

November 14, 2016  
Keith Middle School  
6:05 P.M.  
Pages: 7

**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, MS. BETTENCOURT, MS. EMSLEY, MR. O'LEARY,  
MR. CARVALHO, MR. TETREALT, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

The School Committee Student Representative, Cinthya Jimenez, was in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to accept the Finance Sub Committee minutes of September 8, 2016 as presented. (Supporting documents labeled "3")

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to take Item 6A, Business Office report, out of order.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the financial reports with the Committee stating that all expenditures were on target and where they are expected to be at this time of year.

Mr. O'Leary explained that the transfers of funds were needed to lease copy machines and to re-purpose Special Education staff.

**FOR APPROVAL – From the Finance Sub Committee**

<b>FROM</b>				<b>TO</b>				<b>Amount</b>	<b>Reason</b>
<b>Org</b>	<b>Func</b>	<b>Obj</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Org</b>	<b>Func</b>	<b>Obj</b>	<b>Description</b>		
20639580	2420	580008	Instructional DW SPED Equipment	20638441	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment DW SPED Constructed Service	15,000	Lease of Copy Machines
10539550	2430	540005	Pacheco Classroom Supplies	10538441	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Pacheco	3,750	Lease of Copy Machine
10535450	2455	540005	Pacheco Instruction	10539540	4230	520004	Maintenance of	100	Machine Repairs

21335740	2357	520004	al Software Professiona l Developme nt Contracted Services	23433410	2110	511110	Equipment Director of Fine Arts Salary	1,212	Summer hours with PD for new teachers
12339532	2330	511110	Pulaski Paraprofess ional Salaries	12339534	2800	511110	Pulaski Behavior Assistant Salary	40,000	Re-purpose of 2 para positions for 1 Behavior Assistant position to meet the needs of

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve the above listed transfers. (Supporting document "6A")

#### MSBA

- Taylor/Sea Lab – Final touches are being added to the building
- Hannigan – Construction underway
- ARP – Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, along with representatives from the installation companies appeared before the Committee in regard to the new window construction. Dr. Rabinovitch reported that the delays were caused by many factors including the lack of manufacturers who make the windows. Installation is scheduled for December 16 for Gomes and Pulaski and January 16 for Hayden McFadden and Carney. He also mentioned that the MSBA has been informed of the delay.

Mayor Mitchell stated that he had expected the General Contractor to appear. He relayed a message, via the representatives, that the construction and installation is expected to be on schedule.

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

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

Dr. Durkin introduced Dr. John D'Auria of Teachers21. Dr. Durkin explained that the district obtained a grant to have a third party gather information on what students, parents, teachers and administrators would like the Middle Schools to look like when exploring a potential redesign.

Dr. D'Auria gave a presentation as follows:

## What Is An Innovation Zone?

An opportunity to develop special conditions and opportunities for a small group of schools.

In New Bedford, that small group could be the 3 middle schools

## Why Middle School?

- Middle school is the 2nd most critical time in a child's development.
- During the ages of 10-14 young people decide what kind of student they want to be.

- New Bedford middle schools are making progress, but that progress is not deep enough nor fast enough.
- Recent statewide assessments show some gains & some setbacks.
- Each of the middle schools fell by 2 percentage points in relation to other middle schools in Massachusetts.



## Potential Advantages to an Innovation Zone

- Better Alignment Between School Decisions & Student Needs (School Customization)
- Deeper Educator Commitment To the Agreed Upon Improvement Strategies (Ownership of the Work)
- Strengthened Parent Confidence in the Schools
- Additional Support (Outside & Internal)
- Improved Student Results
- The Opportunity to Apply Lessons Learned to Other Schools (Scaling Throughout NBPS)

## Three Key Conditions That Shape An Innovation Zone

- Independent, Joint Governance
- School Based Flexibilities
- Zone District MOA

### From parent meeting on 9/27 & surveys (249)

- The importance of safety
- The desire for acceleration, after school enrichment, athletics
- More support for struggling learners
- More hands on investigations, STEM
- Better communication between educators & parents
- More teachers who are excited & committed

### From our meetings with Educators

- Interest in how Innovation Zones are working in Springfield & Lawrence
- Questions about funding for planning, job security, & governance
- Cautious interest in learning more
- Enthusiasm from all three principals

### From our Meetings with Educators (cont'd)

- Excitement about the progress achieved & the influence teachers had on those outcomes
- Interest in how the increase of autonomy "levels the playing field" with charter schools
- Support for the increased options for students

## What we Learned from the Association

- The NBEA Leadership met with Dr. DeFazio on two occasions.
- There was enthusiastic support for collaborating on middle school redesign plans that would bring innovative approaches to schedules, curricula, instruction, and other aspects of school operations that impact student learning and achievement.



## From Our Meetings With Students

What supports their learning and excites them about school:

- Experiments
- Hands-on activities
- Learning with others
- When school learning connects to real life

## From Our Meetings With Students (cont'd)

What changes would they like to see:

- More time to learn
- More options to actively engage in learning
- Opportunities for after school help
- After school sports, clubs, and activities
- More variety and choice
- More personal interaction with teachers
- More STEM

## Next Steps

- Does the School Committee endorse District Leadership to initiate planning on redesigning the operational aspects of the New Bedford Middle Schools?
- All such plans would be developed in collaboration with the NBEA using input from other stakeholders, educators, and administrators and subject to final approval by the School Committee

Mayor Mitchell commented that this proposal is not a reorganization of the school district but rather a development of a system to get our middle schools caught up. It is not permanent but a three year process. Teachers will have the opportunity to shape their schools as they see fit in conjunction with the administration and union in a timelier manner than redesigning the schools on our own.

A lengthy discussion took place in regard to the possible design planning and governance of a possible proposed "zone".

Dr. Durkin recapped that at this time, the Committee was being asked to allow the administration to enter into discussions and possible negotiations with the NBEA to see what design and re-invention plans might look like. Updates would be given regularly and the Committee would be asked to make a decision in early spring, perhaps in March.

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to authorize the administration to continue to develop plans for middle school designs and to enter into negotiations with the NBEA as necessary or as needed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Cotter – No	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas      1 – No      0 – Absent

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

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. She reported that there were 47 appointments since the last personnel report in October. There were also four retirements and 11 resignations.

In response to a question by Mr. Cotter, Ms. Emsley stated that the Interim Nursing Supervisor is still in place and the position is posted for a permanent placement. Ms. Emsley went on to explain that there is a small pool of candidates for this particular position.

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

Several members gave reports.

The Student Representative gave her report.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Amaral, appointed Aggregator of Dr. Durkin’s evaluation, explained the process in regard to rating the three goals: Student learning, professional practice and district improvement; and the four standards: instructional leadership, management and operations, family and community engagement and professional culture. He continued that, in accordance with the regulations of the educator evaluation system, the superintendent produced a binder of evidence of her progress toward these goals and performance on these standards and on the standards’ indicators.

He also stated that he conducted a focus group of district administrators and shared the information with the Committee. He added that Dr. Durkin provided a self-assessment that was very helpful. He went on to comment that the Superintendent’s evaluation is one of the most important duties that the School Committee is responsible for.

Each of the standards had at least one response of “Needs Improvement” but there were more responses of “Proficient” or “Exemplary”, therefore the majority was selected.

Mr. Amaral announced that the Superintendent’s Overall Summative Performance, based on ratings of the Goals and Standards, is *Proficient*.



On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the following requests for Out of State/Overnight Field Trips: (Supporting documents labeled 7C)

- Elizabeth Carr/Teacher/Renaissance, for permission to take 32 students and six chaperones to Providence, RI, on December 15, 2016, to visit the RISD Museum and Nature Lab. (Grant funded.)
- Richard Huston/Teacher/NBHS, for permission to take 40 students and three chaperones to Providence, RI/RI Convention Center, to see the Body Worlds Vital exhibit on December 8, 2016. (No cost to the district.)

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve a request from Dr. Pia Durkin, Superintendent, to travel to Chicago, IL to attend the YMCA of the USA 2016 Achievement Gap Convening Training, from November 15-16, 2016. (Cost: \$100 airport transfers. All other costs to be paid by Y-USA and YMCA Southcoast.) (Supporting documents labeled 7D.)

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN, a recommended list of surplus property located at the following locations: Business Office and Brooks School (Supporting document labeled "7E")

At 8:25P.M., on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session without returning to Open Session.

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

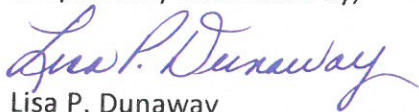
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas

0 – Nays

0 – Absent

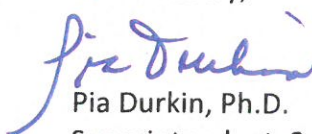
Respectfully Submitted by,



Lisa P. Dunaway

Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Pia Durkin, Ph.D.

Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee

