## PUBLIC HEARING of the FY 2010/2011 BUDGET

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

DR. FINNERTY, MRS. USSACH

ABSENT: NONE

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

secretary)

Filipe Andre, Student Representative, was in attendance.

A Power Point presentation highlighting the budget line items was given. Mr. Oliveira went over the FY 2011 proposed budget and explained the difference in expenditures from the previous fiscal year.

The proposed budget is as follows:

Total General Expenses: \$ 25,724,146 Total Salaries & Wages \$ 91,971,699 Total Budget \$117,695,845

The FY 2011 proposed budget is \$6,504,620 more the FY 2010.

At the end of the presentation, several Committee members asked guestions regarding the budget.

Ms. Pollock asked Mr. Oliveira about the cut in the textbook account. Mr. Oliveira explained that principals make the decisions according to need in their schools.

In response to Dr. Fletcher's inquiry regarding budget priorities; specifically smaller class sizes, Dr. Francis said that smaller class sizes were taken into consideration when developing the budget.

Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira how much of the proposed budget would have to be cut. Mr. Oliveira said that \$11.5 Million or 10% of the proposed budget would be affected.

In response to Mayor Lang's question about the value of maintenance, supplies, service contracts and staff, Mr. Oliveira replied that it represented \$2.1 million. Mayor Lang suggested that maintenance and any inefficiencies in the other school services be looked at first.

## Public Comment followed:

- 1. Beverly Tavares, on behalf of several pre-school teachers Strongly opposed to cuts at to the pre-school program.
- 2. Kerry Kelly Opposed to split sessions and pre-school cuts.
- 3. Several Teachers from Hayden McFadden School Concerned about the possible elimination of the pre-school program.
- 4. Kerrie Cummins, parent Concerned about split sessions and closing of the pre-school programs.
- 5. Ken & Amy Calvao Successful child due to pre-school foundation.

At this time Mayor Lang interrupted the Public Comment to ask Mr. Oliveira and Dr. Francis about preschool funding. Dr. Francis explained that projections arrive in June and even though the amount was not yet known, the overall funding was expected to go down.

## Public Comment continued:

6. Ms. Gallant and several teachers – NBPS pre-school students excel compared to other programs. Data shows that NBPS pre-school students score significantly higher.

7. Jennifer Fernandes – Concerned about pre-school program and high class size.

Dr. Fletcher commented that everyone agrees to the value of pre-school and will do their best to find the funds to continue the program.

8. Denise Fisher-Rose, Kindergarten teacher – Finds that kindergarteners are not well prepared if they don't go to pre-school.

Ms. Pollock encouraged those in attendance to call their legislators and agree to pay extra in taxes if it can be earmarked specifically for education.

Dr. Finnerty commented that he was concerned that if the Title I pre-school program was closed, then Special Education pre-school population would increase.

Mayor Lang stated that the FY2011 was a work in progress due to unknown revenue on the state and federal level and that there will be a need to get a firm handle on priorities and expenditures to balance the budget.

Atty. Clark requested that Mr. Oliveira explore what a furlough would cost and if it would be acceptable to teachers and non-union staff. Draft of the proposal for the Committee's review should include a one, two or three day furlough spread across the entire year. Also, non-union pay increases.

Mrs. Ussach mentioned the importance pre-school and having a good foundation. She said she was a strong proponent of early education and will look very thoroughly to make sure there is a balance for all students.

At 7:25 P.M. it was voted unanimously on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to adjourn the budget meeting.

## 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. FRANCIS, DR. SOUZA, D. WINN, H. LARKIN, L. DUNAWAY (Acting recording

secretary)

Filipe Andre, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

- 1. Carol Strupczewski Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 2. Eddie Johnson Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 3. Ann Simon Against a search for a new Superintendent and presented a petition with 809 signatures of New Bedford Public School staff in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 4. Joseph Silva, Jr. Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 5. Henry Mastey Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 6. Justin Braga Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.
- 7. Denise Fisher-Rose Stood in defense of Dr. Bonner; role of Sch. Comm. regarding hiring of minorities.
- 8. Rev. Mark Green Questioned why a search for a new Superintendent was asked for at this time.
- 9. Jovita Pimental Communication issue
- 10. Darlene Silva Against a search for a new Superintendent; spoke in favor of Dr. Francis.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file the minutes of April 12, 2010, Sub-Committee on Transportation as corrected; April 12, 2010, Sub-Committee on Finance and April 12, 2010 School Committee Meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take Agenda item 8 D out of order.

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, the Committee voted 4- 3 against tabling a motion submitted by School Committee member Marlene Pollock, that the School Committee begin a search for a superintendent immediately and that the Committee employ a consultant in this field to assist and guide the Committee in this process.

A roll call votes was as follows:

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

Mr. Nobrega Yes

3 - Yeas 4 - Nays 0 - Absent

School Committee members continued with the following discussion:

Mrs. Pollock commented that Dr. Francis had all her respect and explained that the motion she submitted stemmed from the meeting where Dr. Bonner submitted her resignation. The School Committee, at that

meeting, asked Dr. Francis to fill out Dr. Bonner's term and to move forward on a search to find a new Superintendent. All agreed as a group not to make Dr. Francis an interim Superintendent so she would be taken seriously. Ms. Pollock explained that she put forth the motion because it takes time to get things in place to start a search. She also felt that an expert should be hired as a consultant. She was disappointed that the search was not completed that way several years ago. Many members of the community want a search. She stated that she hopes Dr. Francis will apply.

Dr. Fletcher said he was proud that he nominated Dr. Francis for the position and stated that she settled into her new position gracefully for the students. Dr. Fletcher also stated that he will make a motion to start the search in the fall as to not distract Dr. Francis during this particular time. He mentioned that he hopes Dr. Francis will apply but he must follow his conscience.

Mrs. Ussach stated that she was in favor of a search for full transparency for the citizens and students of New Bedford however; she felt that the Committee could not afford a consultant to assist in the search.

Dr. Finnerty commented that the appointment of a new superintendent should be an open discussion. He spoke about Dr. Francis' abilities and mentioned that he worked well with her on former Supt., Michael Longo's Administration Team. He also stated that the search would be a process of comparison – a hiring process of involving individuals and ideas. Dr. Finnerty said that he would be offering the following amendment to a motion involving a search: "Any otherwise qualified, licensed candidate with 20 years in the New Bedford School system will receive a courtesy of a final interview." He does not want to limit candidates to only those who apply from the outside; wants to get the best while respecting our own.

Mr. Nobrega stated that he was not in favor of a search and wanted to know why there was a big rush. He suggested waiting until after the Superintendent's evaluation.

Atty. Clark acknowledged that this was a period of instability and that we needed steady, calm leadership. Questioned what would happen if Dr. Francis does not apply for the job. He also felt that there were no hands down candidates during the last search and if we do a search now, the best candidate will be Dr. Francis. Atty. Clark recommended giving this superintendent a chance.

Mayor Lang stressed that six months is not enough time to evaluate a superintendent. It will be no "cake walk" for Dr. Francis as she puts together a tough budget, and deals with a Level 4 school, three level 3 schools, two union contracts, AP funding, RTTT money, etc. He stated that in his opinion, a search should be done only if Dr. Francis' evaluation is not a favorable one. Starting a search now is pre-mature and he would rather see the public weigh in on the evaluation. He said the best candidates will get interviews and should not get a "by" if they are "home grown". Mayor Lang also commented that he felt the last search went well and that it was a good process. He thinks the world of Dr. Francis; we have stability and continuity and what is best for students. He would rather put energy into finding more minority candidates to work in the district.

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee voted 7 - 0 against a motion submitted by School Committee member Marlene Pollock, that the School Committee begin a search for a superintendent immediately and that the Committee employ a consultant in this field to assist and guide the Committee in this process.

A roll call votes was as follows:

Mayor Lang Dr. Finnerty Dr. Fletcher Mr. Nobrega	No No No No		Atty. Clark Ms. Pollock Mrs. Ussach	No No No
0 - Yeas		7 – Nays	0 – Ab	sent

On a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted 5 - 2 against beginning a search at the end of October and employing a consultant to assist and guide the Committee in the search process.

A roll call votes was as follows:

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

Mr. Nobrega No

2 - Yeas 5 - Nays 0 - Absent

A discussion ensued regarding the merits of employing a consultant and what time frame should be followed to start a search.

On a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted 6 - 1 against beginning a search immediately without a consultant.

A roll call votes was as follows:

No	Atty. Clark	No
No	Ms. Pollock	No
No	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
No		
	No No	No Ms. Pollock No Mrs. Ussach

At this time a discussion took place relative to Dr. Finnerty's amendment that ensures that a qualified New Bedford Public School employee with 20 or more years be given the courtesy of a final interview and that it be deemed a public hiring process.

Mayor Lang stated that it would have to go to Sub-Committee to determine what the hiring process would entail.

Atty. Clark commented that he felt the amendment was unfair.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee voted 6 - 1 against having a public hiring process, that commences in the beginning of December, that ensures that a person who is qualified and certified as a Superintendent, with 20 years experience in the New Bedford School system, be granted an automatic finalist position.

A roll call votes was as follows:

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

1 - Yea 6 - Nays 0 - Absent

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted 4 - 3 against beginning a search or hiring process, in late October, with details to be voted on at a later time.

A roll call votes was as follows:

Mayor Lang	No	Atty. Clark	No
Dr. Finnerty	No	Ms. Pollock	Yes

Dr. Fletcher Yes Mrs. Ussach Yes

Mr. Nobrega No

3 - Yeas 4 - Nays 0 - Absent

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee voted 5 - 2 against beginning a search or hiring process at the end of November with details to be decided in Sub-Committee.

A roll call votes was as follows:

Mayor LangNoAtty. ClarkNoDr. FinnertyNoMs. PollockYesDr. FletcherYesMrs. UssachNo

Mr. Nobrega No

2 - Yeas 5 - Nays 0 - Absent

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted 4 - 3 to table the original motion.

A roll call votes was as follows:

Mayor LangYesAtty. ClarkYesDr. FinnertyYesMs. PollockNoDr. FletcherNoMrs. UssachYes

Mr. Nobrega Yes

4 - Yeas 3 - Nays 0 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to receive and place on file the Financial Statement from the Office of Finance and Operations.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to receive and place on file the Schedule of Bills from the Office of Finance and Operations.

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

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Francis briefed the Committee on the following:

- New appointments and assignments for principals
- Timeline adjustment for Level 4 school
- Race to the Top (RTTT) Grant Timeline for Phase 2
- i3 Grant proposals US Dept. of Education partnerships

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file the Superintendent's Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to receive and place on file the Sub-Committee on Transportation report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to take Agenda Item 81-6 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve a request from Tom Tarpey/Head Basketball Coach/NBHS on behalf of the South Coast United Professional Basketball

Team, to use the gymnasium at New Bedford High School on Saturday, June 19 and Sunday, June 20, 2010 from 8:00 – 3:00 P.M., with a waiver of rental fee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to receive and place on file the Sub-Committee on Finance report.

Committee members gave several reports. The Student Representative introduced the 2010-2011 Student Representative, Justin Braga.

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, it was voted to take from the table an agenda item that was tabled from the April 12, 2010 School Committee 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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve to request to eliminate/establish the following classes for the 2010 – 2011 school year: (This was tabled from the April 12, 2010 School Committee Meeting.)

SCHOOL	ELIMINATE	ESTABLISH
ASHLEY		GRADE 1
BROOKS	GRADE 5	GRADE 4
CAMPBELL	GRADE 5	-
CARNEY		GRADE 2
DEVALLES		GRADE 2
HATHAWAY	GRADE 3	GRADE 4
HAYDEN MCFADDEN		GRADE 1
HAYDEN MCFADDEN		GRADE 2
PARKER		GRADE 1
SWIFT		GRADE 3
WINSLOW	•	GRADE 1
PRAB	Attendance Officer @	Drop Out Prevention
	NBHS	Specialist @ NBHS

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to table a request to Approve the FY '11 School Department Budget in the amount of \$117,695,845.

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 Nabraga	Voc		

Mr. Nobrega Yes

7 - Yeas 0 - Nays 0 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at the Administration Building, Normandin Middle School and DeValles School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve a request from Lawrence W. Oliveira, Chief Administrator for Finance & Operations, for authorization to award the Boiler Preventative & Repair Service three year contract, for all school buildings, to George T. Wilkinson, Inc.

Mr. Oliveira responded to a question from Mayor Lang, that five packages were given out to vendors but no other bids came in other than from George T. Wilkinson, Inc.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file an additional item to the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to accept a request from the Central Office Staff that a summer schedule of hours be approved from 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM with one-half hour for lunch for the period of June 28 - September 3, 2010.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take Agenda Items 8F and 8G (Regarding collective bargaining agreements) together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve a request from Louis St. John, President – New Bedford Educators Assn., Inc. to open negotiations, pursuant to Article XLI of the 2008-2011 Unit "A" Collective Bargaining Agreement, for a successor agreement in September, 2010 and to open negotiations, pursuant to Article XXVI of the 2008-2011 Unit "B" Collective Bargaining Agreement, for a successor agreement in September, 2010.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take Agenda Item 8H: Items 1 -4 (regarding donations) together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve the acceptance the following donations:

- 1) Jo-Anne Hodgson/Principal/Lincoln School \$100 from General Mills Box Tops for Education and \$112.50 from Maré Studios.
- 2) Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden McFadden School \$143.30 from General Mills Box Tops for Education.
- 3) Susan Beck/Principal/Dunbar School \$108.50 from General Mills Box Tops for Education and \$150.00 from Lifetouch School Studios.
- 4) Jamie Camacho/Principal/Pulaski School \$891.50 from General Mills Box Tops for Education.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Pollock, to take Agenda Item 81 Items: 1-5 & 7-9 (regarding field/building usage) together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve requests for the following field/building usage:

- 1) Day of Portugal Committee for permission to borrow the bucket truck, two Snapper Golf Carts and twelve two-way radios in conjunction with their Annual Day of Portugal Festival. Items are needed June 7 -14, 2010 in preparation for and during the festival.
- 2) Manuel Lima, on behalf of American Legion Baseball Post I, to use the baseball field at Paul Walsh Field on various days from June 1 July 30, 2010 from 5:30 9:30 P.M., with a waiver of the rental fee. Request also includes permission to have an outside vendor enter the field to sell refreshments with lights and custodian to be paid by American Legion Post I.

- 3) Merrillan Melberg, on behalf of the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra, to use the cafetorium at Normandin Middle School on Saturday, May 15, 2010, to hold a public concert and silent auction fund raiser (with a \$5.00 admission donation), with denial of waiver of the rental fee.
- 4) Gerald Pinto on behalf of Safe Zones to host seven workshops regarding Bullying Prevention between May 4, 2010 and June 11, 2011, from 6:30 8:30 P.M., at Pulaski, Normandin, Keith, Roosevelt, Gomes, Hayden McFadden and Lincoln Schools, with a waiver of rental and custodial fees.
- 5) Environmental Protection Agency to be provided with parking at New Bedford High School, for up to 30 passenger vehicles for technical staff, from May 10 through June 30, 2010. Parking will be designated at the far end of the north parking lot near the Hetland Rink on Hathaway Blvd.
- 7) Chic Rose/Recreation Director/City of New Bedford to use the track at Paul Walsh Field for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Track & Field Meet on June 2, 2010 (rain date: June 3) from 3:00 7:00 P.M., with a waiver of all fees.
- 8) Chic Rose/Recreation Director/City of New Bedford to use Hayden McFadden School and A.J. Gomes School playgrounds throughout the summer for the Summer Food Service Program.
- 9) Chic Rose/Recreation Director/City of New Bedford to use the pool facility at New Bedford High School for lifeguard testing on May 22, 2010 from 12:00 3:00 P.M., with a waiver of the rental fee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take up Agenda Item 8J Items 1-8, and addendum Item 9 (regarding Out of State Field Trips) together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve requests for the following Out of State Field Trips:

- Debra Letendre/Principal/Swift School Thirty students and seven chaperones to travel to Rhode Island to visit the Roger Williams Park Zoo on June 14, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 2) Raymond Letendre/Principal/Carney Academy Twenty-one students and four chaperones to travel to Providence Place Mall in Rhode Island to visit the Build-A-Bear Workshop on June 9, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 3) Martha Kay/Principal/Gomes School Forty students and eight chaperones to travel overnight to Groton, CT to take part in Project Oceanology at the University of Connecticut from June 2 3, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 4) Sally McTighe/Pat Gifford/Teachers/NBHS 140 students and six chaperones to travel to Providence, RI to visit the IMAX Theater on May 14, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 5) Sally McTighe/Pat Gifford/Teachers/NBHS 140 students and eight chaperones to travel to Mystic, CT to visit the Mystic Aquarium on May 26, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 6) Cheryl Jesse/Teacher/Normandin Middle School 80 students and 13 chaperones to travel to Pawtucket, RI to attend a Paw Sox game on May 28, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 7) Debra Surprenant/Lynn Garnett/Teachers/Winslow School 43 students and seven chaperones to travel to Rumford, RI to visit United *Skates* of America on June 15, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 8) Chris Parker/Teacher/NBHS Four students and two chaperones to travel to Hilo, Hawaii to compete in the 2010 Maritime Advanced Technology Education (MATE) International ROV competition at the University of Hawaii from June 22 28, 2010, with expenses to be paid through the New Bedford High School Student Activity Fund.

9) Ron Littlewood/Teacher/Normandin Middle School – 45 students and five chaperones to travel to Jaffrey, NH on June 6, 2010, to visit Mt. Monadnock State Park, with no cost to the local budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to take up an additional addendum request.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Rep. Steven Canessa, on behalf of the New Bedford Bears, to put up recruitment posters at the three Middle Schools.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to go into Executive Session to discuss an item in litigation, non-union personnel matters and union personnel matters.

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 Nobroso	Voc		

Mr. Nobrega Yes

7 - Yeas 0 - Nays 0 - Absent

At 10:10 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,

Dr. Mary Louise Francis Superintendent of Schools Secretary, School Committee

MLF/lpd