

<b>REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE</b>
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PRESENT: MAYOR LANG (Arr. 7:30), DR. FLETCHER, MS. POLLOCK, MR. NOBREGA,  
DR. FINNERTY, MRS. USSACH

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK

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

Shane Burgo, Alternate Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

1. Gillie Safioleas – Concern over several issues involving the the Committee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the minutes of April 12, 2010 Executive Session.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the minutes of the April 26, 2010 School Committee Regular Session and Executive Session.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the minutes of the May 19, 2010 Sub-Committee on Curriculum.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the minutes of the June 2, 2010 Sub-Committee on Transportation.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

Summary of the Superintendent's Report is as follows:

- Positive report from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Special Education Office, congratulating the district for progressing from Level 3 (Needs Technical Assistance) to Level I (Meets Requirements) for 2009-2010. Congratulations to Mrs. Larkin and her staff.
- Local Stakeholders Group (Parker School) update on timeline.
- Evaluation of the DESE Office of Urban District Assistance by the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute
- No Child Left Behind report cards reflecting last year's MCAS data were distributed.

Mayor Lang arrived at the meeting (7:30).

Update from the Sub- Committee on Transportation: Transportation bids have been advertised. Lower costs are expected with the competitive process. Mr. Nobrega asked Mr. Oliveira about the difference in the bid process. Mr. Oliveira explained that the bids are now advertised in groups of 11 or 12 routes. In response to an inquiry by Dr. Finnerty, Mr. Oliveira said that the Special Education routes will be negotiated and will not go out to bid. Dr. Finnerty expressed concern over safety. Mr. Oliveira said that contracts can be terminated for cause if transportation companies do not follow through with the specific criteria mentioned in the contract. Bids must be submitted by potential vendors by June 28, 2010. Cost savings, if any, will be determined when all bids are in.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Sub-Committee on Transportation report.

Update from Sub-Committee on Curriculum: Partnerships with Bridgewater State College and BCC will continue or start next school year. A brief synopsis of a suicide prevention education program will be given at the meeting.

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

School Committee reports were given by several members including the Alternate Student Representative.

At this time Mayor Lang asked Dr. Francis and Mr. Oliveira to go over a list of proposed cuts for the next fiscal year. He also mentioned that he did not expect any final action at this time. Dr. Francis announced that there is a projected shortfall of \$14,363,350 in the FY 2011 budget. Dr. Francis explained that a list of potential cuts would be distributed to the Committee. Missing from the list are two previous suggestions to remove Student Resource Officers (SRO's) and the Title I Pre-School.

After Mr. Oliveira read the list of \$14,363,350 in proposed cuts to the FY'11 budget, he told the committee that if they wait until July to cut, more cuts would have to be made in other areas of the budget.

Mayor Lang suggested to the Committee to vote on the individual cuts as listed to come to a consensus so that there would be a different number to work with the next time that it is taken up.

The consensus of cuts to be made is as follows:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to CUT ALL NEW POSITIONS (7) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$387,926. (Six teachers and one nurse.)

On the issue of cutting 42 academic coaches, Dr. Francis said that in light of the desperate need for cuts, the department is trying to preserve classroom teachers which she and her team felt was the mandate from the Committee. The Academic Coaches are not direct instructors as they coach the teachers technically in a professional development role. This was not something she took lightly or easily, but is one of the regrettable things we have to offer as a potential cut.

In response to a question by Dr. Fletcher regarding funding of the Academic Coaches, Dr. Francis said some of the funds are through the Title I grant but it infuses the money into the local budget. It is a balancing act.

In response to a question by Mr. Nobrega, Dr. Souza explained that the coaches would go back into the classroom by seniority and teachers with less seniority would lose their position.

Mayor Lang cautioned the Committee that cuts being made now could be put back at any time before the final decision is made.

In response to a question by Dr. Finnerty, Dr. Francis said it would be unlikely that the preserved Title I pre-school program could run full week, full day due to the increase in Sped. enrollments.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to CUT 42 ACADEMIC COACH POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,905,824.

The next three potential cuts on the list were: Computer Programmer (\$45,718), IT Director (\$75,000) and Equity and Diversity Administrator (\$75,000)

Mayor Lang asked the Committee if they wanted to move the Equity and Diversity Administrator position to an Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Diversity position, citing that this has been discussed in the past. If so, instead of cutting \$75,000, \$30,000 would have to be added to that position. A city partnership is being considered regarding the IT Department which would result in a cost savings. His suggestion would be to combine the salaries of the Computer Programmer and IT Director for a total of \$120,718, cut \$50,718 and use \$70,000 to fund the IT Director at \$40,000 with the balance to be used to help fund the Assistant Supt. for Equity and Diversity (\$30,000).

In terms of the Equity and Diversity position, Dr. Francis clarified that she is in desperate need and wanted that position with the hope of offsetting some of the cost through grants.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to add the salaries of the Computer Programmer and IT Director positions (\$120,718), cut \$50,718 and leave \$70,000 off to the side.

Mr. Nobrega inquired as to what the salary would be for an Assistant Superintendent. Mayor Lang responded that the salary would be \$105,000.

Dr. Finnerty said he would vote to re-establish the position since Dr. Francis spoke so forcefully for it and that her Administrative staff has been pared down, not including retirements.

On the same issue, Mrs. Ussach mentioned that the community has long needed the position. Dr. Fletcher said there has been a real gap without this position and Mrs. Pollock mentioned there has been a lack of services to our diverse community.

On a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, it was voted to make the Equity and Diversity Administrator position an Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Diversity position.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to allocate \$40,000 for an IT Administrator and add \$30,000 to the salary of a first year Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Diversity.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, TO CUT THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION AT PRAB IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,000.

On the suggested cut of 4% to General Expense, Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira if that percentage could go up to 5%. Mr. Oliveira responded that it was difficult to reach the cut at 4%.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, TO CUT THE GENERAL EXPENSE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,002,702.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, TO CUT ONE (1) SPED CLERK POSITION AT NBHS AND ONE (1) SPED CLERK POSITION AT PRAB POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, TO CUT TWO (2) ATTENDANCE OFFICER POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$111,436.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT FOUR (4) NBHS GUIDANCE CLERK POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO CUT ONE (1) SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,718.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty TO CUT TWO (2) SCHOOL ADJUSTMENT COUNSELORS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$111,436.

On a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, it was voted 5 – 1 (Ms. Pollock) to CUT ONE (1) DROP OUT PREVENTION SPECIALIST/PR POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT ONE (1) NURSE POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, TO MOVE ONE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY FOR TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS TO A GRANT (TITLE IIa) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO CUT CONTRACTUAL SPEECH SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT FOUR (4) INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISOR POSITIONS AT NBHS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$336,013.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Pollock, TO MOVE SIX (6) SPED POSITIONS TO A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$330,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty TO CUT THREE (3) VICE PRINCIPAL POSITIONS (ONE AT EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$240,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT SPED TUITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO FUND MISCELLANEOUS POSITIONS BY GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$546,405.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT FIVE (5) SPED TEACHER POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to freeze the cuts voted on by the Committee.

Mayor Lang ended the discussion on the budget and said the Committee will move forward and continue discussions after transportation bids are submitted to see what impact it has on the budget. The Committee will try and keep classrooms strong, preserve pre-schools and keep schools safe.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to take Item 7C of the Agenda out of order.

At this time, Asst. City Solicitor Jane Medeiros-Friedman addressed the Committee in regards to the authorization of a temporary and permanent easement at the southwest corner of Purchase and Coggeshall Sts. Atty. Friedman explained the possible votes that could be taken in regards to the easement and land takings.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to authorize a Temporary Easement TE-4 and Permanent Easement E-4 on a plan entitled "PROPOSED EASEMENT PLAN OF LAND IN NEW BEDFORD MASSACHUSETTS", prepared by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. and dated March 19, 2010 and be made without awaiting an appraisal that said vote be promptly forwarded in writing to the Office of the City Solicitor."

A presentation was given by Brian and Sharon Fernandes on "More Than Sad", a program that offers prevention education to teachers and other school personnel on Teen Suicide.

Several School Committee members voiced their support for the initiative and thanked Mr. & Mrs. Fernandes for sharing the information about the program with the Committee.

Dr. Francis mentioned that the upcoming Principals Leadership Academy was going to focus on Anti-Bullying and suggested that the "More Than Sad" program would be a natural fit to coincide with the Anti-Bullying initiative.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, a vote was taken to refer the program to the Sub-Committee on Curriculum for adoption and implementation within the school system.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located and NBHS, Phillips Avenue School and Swift School.

Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira to supply the Committee with a full report on the surplus materials that will become available at the old Lincoln School including the moldings, doors and windows since the city is in desperate need of these vintage materials.

Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee that surplus materials such as desks, chairs, file cabinets, etc. located at the old Lincoln School would be offered to: 1 - Mr. Sladewski, principal at the new Lincoln; 2 - All Principals; 3 - Purchasing Dept. and other City Departments and 4 - Non-profit groups. Mr. Oliveira mentioned that the old Lincoln is set to be demolished sometime in the middle of August.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up and accept all five requests for the following donations:

- 1) Steven Machado/Principal/Congdon School - \$220 from General Mills Box Tops for Education and \$630 from Community Building Mini-Grants program.
- 2) Martha Kay/Principal/Gomes School - \$30.19 from Shaw's Community Rewards.

- 3) Jo-Anne Hodgson /Principal/Lincoln School - \$632.54 from Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks Program and \$106.07 from Shaw's Community Rewards.
- 4) Marcia Faucher/Principal/Pacheco School – Six HP laptop computers, two Kodak Easy Share cameras, 12 Viewsonic document cameras, two Avermedia projectors and 12 presentation carts from Dr. & Mrs. Irwin Jacobs and \$137.50 from General Mills Box Tops for Education.
- 5) Jamie Camacho/Principal/Pulaski School - \$40 from the Vermette Family, \$100 from the Massa Family and \$40 from an anonymous donor.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up and accept the following requests for field/building/equipment usage:

- 1) American Cancer Society on behalf of the Relay for Life of Greater New Bedford to hold its annual community event at Paul Walsh Field on June 24-26, 2010 with waiver of all fees.
- 2) LTC (R), Kevin McGovern/Senior Army Instructor/NBHS to use one school department van to travel to the annual JROTC summer camp on June 18 – July 1, 2010.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take up and accept the following Out of State Field Trips:

- 1) Jeanne Bonneau/Principal/Normandin Middle School – Sixty students and eight chaperones to travel to Salem, NH to visit Canobie Lake Park on Saturday, June 25, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.
- 2) Cindy Trinidad/Principal/DeValles School - Fifteen students and three chaperones to travel to Warwick, RI to visit the Roger Williams Park Zoo on June 16, 2010, with no cost to the local budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to approve a request from UMass Dartmouth, Office of Campus and Community Sustainability to advertise their Sustainability Summer Camp (July 12 – 16, 2010) to new Bedford Public Schools Middle School students.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file a communication from the New Bedford City Council requesting that the New Bedford School Committee look to establish a comprehensive suicide prevention program at New Bedford High School; and further, if and when the program is established, to provide teachers and other school personnel an overview of causes of suicidal behaviors, warning signs, etc. and the availability of help.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to recognize Asst. Superintendent of Student Services, Heather Larkin and place a commendation in her personnel file relative to a letter from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education/Special Education Office, congratulating the district for progressing from Level 3 (Needs Technical Assistance) to Level I (Meets Requirements) for 2009-2010.

In regards to the upcoming New Bedford High School graduation, Dr. Finnerty stated to Dr. Francis his concern that MCAS appeal waivers are not sent to the district before graduation day, leaving eligible students without a diploma on that day.

Mayor Lang also voiced his concern that over 25,000 students from Massachusetts Public Schools have not graduated because of MCAS testing and felt it unfair that private school students did not have to follow the same criteria to graduate.

In recognition of their 35 years of service to New Bedford Public Schools, Dr. Ronald Souza, Deputy Superintendent and Dennis Winn, Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, were honored with plaques and many kind words of appreciation and congratulations on their retirement from the Committee and Administrative Team.

A motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to go into Executive Session to discuss non-union personnel negotiations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		
6 - Yeas	0 - Nays	1 - Absent	

At 9:40 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,

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

MLF/lpd