

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

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

ABSENT: MR. NOBREGA

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

The School Committee Student Representative, Victoria Knox, was not present.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the following School Committee meeting minutes as follows: (Supporting documents labeled "3")

- Policy Sub Committee Meeting: January 18, 2017
- Budget Session III: April 25, 2017
- Budget Session IV: April 27, 2017
- Regular Meeting: July 17, 2017

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

Dr. Durkin introduced new administrators to the Committee:

- Jennifer Mainelli – Principal of the Renaissance Community School
- Nathan Dineen – Asst. Principal at Keith Middle School

Laura Richane from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education addressed the Committee in regard to the Quarterly AIP Monitoring Report.

She stated that the district had a continuation of progress by looking at data and outcomes with a real focus on actual results. She also noted that there is an increase in teacher/principal leadership beyond the AIP. She also said she was happy to report that with the submission of the 2017-18 AIP, the district would be released from monitoring.

New Bedford Public Schools Accelerated Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Annual Report to the Board of Education
November 14, 2013

NEW BEDFORD
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION



Introduction

- Reporting period: April–June
- Hallmarks of AIP implementation:
 - Careful planning & deep analysis of data
 - Relentless focus on outcomes
 - Increased principal and teacher leadership
- Release from district-level monitoring



Strategic Objective 1: Implementing Rigorous Standards; Monitoring Student Progress

- Learning walks with clear expectations, actionable feedback, and follow-up
- Promising trends in end-of-year data
- School-based data meetings
- Collaborative curriculum development in science and social studies



Strategic Objective 2: Systems to Support Student Needs

- Continued PBIS implementation, leading to improved behavior data
- Building-Based Support Teams, with promising results
- Continued focus on English learners, leading to positive instructional changes



Strategic Objectives 3 & 4: Professional Development & Shared Vision for NBPS

- School-specific PD & follow-up observations
- Principal leadership/ownership of professional development
- Professional growth opportunities for new and veteran teachers
- Data tracking to analyze and improve family engagement efforts



Summary

- New Bedford has used the AIP to operate more effectively and guide improvement
- **Significant improvement since 2011 ESE district review**
- ESE will continue to monitor New Bedford's Level 4 and 5 schools



Process and Performance Ratings

- Process ratings:
 - *Fully Embedded*– 2 initiatives
 - *Practices in Place*– 3 initiatives
 - *Technical Implementation Stage* – 6 initiatives
- Performance ratings:
 - *Partially Reached Performance Goals*– 11 initiatives



Ms. Richane reviewed the following summary from the 2011 District Review:

Summary

The Accelerated Improvement Plan process in New Bedford was initiated because of significant concerns raised in the Department’s 2011 district review. The review report described a district with “serious problems with respect to each of the six district standards” (page 3). Among the review team’s findings were the following:

- *The central office did not have adequate leadership and capacity to support a continuously improving educational system;*
- *Principals had to work too independently, without adequate direction, support, or accountability;*
- *Teachers were not provided sufficient leadership, supervision, common planning time, coaching support, or guidance in providing high-quality instruction;*
- *The district had limited capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate data in order to improve instruction and raise student performance;*
- *Professional development was unfocused and was not sufficiently coordinated from school to school; There was little evidence that the district was effectively addressing graduation, dropout, attendance, retention, and suspension rates; and*
- *There was little evidence that budget decisions were determined by an analysis of student needs.*

While much remains to be done to ensure that all New Bedford students receive a strong education and achieve at high levels, it is clear that the district has made great strides in addressing major challenges through its improvement efforts. Going forward, it is critically important for the district to continue its steadfast focus on improvement and to sustain the momentum it has achieved.

Mr. Richane continued that she was struck with the incredible difference in how New Bedford is not the same district as in 2011 and how the district is working for the best interest of kids. With coordination, supervision and support, there are systems in place to release the monitor.

Mayor Mitchell said it was an encouraging report noting the District Review from 2011. He expressed that we need to give confidence to parents that good things are happening in New Bedford Public Schools.

Dr. Finnerty asked if the DESE feels there is a system in place and a framework that is not contingent upon one person. Ms. Richane responded that it is sustainable and there is confidence that district has systems in place to continue with the work.

Dr. Finnerty asked how you have accountability and be creative. Dr. Durkin responded that principals in the past did not have the support they have now. We need to demonstrate results, so there is a balance between support and pressure. Central Office has also been redefined by focusing on support for schools.

Mr. Livramento commented that he is offering support and thankfulness to teachers and administrators for what they've done to make this happen.

Mr. Amaral commented that this is a milestone to be celebrated. There is a lot more to do, but it is a major milestone. He added that it is a relief as a School Committee member to see the foundation in place.

Mr. Oliveira thanked the DESE for its validation of the Superintendent and staff, teachers and support staff.

Public Comment:

No one signed up to address the Committee.

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

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the financial reports with the Committee. He stated that the salary spend down continues and is on target at the end of the year. He suggested that going forward, utility costs not be included in the cost center reports to give a more accurate look at the funds being spent. He also explained that school cost centers have spent most of their funds on supplies at this time of year.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the following transfers:

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

FOR APPROVAL

FROM				TO						
Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason	
S5055560	4120	520980	HEAT NBHS GAS	S5057060	4130	520410	UTILITIES NBHS ELECTRIC	80,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	
S0455560	4120	520980	HEAT CARNEY GAS	S6157060	4130	520410	UTILITIES SEA LAB ELECTRIC	40,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	
S1055860	4120	521030	HEAT PACHECO OIL	S6157060	4130	520410	UTILITIES SEA LAB ELECTRIC	10,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	
S1235560	4120	520980	HEAT PULASKI GAS	S0957060	4130	520410	UTILITIES LINCOLN ELECTRIC	20,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	
S1055860	4120	521030	HEAT PACHECO OIL	S0957060	4130	520410	UTILITIES LINCOLN ELECTRIC	6,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT	

S0205860	4120	521030	HEAT CAMPBELL OIL	S4057060	4130	520410	UTILITIES KEITH ELECTRIC	20,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0635560	4120	520980	HEAT GOMES GAS	S1237060	4130	520410	UTILITIES PULASKI ELECTRIC	15,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S4055560	4120	520980	HEAT KEITH GAS	S1237060	4130	520410	UTILITIES PULASKI ELECTRIC	4,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0105860	4120	521030	HEAT ASHLEY OIL	S0637060	4130	520410	UTILITIES GOMES ELECTRIC	15,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S4055560	4120	520980	HEAT KEITH GAS	S0637060	4130	520410	UTILITIES GOMES ELECTRIC	1,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0955560	4120	520980	HEAT LINCOLN GAS	S0207060	4130	520410	UTILITIES CAMPBELL ELECTRIC	17,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S1305860	4120	521030	HEAT SWIFT OIL	S4107060	4130	520410	UTILITIES NORMANDIN ELECTRIC	7,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S4055560	4120	520980	HEAT KEITH GAS	S6107060	4130	520410	UTILITIES MCCOY FLD ELECTRIC	8,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0505560	4120	520980	HEAT DEVALLES GAS	S0907060	4130	520410	UTILITIES PRAB ELECTRIC	6,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S1405860	4120	521030	HEAT WINSLOW OIL	S2027060	4130	520410	UTILITIES MAINT ELECTRIC	5,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S4055560	4120	520980	HEAT KEITH GAS	S1057060	4130	520410	UTILITIES PACHECO ELECTRIC	2,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S1055860	4120	521030	HEAT PACHECO OIL	S5107060	4130	520410	UTILITIES TRINITY DAY ELECTRIC	4,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0755860	4120	521030	HEAT HATHAWAY OIL	S0857060	4130	520410	UTILITIES KEMPTON ELECTRIC	1,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S0755860	4120	521030	HEAT HATHAWAY OIL	S1157060	4130	520410	UTILITIES PARKER ELECTRIC	1,000.00	BUDGET ADJUSTMENT
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	S4059551	2430	540005	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES KEITH	2,250.13	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES	S4109551	2430	540005	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES NORMANDIN	2,250.13	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES	S4159551	2430	540005	CLASSROOM SUPPLIES ROOSEVELT	2,250.13	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES	S4059550	2415	540005	LITERACY BOOKS KEITH	1,194.00	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES	S4109550	2415	540005	LITERACY BOOKS NORMANDIN	1,194.00	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES
S2135740	2357	520004	CONTRACTED SERVICES	S4159550	2415	540005	LITERACY BOOKS ROOSEVELT	1,194.00	MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY SUPPLIES

S2138450	2110	540005	OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION SUPPLIES	S2138440	5300	520004	LEASE OF EQUIPMENT OFFICE OF INSTRUCTION	5,162.00	New Lease budgeted in supply line in error
S0088151	4235	540005	MAINT EQUIPMENT GAS VEHICLES	S0088441	5300	520004	LEASE OF EQUIPMENT BOOKKEEPING	4,220.00	To cover cost of new lease of copiers
S0088151	4235	540005	MAINT EQUIPMENT GAS VEHICLES	S0088480	1410	580008	BOOKKEEPING EQUIPMENT	780.00	Filing Cabinets
S1159550	2430	540005	PARKER CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	S1155450	2455	540005	PARKER SOFTWARE	1,000.00	Bloomz App license 1 yr.
S1158450	2210	540005	PARKER PRINCIPAL SUPPLIES	S1155740	2358	520004	PARKER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	500.00	Northstar Learning Prof Development

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira, and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY 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 51 appointments since the last personnel report in July. There was one retirement and 23 resignations.

To a question from Mr. Amaral, Ms. Emsley responded that there are presently 19 classroom openings, mainly involving Special Education and secondary math and science.

Ms. Emsley responded to a question from Dr. Finnerty explaining that if teachers are licensed in Massachusetts, they can and are hired at the appropriate salary step with consideration given to experience and district needs in relation to "difficult to fill" subject areas.

Mr. Cotter questioned Ms. Emsley about the staff that are leaving and the exit procedures. He also questioned an appointment on the personnel report. Ms. Emsley explained that her department does all it can to acquire information from staff upon exiting from the district. She also cautioned against any discussion in regard to personnel.

Mr. Cotter stated that he could not accept the Personnel Report due to an appointment that was made and listed on the report.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas

1 – Nay

1 – Absent

Several members gave reports.

Mr. Oliveira reported that at a recent Policy Sub Committee meeting, there was a discussion in regard to allowing 8th grade students at Alma del Mar Charter School to participate in dual enrollment at the high school along with NBHS students. Two issues were discussed: 1) availability of spaces and 2) cost to the district. He said he believed in the idea because it would help to showcase the high school to potential students but he did not agree with the process. He continued that the School Committee should approve or reject whether or not to allow outside students to take part in the program and would be seeking the advice of School Committee counsel as ultimately it may have policy and budgetary issues. He reiterated that he is for the program and welcomes those students; his issue is just with the process.

Mayor Mitchell stated that he also agrees that it should be a procedure that comes through the Committee but felt that on the merits, it is a good idea and would personally support any eighth grader that is a New Bedford resident taking part in the program.

Mr. Livramento commended the youth of New Directions and Buddy Andrade for their efforts in cleaning up the grounds at the Gomes/Renaissance Schools.

Mr. Amaral questioned if the Committee should vote and said he was disappointed that it was not listed on the agenda to be discussed.

The Mayor said he could put it on the next meeting agenda in September or have a special meeting.

Mr. Amaral commented that he understands the benefit and agrees with allowing the students to take part, but had an issue with the process. He continued that even though it's late in the process, he believes it should go through the Committee as there are finer details that may have to be worked out. He also pointed out that perhaps we should seek some reimbursement and would also like to question class size - all issues that he would like to be discussed at a meeting.

In response to a question by Mayor Mitchell, Dr. Durkin explained that all students are New Bedford residents and there are no financial implications. We are not hiring additional teachers or giving them extra classes. She went on to say that she understands the Committee's intent in regard to the process and believes that asking the opinion of the School Committee attorney is a fine one, but she also pointed out that schools were opening and we couldn't disallow the Alma del Mar students to take part at this point as families were already informed. Dr. Durkin suggested that the program could be used as a pilot at this point and we could come back and re-visit it. She stated that it is budget neutral and if there is no issue on the merit, she suggested that it should not be a problem for the district to go forward with it.

Dr. DeFalco addressed the Committee stating that there are 150 seats available at NBHS and only 132 seats are filled including the 17 students from Alma. Students who are accepted will only take part in the ELA section. He also noted that not all students who applied were accepted as it is a very rigorous program.

To a question by Mr. Amaral, Dr. DeFalco responded that the class size averages 20. All students have been outfitted with the resources that they need for the program.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Dr. Durkin explained that this is only being offered to Alma del Mar students because they do not have a high school component.

Dr. DeFalco also responded to a question by Dr. Finnerty that Catholic Schools are not participating, nor have they asked. Twenty-one students applied from Alma del Mar and 17 were accepted. There remain 18 available seats.

Dr. Finnerty asked if there should be a motion to go ahead with it now as a pilot for this year.

Mr. Cotter stated that lack of transparency is one of his biggest issues and stated that other Committee members were not informed until recently or that night. He continued that he was concerned that an agreement was made with Alma del Mar and he was just hearing about it for the first time. These students opted to move to a Charter School and now they are being allowed to take part in a program that the School Committee was unaware of.

Dr. Durkin agreed that this should have been communicated with the Committee but stated that this will help to encourage 8th graders to attend NBHS. She went on to say that every week Mayor Mitchell asks where are the students coming from who will attend the high school and the Committee has asked very often in regard to how are we marketing the high school.

Mayor Mitchell stated that whether the process was right or not, the Sub Committee should come up with a policy to propose to the full Committee.

Mr. Oliveira asked if there should be a motion.

Dr. Finnerty commented that perhaps a vote should not be taken as the Committee may not have the authority.

Mr. Oliveira stated that he didn't want to derail the program but wanted to clarify if the Committee has the authority and would check with the attorney. If the Committee doesn't have the authority, there would be no need to go forward with a policy.

Mr. Amaral remarked that it should not be voted on as it was not listed on the agenda anyway. We may vote on it at a later date, call it a pilot for now and get a legal answer to this issue.

Mr. Livramento said the idea is to attract more students to the high school and this is the road we should be going down. It should not be too restrictive; we should keep our doors open. He continued that he didn't want to take away the program for the Alma del Mar students as it is a way to open our doors to students at other schools.

Mr. Cotter asked what schools were included in the 8th grade dual enrollment program. Dr. Durkin and Dr. DeFalco stated that Keith, Normandin, Roosevelt and now, Alma del Mar were taking part. In response to his added question, Dr. Durkin responded that Ford Middle School students in Acushnet were also invited.

Dr. Durkin reiterated that there was no intent by her, or her administrators, other than to offer this program as a marketing tool to show what our high school is doing to make it the high school of choice in the city.

Mayor Mitchell mentioned that school facilities and maintenance should be a priority if there is a surplus of funds. He commended the facilities workers for all they do even though they are short staffed.

He went on to comment that the State must look at recalculating the accountability system in regard to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). He went on to say that cities with high poverty rates were at a disadvantage if proficiency rates dominate the formula in regard to the assessment system.

NEW BUSINESS

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take item 7E on the agenda out of order.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve a request by Chris Chambers/Music/Band/Chorus/Normandin Middle School for permission to take approximately 125 students and 30 chaperones to Washington, D.C., from May 17-20, 2018 to perform their concert program in competition. (No travel cost to the district.) (Supporting document 7E)

Dr. Finnerty nominated Josh Amaral to represent the Committee as the voting delegate at the MASC annual business meeting. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Oliveira.

After the Chair asked if there were any further nominations, and hearing none, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to nominate Joshua Amaral as the voting delegate to represent the New Bedford School Committee at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) annual business meeting on November 1, 2017. (Supporting document 7A)

Mr. Oliveira nominated Jack Livramento to represent the Committee as the alternate voting delegate at the MASC annual business meeting. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Amaral.

After the Chair asked if there were any further nominations, and hearing none, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to nominate Joaquim Livramento as the alternate voting delegate to represent the New Bedford School Committee at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) annual business meeting on November 1, 2017. (Supporting document 7A)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN, a recommended list of surplus property located at Congdon School. (Supporting document 7B)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to waive the second reading of policy *FA/FA-E – Facilities Development Goals* and approve to amend the policy. (Reviewed and approved by the Policy Sub Committee) (Supporting document 7C)

At this time, Mr. Amaral presented the completed *New Bedford Public Schools Policy Manual* and thanked the members of the Policy Sub Committee and Administration for their time and effort to see to its completion.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the New Bedford Public Schools Policy Manual in its entirety and to discard all previous policies. (Supporting document 7D)

Mr. Oliveira noted that previously, additional items to be declared surplus were not mentioned by the Chair.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN, a recommended list of surplus property submitted by the Technology Department and obsolete vehicles submitted by Transportation. (Supporting document 7B)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral to approve a request by Heather Emsley/Exec. Dir. Human Capital Services, for permission to travel to Phoenix, AZ, from October 16-20, 2017, to attend the American Association of School Personnel Administrators (AASPA) 79th Annual Conference. (Cost: \$1805) (Supporting document 7F)

At 8:05 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, to go into Executive Session, with the intent to return to Open Session, for the following purpose: To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

At 8:17 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee went back into Open Session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

Mr. O'Leary explained to the Committee that an *Account Specialist* position is necessary in order to work on more in-depth MUNIS reporting and analyzing and to be more involved with vendor relations. The position is also more in line with peer and other urban districts. He continued that this is an area we have been lacking in, and this position could be very helpful in regard to the reporting processes.

To a question by Mr. Cotter, Mr. O'Leary responded that it wasn't until his department was involved with year-end reporting and budget cycle that they found that this position could be very beneficial to the district and reporting of the bookkeeping/accounting area of the Business Office, therefore it wasn't added before the budget was created.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request to create an *Account Specialist* position. (Supporting document 7G)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

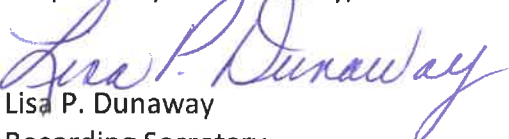
At 8:21 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting

The roll call vote was as follows:


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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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