

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. AMARAL, MR. COTTER, DR. FINNERTY
MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, DR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MS. BETTENCOURT, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Student Representative, Katherine Gomes, was in attendance.

Dr. Durkin and the Committee congratulated the top three students at New Bedford High School. They were recognized with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Academic Excellence in Achievement Award. The students recognized were:

- Victoria Vafae
- Katherine Gomes
- Himali Patel

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:

- Transportation Sub Committee: December 17, 2015
- Policy Sub Committee: December 17, 2015
- Finance Sub Committee: January 7, 2016
- Special Meeting: January 27, 2016

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

Dr. Durkin prefaced her presentation by stating that the FY17 budget represents significant increases due to an increase in Chapter 70 funding. The increase comes partly from added ELL student funding after many were correctly identified. Funding for correctly identified ELL students went to other districts as far back as 2009 and now New Bedford is being properly funded.

The Superintendent's Preliminary Budget follows:

FY 17 SUPERINTENDENT'S PRELIMINARY BUDGET

*School Committee Meeting
March 14, 2016*

Recent Fiscal Context

Fiscal Year	Original Request	Working Request	Approved Budget
FY 14	124,866,015	118,101,174	\$109,400,000
FY 15	128,918,807	118,633,560	\$116,400,000
FY 16	125,771,769	120,400,000	\$118,800,000
FY 17 Preliminary	\$137,985,664	129,800,000	N/A

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Dr. Durkin explained the numbers in slide 2 citing the numbers originally requested, working request and what was finally approved.

FY 17 Budget Process

- First year Cost Center Managers made their budget requests in MUNIS
- All school requests were added to MUNIS for an initial total of \$137,985,664
- All requests are being analyzed in order to prioritize expenditures.
- Various reports will be used to share preliminary details of the FY 17 Budget

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FY 17 Superintendent's Budget

Total Request: \$129,800,000

This number represents the reforms for New Bedford Public Schools to sustain excellence in the coming years.

4

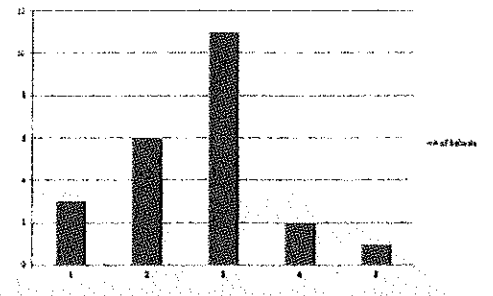
The budget was not put together in isolation and the needs of the City are recognized also. All money is spent in the appropriate way.

Results and Challenges Ahead

- Three (3) Level 1 Schools
- Sixteen (16)/25 schools increased in achievement
- Highest growth percentile ever – 51st percentile ELA
- Accelerated progress needed
- Sustainability and persistence is a "must"

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New Bedford Public Schools Accountability Status



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Dr. Durkin highlighted the fact that New Bedford growth in achievement 51% better than other districts in Massachusetts.

FY 17 Preliminary Budget

Item	Cost
Full Day Fridays	\$1,000,000
Twelve ESL teachers (\$60,000)	\$720,000
Third & final payment of Reading St.	\$359,818
Second payment for Envision Math	\$335,275
Technology Maintenance Agreements	\$341,770
Facilities Maintenance Agreements	\$136,145
Technology replacement cycle (\$750)	\$750,000
FOSS Science Kits Grades 5-8 & PD	\$714,930
8 Reading Specialists (K-5) (\$60,000)	\$480,000
Hayden-McFadden SRG grant - loss	\$218,000
FDK grant - loss	\$320,000
Contingencies	\$1,929,004
Total Preliminary Total	\$7,504,942

7

Number 7 slide represents the recognized needs that were discussed in December, including needs requested in the past. The \$1M for full day Fridays is for 20 teachers (art, music, tech and phys. ed. and planning time for elementary teachers.

Required Areas of Need Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 16

- ☐ Collective Bargaining Agreement expenditures - \$2,129,004
- ☐ Envision Math Program - \$347,275 (Year 2 of 3)
- ☐ Facilities Maintenance Safety Contracts - \$180,000
 - Elevator Inspections
 - Fire panel/smoke detector inspections
 - Sprinkler inspections
 - Generator inspections
 - Intercom/intruder alarm maintenance

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Required Areas of Need Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 16

- ☐ Full-Day Fridays for all elementary students (approximately 20 teachers) - \$1.0 million
- ☐ Additional 12 ESL teachers for identified ELL students and materials - \$700,000
- ☐ Year 3 & final payment of Reading Street Program - \$559,818
- ☐ Increased costs for transportation - \$1.0 million

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Required Areas of Need Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 16

- ☐ Technology Maintenance Network/Software Maintenance agreements: \$341,770
 - Leased wide area Network
 - Network updates/reconfigurations
 - E-Rate internal connections project funding
 - Outdoor wireless connections between buildings
 - Web-Based System maintenance agreements
 - Automated Calling System maintenance

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Required Areas of Need Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 16

Total Amount
\$6,257,867

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FY 17 Needs

- Continued support and resources for New Bedford High School (Level 4), Hayden McFadden (Level 4) and John Avery Parker (Level 5) - \$575,852
- Technology replacement plan - \$750,000
- Additional classroom instructional material \$25/child: \$325,000
- 10 Reading Specialists: \$600,000
- Facilities maintenance: \$500,000
- 8 School Adjustment Counselors: \$480,000
- Science curriculum and materials: \$750,000

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Facilities Maintenance

Additional tree cutting	1,677	Remove Carpet and install VCT	
3 seasonal employees for landscaping	16,000	\$3000/room	120,000
Add new infield	10,000	Update school signage	2,500
French drains for dug outs	5,000	Replace snow blowers	2,500
Asphalt repairs	30,000	Additional building supplies	15,000
2 outside storage units	5,000	Replacement of equipment	5,000
NBHS Monitoring per EPA	75,000	2 riding lawn mowers	8,000
Repairs to fire panels and smoke detectors	8,000	3 year lease of new vehicles for snow removal	41,000
Roofing maintenance contract	20,000	Upgrade of filter medium	15,000
Fencing repair	15,000	HVAC	40,000
		Air conditioning units	25,000
		Additional craftsman	45,000

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New Bedford High School

AP Capstone Training	10,000
IA Equipment	10,000
Virtual High School Fees	17,000
Instructional Technology	42,000
Renaissance Learning	30,000
Mass Insight	57,000
8th grade Dual Enrollment	39,000
Maintenance Projects	48,000
Subtotal	\$258,000

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Due to the anticipated length of the meeting, Mayor Mitchell suggested taking the agenda item related to Sea Lab out of order.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to take item 7C out of order.

Ms. Bourgeois briefly addressed the Committee with a request to increase the non-resident student tuition for the 2016 Sea Lab program.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Simone Bourgeois, Sea Lab Facilitator, to increase non-resident tuition from \$480 to \$490 for the 2016 Sea Lab session and to operate the program from July 6 – August 19, 2016. (N.B. resident tuition will not be increased.)

Dr. Durkin thanked Ms. Bourgeois for her commitment to Sea Lab and for keeping the city resident student tuition unchanged.

Mr. Oliveira said he was grateful for the maintenance budget as there are many things that need attention.

Dr. Finnerty asked that the Committee be informed of potential cuts, if any before they are made to the facilities budget.

Level 4&5 Support

Parker School	
Upgrade front and back doors by adding a keypad access	4,500
Add camera to rear door	1,000
8 small group tables for instruction	2,152
Subtotal for Parker	\$7,652
Hayden McFadden Additional Staffing	
1 Assistant Principal	\$5,000
1 SAC	\$0,000
1 Wraparound Coordinator	\$0,000
1 Behaviorist	\$0,000
1 Confidential Sec	\$0,000
1 Media Specialist	\$0,000
1st Special Education Facilitator	(special education budget)
Subtotal for Hayden McFadden	\$315,000

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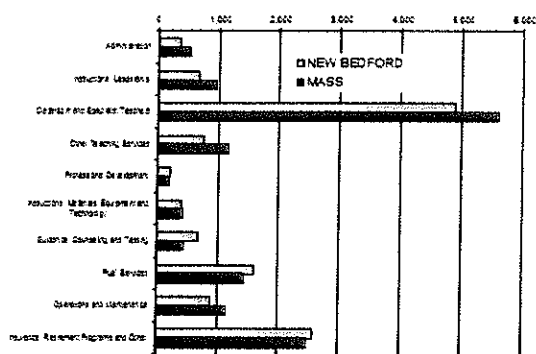
Total Preliminary Budget Request

FY 16 Approved Budget	\$118,800,000
Required Areas of Need Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 16	\$6,257,867
FY 17 Needs	\$3,980,652
Building-Based Requests	\$761,481
Total =	\$129,800,000

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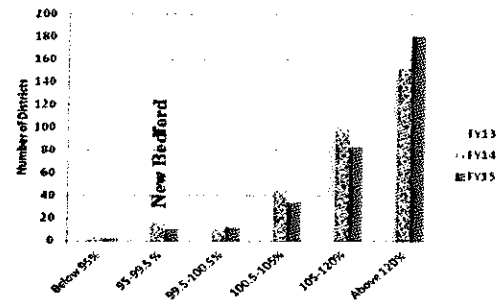
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Per Pupil Expenditure By Function FY15



17

Most Districts Spend in Excess of Their Net School Spending Requirement



18

Mayor Mitchell thanked the Superintendent for her presentation. He also mentioned that he understood the needs of the School Department and there will be a substantial increase this year but stated that the aim should be focused on getting to the Net School Spending (NSS) amount of \$126,500,000. If the state allocates more funds, the amount could be higher.

Dr. Finnerty referred to slide 19 in regard to the statistic on guidance and testing and was interested in the fact that New Bedford is ahead of the state. Dr. Rabinovitch described what was involved and Dr. Durkin stated that they would supply the Committee more specific information.

Mr. Cotter referred to the budget for Hayden McFadden School, acknowledging that there is no more grant funding and asked if the budget will include the necessary services for the school. Dr. DeFalco responded that the budget will cover needs in curriculum and support for ELL students, and several services will be covered by other budget areas. He explained that in regard to staffing, the core is on slide 15. The needed services and supports are covered in other budget areas.

Mr. Amaral also asked about building-based substitutes which were proposed in the previous Hayden McFadden turnaround plan. Dr. Durkin responded that it is being effectively piloted at Parker School now and will continue at Hayden McFadden next year, as interruption to education is not good for any student, not to mention students that are far behind.

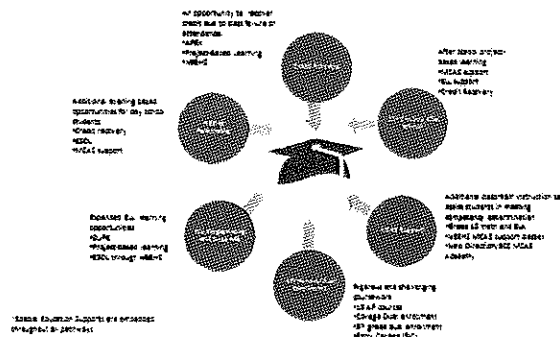
Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School, gave a presentation on Pathways to Graduation. Dr. Durkin prefaced the presentation by stating - How do our kids cross the finish line and graduate and be successful? We want to be sure our ELL students, students with disabilities and overaged and under credited students have every opportunity to succeed. We also want to embrace every student that comes through our doors.

Ms. Coelho gave some examples of what credit recovery looks like and the pathways students may take towards graduation.

NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Pathways to Graduation

March 14, 2016



Staying on Track for Earning Credits Towards Graduation:

- Completion of Rigorous Coursework
- Credit Recovery Opportunities
- Additional "First Time" Credit Opportunities



Expanded ELL learning opportunities
 • SLIFE
 • Project-based learning
 • ESOL through NBEHS

TEAM Members

- ◆ Student
- ◆ Parent
- ◆ Principal/Assistant Principal
- ◆ Graduation Facilitator
- ◆ Guidance Counselor
- ◆ School Adjustment Counselor
- ◆ Registration and Pathways Administrator
- ◆ Content Instructional Leaders
- ◆ Special Education Facilitator
- ◆ School Nurse

Supports

- ◆ Enrichment and Acceleration
- ◆ Academic/Socio-Emotional Assessment
- ◆ Schoolwide expectations
- ◆ Community-based referrals
- ◆ Peer "Buddy"

NBHS Transfer Student Intake Team

• As part of the effort to provide appropriate academic and support services for students who enter NBHS, a Transfer Student Intake Team has been created to identify and facilitate educational and/or support options that are available to all entering students who have attended other school districts.

On behalf of the Committee, Mayor Mitchell thanked Ms. Coelho and her staff for their efforts.

Dr. Durkin gave a reorganization update explaining that in addition to her duties as English Language Learner Manager and Family Welcome Center Manager, Sonia Walmsley will now be taking over duties related to Early Childhood and ABE/ESOL – Adult Education. Her title will be changed to Executive Director of Educational Access and Pathways.

Dr. Durkin said that PARCC testing will take place between April 25 and May 27. She informed the Committee that there was a meeting for families at Swift School with information about the test. She also explained that there is no Opt-out clause as all students are required to participate. Parents should consult with their child's teacher and principal with any fears or concerns they may have.

Dr. DeFalco further explained that if a student does not take the test, the student will receive a zero for the test and counted against the achievement score for the school. Other penalties issued by the state include:

- If the participation rate falls below 95% the school will go down a level (from Level 1 to Level 2, etc.
- It will affect the overall percentile over a four year period.

Mr. Cotter asked that if the participation rate is below 95% and the school is satisfactory, will they still go down a level? Dr. DeFalco responded that the school will go down a level.

Mr. Amaral also commented that the district has their hands tied as this is regulated by the State Law.

To a question by Mayor Mitchell about the impact this would have on a student, Mr. DeFalco responded that a student will not be assessed on what he/she does or doesn't know. Specifics of the assessment aid teachers in determining what extra support they should give a student.

Dr. Durkin introduced Dr. Paula Bailey, principal of Keith Middle School. Dr. Bailey addressed the Committee in answers to concerns about discipline issues at the middle school.

She stated that her first priority as principal of the school was to keep everyone safe. She also went on to say that she took on all responsibility for keeping students and staff safe, and she takes it very seriously. Dr. Bailey continued to express that everyone has to be involved: staff, students and parents to help ensure a climate that promotes learning. She also listed strategies that have been/will be put into place:

- PBIS Committee will provide staff with clear consequences for all student infractions
- When an issue occurs, parents will be contacted as soon possible
- Small parent meetings to discuss concerns
- All staff and administrators will be visible in hallways during transitions
- Will hold students accountable for poor choices and the consequences that will arise due to these choices
- Strengthen collaboration with all staff
- Will continue to identify students that continue to be disruptive and refer them to an alternative setting
- To hold students accountable by not only using suspensions, but by offering alternate pathways, with the help of community partners, to support efforts to help them succeed.

Dr. Bailey concluded by stating she was confident that Keith can be made a great school and that school safety and security has been and will continue to be her number one priority.

Dr. Durkin acknowledged that Dr. Bailey has been working diligently on the issue and she thanked Dr. Bailey's staff for meeting with Dr. Bailey to look at solutions and really own the issue that we are dealing with. We will be putting into effect several consequences that may not have been as consistent as they should have been. Dr. Durkin went on to list several strategies that are being put into place:

- There will be increased administrative visibility on each floor.
- Teachers and admin will work together to look for solutions for all students and those specific solutions for some students.
- Re-structured the student success room so that area is deemed as a time out and when students give up their privilege to be with their peers and are separated from them.
- Many students have to be held accountable and consequences have to be held firm.

Mayor Mitchell, expressing frustration that discipline issues still need to be discussed, suggested that the School Committee take on a more active role in this area and establish an Ad Hoc Committee on School Climate. He also stated that the district cannot continue its reform effort if this issue is not addressed.

The Ad Hoc Committee will include Committee members, Bruce Oliveira as chair, along with Jack Livramento and Christopher Cotter.

Mayor Mitchell went on to say that he has directed the Chief of Police to assign another Student Resource Officer (SRO) to Keith and some students may have to be removed from their mainstream classrooms.

Mr. Amaral thanked everyone who attended the meeting and stated that he had confidence in Dr. Bailey and she had the support of the School Committee. It is very important that we maintain balance between suspending students and keeping them in school but we also must have a safe school environment. He also stated that he was frustrated that we have issues after many months since school started. He said he was also concerned with how many teachers and students have been frustrated. Solutions are a must and stated that he wants to visit the school without being a disruption and observe what is going on for himself. We have a very aggressive reform agenda and many good things are happening; however they are consistently being undermined by disciplinary issues and the school climate is not acceptable to parents, staff, community members and the School Committee. He also said that he wanted regular updates from the Sub Committee and the onus is on the Committee to hold the Administration accountable as we cannot get where we won't to go each and every day.

Mr. Oliveira stated that when asked to be on the Sub Committee, he was hesitant, but willing to accept the responsibility of chairing this important committee. He said he looked forward to working to help to find solutions with the help from Mr. Cotter, Mr. Livramento, the Superintendent and her designee as we move forward. He also stated that this would not be a witch hunt or an "I've got you". He went on to say that he has every intention of trying to find a solution as he is not happy about it. He went on to say that we have to evaluate policies that we have district wide and to involve parents, teachers, staff, principals and administrators so we can get an accurate determination of the current state of our school environment. We will make recommendations for consideration and implementation. It will be a deliberate process and we will need to receive an accurate assessment of the facts. This process will begin soon and in the end we want students and staff to be safe in their learning environment.

Mr. Cotter stated that there were concerns about Keith Middle School before he took office and things have not changed, unfortunately. He commended staff and parents for coming forward throughout the district on behalf of their own schools. He stated that he is not a fan of PBIS and as he stated in January, children know right from wrong. He went on to say that 5% - 3% are disrupting 95% to 98% of the students. Students have handbooks and they know the expectations. Students need to be held accountable. He commented that he has an issue with a particular administrator at Keith who has told staff not to call the SRO when there is an issue. He also stated that he hoped there would be no bad mark put on anyone who wants to come forward with an issue they may want to bring up.

Mr. Livramento commented that everyone has to look at the whole school and know that 100% of the students are not disruptive and that students should be held accountable when they are. He continued that we should also help the students who are doing well and support them in their education. There are always adjustments that have to be made when the school has a new principal and that principal has to be supported in her position by all the staff. He continued that he felt discipline is a problem and students must be taught how to act in school and go through the process of teaching them a little differently and be sure that they learn that.

Dr. Finnerty agreed that no small amount of students should disrupt the others. It has to stop and has to stop now. He continued that some students, by their very behavior, have to be dealt with in a different manner. If exclusion out of the classroom for the day has to happen, so be it, or if it has to be beyond that,

so be it. Problem's solutions have to begin with problem identification and we have to know specifically what the issues are and not these "vagaries" about out of control behavior.

Dr. Finnerty also mentioned that teachers should be documenting issues daily into the (computer) software provided, so the exact issues can be identified such as what types of behavior and where they are happening.

The parents, teachers and students all have to be involved in promoting pro- social behavior.

At approximately 8:23, a recess was called by Mayor Mitchell.

At 8:40 P.M., the meeting continued.

Public Comment

- David Goldman – parent of student at Swift/concern about safety
- Karla Tedeschi – former teacher/concern about safety/student disruption and administration issues
- Kaylee Reynolds – Student at Gomes School/concern about bullying
- Bryan Hancock – Teacher/Roosevelt/NBEA Bd. Member/concerns about lack of discipline at Roosevelt
- Sandra Sylvia – Former teacher/concern about safety
- Jen Duarte – Parent of student at Swift/concern about discipline/PARCC issues
- Michelle Furtado – Community member/PARCC refusal
- Brandi Mosher – Parent of student at Keith/concern about bullying, communication and school climate
- Geri Sullivan – Teacher/ Keith/ concern about school discipline
- Robert McHale – Not present
- Carol Strupczewski – N.B. resident/ former teacher/concern about cost of meals being proposed to serve at dinner time at several schools
- Doria Bryant - Teacher/concern about discipline problems
- Tim Sylvia – N.B. resident/solutions for discipline problems/stated that all students don't have to be doctors or lawyers
- Kim Dias – Teacher/Keith/concern about discipline

At this time, the

Business Office Report (Dr. Rabinovitch): (Supporting documents labeled "6A"):

Financial Statement

- Salary Spend-down Report: 2/27/2016 is the last live week posted. This figure is below the weekly estimate. The balance shown can be used for Collective Bargaining Agreements that are being negotiated or ratified.
- Departments General Expense Budget Report: This is where we would expect them.
 - The variance of departmental expenditures within departments is expected
- Schools General Expense Budget Report: This is where we expect it.
 - Some smaller schools delay certain expenditures.
- Function Code Report

- Any areas where spending is over 100% is covered in a roll up code within the same major account.
- Utilities are waiting for our solar credits to be deposited.

Transfer of Funds

- Dr. Rabinovitch explained the transfers that needed the approval of the full committee. This item was reviewed and referred by the Finance Sub Committee.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Cotter, to approve the following transfer of funds:

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR APPROVAL:

Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason
40539513	2305	511110	Keith Sped Teacher Salary	40537810	3520	511110	Keith Other Student Activities Salaries	15,140	To cover club stipends for the year
40538442	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Keith	40539551	2430	540005	Keith Classroom Supplies	1,500	Toners needed for classroom printers

Dr. Rabinovitch continued with a summary of the current Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) projects:

I. MSBA

1. Hannigan

- We are still waiting for complete access and ownership of 64-66 Emma Street.
- We will not get the signed PFA until we have complete control of the property.
- We are in the schematic design phase of this project.
- We have received approval for the early demolition of the existing Hannigan building. This is planned for spring of 2016.
- This project is on schedule, however if the Emma St. property is not vacated within two weeks, our schedule could be affected.

2. Taylor @ Sea Lab

- Construction work has begun.
- Job meetings are being held on Tuesday mornings at Sea Lab.
- The schedule was slowed down due to the removal and addition of telephone poles.

3. Four Elementary Schools Accelerated Repair Projects

- The total cost for the four schools is \$18,145,990.
- The MSBA will reimburse at the rate of 79.58%
- This item will be on the City Council Agenda for March 22, 2016. The bids will not be awarded until we have a PFA.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, 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 10 new hires and two retirements since the last report in February.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to accept the Personnel Report.

Several members gave reports including Mr. Amaral who gave a presentation related to the budget.

The student representative had left the meeting and was not in attendance.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to adopt/amend the following policies. This is the second and final reading. (Reviewed and approved by the Policy Sub Committee as part of the district’s ongoing revision of the complete policy manual. This project is in consultation with the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)):
(Supporting documents – 7A)

SECTION B

BOARD GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

SECTION BEC-BK

- | | |
|------------|---|
| • BEC | EXECUTIVE SESSIONS |
| • BED | SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURES |
| • BEDA | NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS |
| • BEDB | AGENDA FORMAT |
| • BEDB-E | AGENDA FORMAT PROCEDURE |
| • BEDBA | AGENDA PREPARATION AND DISSEMINATION |
| • BEDC | QUORUM |
| • BEDD | RULES OF ORDER |
| • BEDF | VOTING METHOD |
| • BEDG | MINUTES |
| • BEDH | PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS |
| • BEDI | NEWS MEDIA SERVICES AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS |
| • BEE | SPECIAL PROCEDURES FOR CONDUCTING HEARINGS |
| • BG | SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY DEVELOPMENT |
| • BGA | POLICY DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM |
| • BGAA/BGB | PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES/POLICY ADOPTION |
| • BGC | POLICY REVISION AND REVIEW |
| • BGD | SCHOOL COMMITTEE REVIEW OF REGULATIONS |
| • BGE | POLICY DISSEMINATION |
| • BGF | SUSPENSION OF POLICIES |
| • BHC | SCHOOL COMMITTEE-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS |
| • BHE | USE OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGING BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS |
| • BIA | NEW SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER ORIENTATION |
| • BiB | SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES |

- BIBA SCHOOL COMMITTEE CONFERENCES, CONVENTIONS, AND WORKSHOPS
- BID SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBER COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES
- BJ SCHOOL COMMITTEE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
- BK SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Cotter, to grant a utility easement to NSTAR Electric Company (d/b/a Eversource Energy) and Verizon New England, Inc., for the purpose of distribution of electricity over the premises located at 71 Portland Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts, said premises constituting a portion of the property dedicated to the Taylor-Sea Lab Elementary School and located at Assessors Map 6, Lot 81, and that the New Bedford City Council be authorized and directed hereby to grant such utility easement as described on the document enclosed herewith entitled "EASEMENT." (Supporting document – 7B)

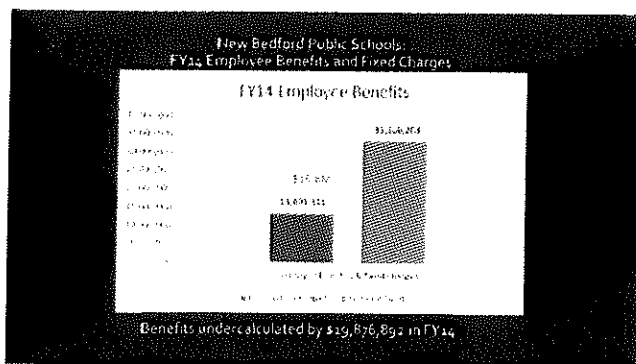
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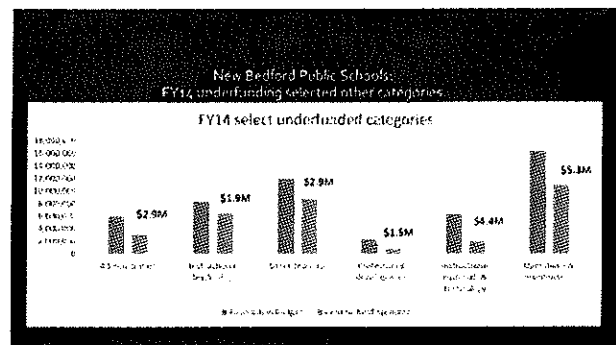
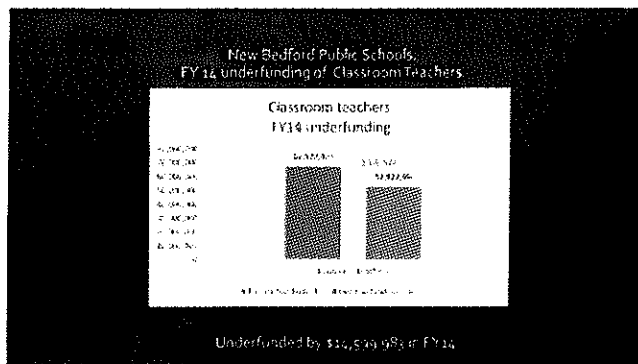
The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve a request from Catherine S. Cooper, Executive Director of Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC), for approval to amend SMEC articles of agreement, specifically:

- to accept the Greater new Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School as a Collaborative member effective July 1, 2016, and
- to add clarifying language to Article X - Member Appropriations (Supporting documents – 7D)

Mr. Amaral asked the Committee to support a resolution calling for the full funding of the recommendations put forward by the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC) that will review employee health insurance and special education costs. The Massachusetts Foundation Budget understates the true cost of educating students in the Commonwealth and has failed to keep pace with rising costs.

Mr. Amaral gave a brief presentation on fixed costs that are included in budgets and the underfunding of classrooms and other operational functions. He illustrated this by providing data from the FY 14 budget.





The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to adopt a resolution calling for the full funding of the recommendations put forward by the Foundation Budget Review Commission (FBRC). (Supporting documents – 7E)

Mr. Livramento asked the Committee to support a proposed constitutional amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to adopt a resolution to support the proposed constitutional amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation. (Supporting documents – 7F)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to take up the following out of state/overnight together and to approve the requests:
(Supporting documents – 7G, H, I)

Jennifer Clune/Principal/Renaissance - permission to take 80 students and 14 chaperones on an overnight field trip to Camp Wingate Kirkland in Yarmouth Port, MA from April 11-12, 2016. (No cost to the district.)

Jane Jacobsen/Academy Coordinator/NBHS – permission to take 29 students and five chaperones to New York City on April 28, 2016, to visit the Wholesale Buying District. (No cost to the local budget.)

Neil Macedo/Volleyball Coach/NBHS – permission to take 17 students and six to eight chaperones to Disney World/Orlando, FL, from August 31 – September 4, 2016, to compete in a pre-season national volleyball tournament. (No cost to the district for travel.)

At 9:50 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, without returning to Open Session, for the following:

- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with union personnel:
 - Unit A – New Bedford Educators Association
 - Unit B – New Bedford Educators Association

- New Bedford Federation of Paraprofessionals
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- To discuss issues related to deployment of security

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Cotter – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

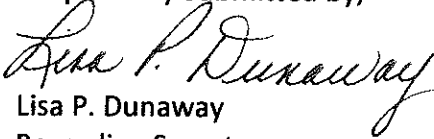
Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas

0 – Nays

0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Pia Durkin, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee

