

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
~MINUTES~**

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. AMARAL, MR. COTTER, DR. FINNERTY (arr. 6:07)
MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, DR. DEFALCO, MS. EMSLEY, MS. BETTENCOURT, MS. WALMSLEY, MR. O'LEARY, MR. CARVALHO, MR. TETREAU, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

The School Committee Student Representative, Gina Connor, was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: (Supporting documents labeled "3")

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the following meeting minutes as presented:

- Facilities Sub Committee: March 10, 2016
- Finance Sub Committee: April 11, 2016
- Budget Session: April 25, 2016
- Budget Session: May 2, 2016
- Public Hearings and Regular Meeting: May 9, 2016
- Regular Meeting: June 13, 2016

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin):
(Supporting documents labeled "4")

- Dr. Durkin introduced Joyce Paulo as the new principal for Grades 9 & 10 at New Bedford High School
- Extended Learning Time (ELT) Grants – Dr. Durkin informed the Committee that NBPS is the recipient of two ELT grants – Hayden McFadden Elementary School and Normandin Middle School. She explained the Dr. DeFalco will be working out the logistics for the extended day at Normandin for the start of school in September. Dr. Durkin also stated that 12 schools throughout the state applied for the grant and three were accepted – two from New Bedford.
- Adult and Continuing Education – Dr. Durkin stated that this year, the "bookend" programs were focused on; this includes Pre-school and Adult Education. The recommendation is to streamline the program to make it more accessible to students who cannot manage the schedule of either day or night school. The plan would be to realign the positions at the program by having an Adult Education Manager oversee all credit earning settings including ESOL and HiSet (formerly GED) and to work

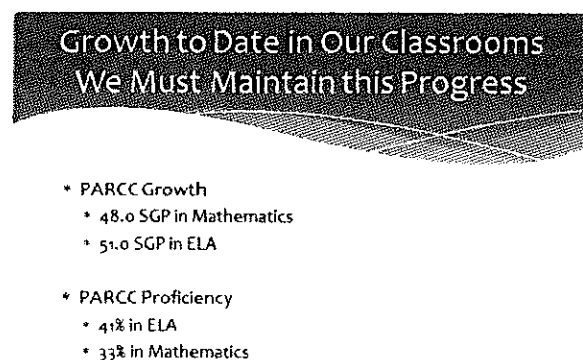
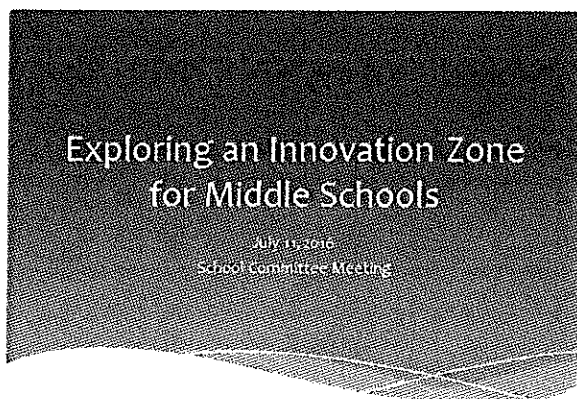
with the Headmaster to promote a seamless transition from one program to another. The new alignment of positions would allow for a non-union staff member to work 12 months rather than the current 10 month schedule and a Coordinator working under Unit B to assist with the overall program. The positions would not require funding beyond what has been budgeted.

A discussion ensued to the benefits of the new program and whether the proposed Adult Education Manager's position should be voted on in regard to creating a new position. Dr. Durkin concluded by stating that the proposal, which will be developed by Dr. DeFalco, Ms. Walmsley and Ms. Coelho, will exist to better serve students in a more effective and efficient way.

The Committee asked Dr. Durkin for more information, including financial, staffing, etc. Dr. Durkin agreed to bring this back to the Committee at the next meeting.

At this time, Mr. Cotter asked if the School Committee approved moving forward with negotiations with Unit A in regard to the Extended Learning Time proposed for Normandin Middle School. Dr. DeFalco responded that the School Committee approved moving forward with negotiations within the year in Executive Session.

- Exploring a Middle School Innovation Zone (Supporting document labeled "4") – Dr. Durkin stated that the Middle Schools need to see more progress. Middle Schools, for many families, represents anxiety, therefore the district should do something bold and different and to think out of the box. She, along with Dr. DeFalco presented the following:



2015 Middle School PARCC Results

- * ELA Growth
 - * Grd 6-55.0
 - * Grd 7-51.0
 - * Grd 8-43.0
- * Math Growth
 - * Grd 6-67.0
 - * Grd 7-35.0
 - * Grd 8-43.0

2015 Middle School PARCC Results

- * ELA Proficiency (levels 4 & 5)
 - * Grd 6-42% (state 60%)
 - * Grd 7-40% (state 61%)
 - * Grd 8-36% (state 64%)
- * Math Proficiency (levels 4 & 5)
 - * Grd 6-38% (state 53%)
 - * Grd 7-23% (state 45%)
 - * Grd 8-30% (state 53%)

An Innovation Zone for Middle Schools

- * New Bedford is making progress as a district according to the DESE June 16, 2016 report, however, "A pattern is beginning to emerge that shows the improved performance at the elementary level that is reversed in many cases at the middle school level, with the high school left to attempt to improve performance prior to tenth grade testing"
- * New Bedford has a growing reputation for thinking creatively about hard problems, and an Innovation Zone is a potential solution to this challenge
- * Any Innovation Zone would have to be voluntary – the district, the city, and educators would all have to want to pursue this option and create a New Bedford-specific solution

An Innovation Zone for Middle Schools

- * Need for accelerated progress toward achievement gains
- * Need for robust and bold changes to address major concerns about New Bedford's middle schools
- * Need to retain and attract families to New Bedford as "the district of choice"

An Innovation Zone: What is it?

- * A group of schools within a district – here potentially the three middle schools in New Bedford – that operates differently than the rest of the district
- * An opportunity to work, on a consensual basis, to empower educators and accelerate change by offering greater school-level freedom in exchange for greater school-level accountability
- * A genuine partnership between the school district, the city, the teachers union, and educators

An Innovation Zone: What it is not?

- * A one-size-fits-all solution that will not take into account the specific needs of New Bedford
- * An attempt to take power away from educators at the school level
- * An effort aiming to turn district schools into charter schools

Proposed Zone Model Goals

- * Ensure rigorous instruction for all students
- * Enhance ownership and “buy-in” from teachers and staff
- * Engage all stakeholders in the acceleration of teaching and learning
- * Build confidence of the community in our middle schools

Developing the Zone Concept

- * Work with Empower Schools as an outside partner to help design and launch the zone
- * Have Empower Schools serve as a consultant as the district operates the zone

Timeline for Potential Next Steps

- * July – School Committee and New Bedford Public Schools launch an exploration of a Zone
- * July to October – Information gathering and focus groups
 - * Families
 - * Students
 - * Teachers
 - * Administrators
 - * Community leaders
- * Discussion of potential ideas – What do we want the middle school experience to look like for our students?
- * November – Decision made about whether to continue moving forward with the potential Zone and further planning
- * Fall 2017 – Zone, if agreed upon, would launch

Next Steps

- * Explore ideas and structures for the zone through a community engagement process conducted by Teachers 21: “What do we want our middle schools to look like?”

Mayor Mitchell addressed the Committee voicing his opinion about the project and the reasons why the district should explore the Middle School Innovation Zone.

Mr. Amaral asked why this is necessary. Dr. DeFalco explained that we want the middle schools to accelerate. He also explained that there would be a grass roots approach and design involving all stakeholders. To a question by Mr. Amaral, Dr. DeFalco responded that there would be an external Board consisting of Committee members, union members, the Superintendent, etc. Mr. Amaral stated that he didn’t see the necessity for an external board and had reservations about governance.

Dr. Finnerty stated that we have to restore confidence in our middle schools expressing that autonomies in curriculum and fiscal decisions may be a benefit to students and staff. He also said he applauded the administration for looking at other opportunities.

Mr. Livramento asked what data was available to support the proposal.

At this time, Chris Gabrieli of Empower, addressed the Committee. He gave examples of other communities and how they benefited from having autonomy over finances, curriculum, schedules and staffing. He explained that Empower has the resources, experience and expertise in guiding districts in developing Innovation Zones.

Mr. Oliveira stated that he had reservations about giving away another piece of the district to which Mr. Gabrieli explained that if results are not achieved, governance would go back to the School Committee.

No action was taken.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to take item 7D "Out of State Travel Requests" out of order.

Mr. Chamanlal, principal of Whaling City Jr/Sr High School addressed the Committee. He explained that he and his staff applied to be considered to join the Summit Base Camp Training and they were accepted. The complete trip is paid for through the Summit therefore, there is no cost to the district.

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the following requests for out of state travel:

- Arnold Chamanlal/Principal/Whaling City – permission to travel to San Francisco, CA from July 25 – August 6, 2016, to attend Summit Base Camp Training. (No cost to the district.)
- Lynn Markey/Donna Ricci/Vince Duane/Chris Blake/Whaling City - permission to travel to San Francisco, CA from July 25 – August 5, 2016, to attend Summit Base Camp Training. (No cost to the district.)
- Tom Raffer/Gina Amancio/Tim Clifford/Whaling City – permission to travel to San Francisco, CA from August 1 – 5, 2016, to attend Summit Base Camp Training. (No cost to the district.)

Public Comment

- Robert McHale- Concern about school busses not having their lights on when students are arriving and departing
- Jim Openshaw – Concern about his daughter's education

Business Office Report (Mr. O'Leary): (Supporting documents labeled "6A"):

Mr. O'Leary stated that the customary, annual transfer of funds to close out FY16 was taking place. He also explained that balances would be used to pre-pay payments due for Reading Street and EnVision Math. This will assist with possible challenges in FY17.

Grant funding cuts have been made by the state, however, Mr. O'Leary predicted that overall, the district will be in a good position.

Mr. O'Leary continued with a summary of the current Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) projects:

MSBA

1. Four Elementary Schools Accelerated Repair Projects (Pulaski, Hayden McFadden, Gomes and Carney)

- Windows will not be delivered and installed until the end of the year. Temporary window coverings, which will replace all windows and casings will be removed this summer. Removal will take place while school is not in session. PCB removal process will be carefully monitored.
2. Hannigan
 - Demolition will begin in a few weeks.
 3. Taylor @ Sea Lab
 - Construction is nearly completed and should be ready for September.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the Business Office Report.

Personnel Report (Ms. Emsley) (Supporting document labeled “6B”)

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. She reported that there were 34 appointments, three retirements and 26 resignations since the last report in June.

The Student Representative gave her report.

School Committee Reports (Supporting document labeled “6C”): Mr. Cotter read a letter he previously sent to the Superintendent. The content of which was in regard to an issue brought to Mayor Mitchell’s attention by the Superintendent questioning Mr. Cotter’s use of his external role as a police officer to be involved in internal school matters. Mr. Cotter maintained that his position on the New Bedford School Committee has nothing to do with his job on the NBPD and he would never use one position to help with another and took exception to his ethics being questioned.

Dr. Durkin responded that she referred the matter to Mayor Mitchell, School Committee Chairman, several weeks ago as it is her responsibility is to protect the confidentiality of students and families.

Mayor Mitchell asked Mr. Cotter if any attempt was made to speak with Dr. Durkin to discuss the issue privately before it was made public. Mr. Cotter responded that he sent Dr. Durkin an email and that he did not receive a response. Mayor Mitchell then asked if in that same email he asked Dr. Durkin for a public apology. Mr. Cotter said he did not.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the 2016-17 School Committee Meeting Calendar. (Supporting document “7A”)

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve a request to hold New Bedford High School Summer Graduation Exercises on Thursday, August 18, 2016 in the Bronspiegel Auditorium at New Bedford High School at 6:00 P.M. (Supporting document “7B”)

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve a recommended list of proprietary items to be incorporated into the specifications of the new Hannigan Elementary School building as follows (Supporting document “7C”):

1. Faucets-Moen Commercial M-Press

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1. Faucets-Moen Commercial M-Press
2. Flushometers-Sloan
3. Boilers-VIESSMAN
4. Mini-Splits for IDF-Mitsubishi,
5. Roof Top Units- ANNEXAIRE

6. Building Automation Systems-SIEMENS
7. Fire Panels-1) Firelight 2.) Gamewell
8. Communication System-Cisco Unified Communications Manager
9. Interior Cylinders – Sargeant
10. Mortise Locks and Latches – Sargeant
11. Exit Devices - Sargeant
12. Exterior Cylinders – Medeco

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at Brooks, Keith, Normandin and the Paul Rodrigues Administration Building (PRAB). (Supporting document "7E")


At 8:25 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to adjourn.

The roll call vote was as follows:


Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Cotter – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Pia Durkin, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee