-12-040-00-5026 to 4001-2430-11-040-00-5026 (Supplies); \$750 from 4001-2440-12-040-00-6008 (Other SPED Instructional Material) to 4001- 2455-11-040-00-5027 (Instructional Software)
- Tammy Morgan/Principal/Rodman to transfer \$724 from 4001-2415-11-125-11-5031 (Workbooks); \$1500 from 4001-2420-11-125-00-8002 (School Equipment) to 4001-2430-11-125-00-5026 (Supplies) and \$4171 from 4001-2410-11-125-00-5030 (Textbooks) to 4001-2451-11-125-00-8006 (Computers)
- Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt to transfer \$4000 from 4001-2410-21-415-00-5030 (Textbooks) to 4001-3600-21-415-00-4033 (Police Detail)
- Matt Riley/Principal/Taylor to transfer \$400 from 4001-2210-11-135-84-5028 (Principal Office Supplies); \$300 from 4001-2210-11-135-84-6008 (Principal Other); \$782.01 from 4001-2410-11-135-00-5030 (Textbooks); \$64.66 from 4001-2410-11-135-000-5031 (Workbooks); \$583 from 4001-2410-12-135-00-5030 (SPED Textbooks); \$1479.62 from 4001-2420-11-135-00-8002 (School Equipment); \$1500 from 4001-2420-12-135-00-8002 to 4001-2451-11-135-00-8006 (Instructional Tech. Computers)
- Kyle Riley/Principal/Trinity Day Academy to transfer \$1806 from 4001-2430-32-510-00-5026 (Classroom Supply) to 4001-2420-32-510-00-8002 (School Equipment)
- Paula Bailey/Principal/Winslow School to transfer \$350 from 4001-2210-11-140-84-6008 (Principal Other); \$823 from 4001-2410-11-140-00-5030 (Textbooks); \$102.42 (Principal Office Supplies) to 4001-2430-11-140-00-5026 (Classroom Supplies) and \$2599 from 4001-2420-11-140-00-8002 (School Equipment) to 4001-2451-11-140-00-8006 (Instructional Tech. Computers)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file the Excess Property Reports from October – December, 2009 (February 1, 2010 Facilities/Maintenance/School Building Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Facilities Reports from October – December, 2009 (February 1, 2010 Facilities/Maintenance/School Building Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take Agenda items 8D and 8E, listed under New Business, out of order.

Mayor Lang read a letter, presented to the Committee from individuals at the Ottiwell School, asking that the name of the Lincoln School be changed.

At this time, Mrs. Dawn Collard, representing parents, staff and students from the Ottiwell School presented a petition and addressed the Committee asking that a new name be considered for the new Lincoln School, currently under construction. Mrs. Collard mentioned that the new Lincoln School should be given a new identity.

Dr. Fletcher commented that Abraham Lincoln could not be a better role model to unify all the families from Lincoln, Ottiwell and Phillips Avenue Schools. He suggested that the library or community room be named after Sarah D. Ottiwell and the foyer could be named "Phillips Ave. Way".

Ms. Pollock agreed with Dr. Fletcher and added that Abraham Lincoln was one of our best presidents, was very courageous and made sacrifices to unify the country. She suggested that the staff at the school develop a curriculum surrounding President Lincoln's legacy.

Dr. Finnerty said that children are very resilient when they are supported and they are made to feel that there is nothing to be afraid of. He also mentioned that someone offered the idea that special items from the Ottiwell and Phillips Ave. schools be brought to the new Lincoln School.

Mrs. Ussach mentioned that Abraham Lincoln was voted number one as the best president in recent polls and was a man that brought everyone together. She echoed the suggestion that something special be brought from the Ottiwell and Phillips Ave. schools into the new Lincoln School.

Mayor Lang commented that the name has stood the test of time. He also said that the school will be a very modern building and students will be proud to say they were educated at the Abraham Lincoln School. The name of the school will only be remembered by the current Ottiwell and Phillips Ave. students for the next four years, as the students who come after will only know one name, the Abraham Lincoln School.

Dr. Bonner suggested that students, staff and parents and the people who signed the petition assist the school department in creating a culture that is welcoming to all three bodies and to redefine the goals and vision with the development of the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) theme which will be a creation of something exciting and new.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to keep the name of the new Lincoln School as "Abraham Lincoln Elementary School".

The roll call vote was 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

Atty. Clark mentioned that a shuttle to Lincoln may be a good idea and was asked by parents to explore the issue. Mayor Lang suggested that the Committee look at all safety issues covering the area including the possibility of crossing guards.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to send the issue of a Lincoln Shuttle, as well as other safety concerns, back to the Sub-Committee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Atty. Clark, to take up all donation requests together.

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

- Donald Vasconcelles/Headmaster/NBHS - \$56.50 from Olympia Sports.
- Donald Vasconcelles/Headmaster/NBHS – 30 copies of the *"Autobiography of Malcolm X"* by various donors.
- Donald Vasconcelles/Headmaster/NBHS - \$500 from the Wal-Mart Foundation for the Twilight Program.
- Richard Desrosiers/Principal/Keith Middle School – \$200 from Michael Walder to purchase eyeglasses for students in need.
- Marcia Faucher/Principal/Pacheco School - \$200 from anonymous donors to purchase clothing for students in need.
- Timothy Rumberger/Principal/Phillips Ave. - \$250 worth of computer equipment from Fiber Optic Center, Inc.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up the item on the Addendum to the Agenda.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up all building/field usage requests, together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Clark, to approve a request from Dennis Golden/Guidance Counselor/Football Coach/NBHS on behalf of New England Elite Sports to hold the first New England Elite Sports Football Clinic from July 12 – 15, 2010 from 3:00 – 8:30 P.M. at the following facilities with a waiver of all fees:

- The new McCoy Field
- Walsh Field Complex
- Restrooms at both the baseball at football stadiums at Walsh Field
- Beardsworth-Gonsalves Gym (in the event of inclement weather)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Bunny Conceicao, on behalf of New Bedford Bears Youth Pop Warner Football Assoc., to hold their awards banquet in the auditorium at Pulaski School on Thursday, February 18, 2010 with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Athena M.G. Mota, on behalf of the YWCA, to hold their 5th Annual International Women's Day event in the Community Room at Normandin Middle School on March 8, 2010 with a waiver of the rental fee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Mark Fuller, Business Agent, on behalf of the Greater New Bedford Scholarship Foundation, to hold the 2nd Annual "New Bedford's Got Talent" competition in the auditorium at Keith Middle School on March 28, 2010 with a waiver of the rental fee and to sell refreshments in the lobby at intermission with the understanding that carbonated beverages will not be allowed and all refreshments will be consumed in the lobby area only and will not be allowed into the auditorium.

A discussion ensued regarding the waiver of fees and the cost associated with the practice. Mr. Nobrega reiterated that there are no custodial costs as long as they are our students. It was suggested that more money be put aside in next year's budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to approve a request from Neal Weiss, on behalf of the Whaling City Kids Wrestling Team, to use the wrestling room at New Bedford High School on Tuesdays from March 2 – June 8, 2010 from 5:15 – 6:30 P.M. with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up all Out-of-State field trip requests together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to grant a request from Neil Macedo/Girls Volleyball Coach/NBHS to travel to the Disney Complex/Orlando, FL from September 1-5, 2010 with 13 students and seven chaperones to take part in the KSA "Fall Classic" Volleyball Tournament.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to grant a request from Diane Robinson/Teacher/NBHS to travel to New York City on April 15, 2010 with 50 students and five chaperones to visit the Planetarium.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to grant a request from Diane Robinson/Teacher/NBHS to travel to Providence, RI on February 25, 2010 with 45 students and four chaperones to visit the Museum of Natural History.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to grant a request from

Araceliz Rodriguez & Jeremy Kennefick/Teachers/Normandin Middle School to travel to Roger Williams Zoo, Warwick, RI on June 4, 2010 with 80 students and eight chaperones.

A brief discussion on the merits of changing the wording on the High School diploma from "*New Bedford High School*" to "*New Bedford Public Schools*", took place. Dr. Bonner explained that students from Trinity Day Academy and Whaling City Alternative School may feel stigmatized with a diploma that says the names of their schools versus a general New Bedford Public Schools labeled diploma.

Dr. Finnerty said that history would show that the former West Side Alternative School was a program of New Bedford High School; therefore students at West Side received the same diploma. Dr. Finnerty gave his opinion that since they are now separate schools, students at Trinity Day Academy and Whaling City may feel stigmatized, especially if there are disabilities involved. He mentioned that he agreed with the idea a general diploma which would read "New Bedford Public Schools".

Mrs. Ussach echoed Dr. Finnerty's concern and believes that having a uniform label for all students would be a better way to go.

VOTED TO APPROVE, on a motion by Mrs. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, a revision to the current New Bedford High School diploma which reads "*New Bedford High School*" to read "*New Bedford Public Schools*". A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mayor Lang	No	Atty. Clark	No
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	No		

4 - Yeas

3 - Nays

0 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request to accept funding in the amount of \$2,705,304.58 from Universal Service Administrative Company, Schools & Libraries Division (E-rate).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to receive and place on file a communication from Denis Lawrence, Jr./City Council President and Joseph Lopes/Councillor Ward Six asking that the School Committee meet with the Orpheum Rising Committee to explore the possibility of securing educational grants/funding which may lead to converting the Orpheum Theatre into a City of New Bedford's and/or greater New Bedford's School for dedication to the Performing Arts; and possibility of an Ad-Hoc Committee be considered to explore the issue.

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

The roll call vote was 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

Submitted by,

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