

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

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

**ABSENT:** none

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

The School Committee Student Representative was not in attendance.

**Special Recognition:** Mayor Mitchell presented Mr. Nobrega with a gift from the Committee and congratulated and thanked him for serving 42 years on the New Bedford School Committee.

Mayor Mitchell also presented Dr. Finnerty with a gift from the Committee and congratulated and thanked him for serving eight years on the New Bedford School Committee.

All members said a few words to honor Mr. Nobrega and Dr. Finnerty.

**Approval of Minutes:**

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

- Curriculum Sub Committee: May 16, 2017
- Finance Sub Committee: September 7, 2017
- Regular Meeting: November 13, 2017

**Superintendent's Report: (Supporting document - 4)**

Dr. Durkin addressed the Committee and reviewed the following plan to be worked on through June, 2018.

- Develop the FY 19 Budget
- Serving English Learners: Planning for the changes in the Education Law  
Dr. Durkin explained the plan for a new Dual Immersion Program proposal for Gomes School is the form of another pathway. The program will start in Kindergarten with literacy instruction delivered

50% in English and 50% in Spanish for all students. A Dual Language Program Committee will be established with eight members – teachers/families/School Committee member with two full day professional development days for the committee members in February. Current staff will be utilized and there is no anticipated added cost to facilitate the program. She continued that the district is expected to receive guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in May.

- Renaissance School Innovation Proposal (Renewal)
- New Bedford High School Plan 2018-2021 – The Turnaround Plan expired in 2017 and we are currently working through a one-year renewal. The District must prepare a new three-year plan.
- Middle School Redesign work update – A report will be given to the Committee by March in regard to the progress and next steps of the three plans.
- Social Emotional Learning Review- District Management Group Report – A report will be given to the Committee by February outlining the suggested next steps as it relates to the findings of the review by District Management Group report.
- Chapter 74 Opportunities – Reviewing and working on Ch. 74 opportunities for the future
- Principals/Administrators Salary Study – Developing plans and reporting to the School Committee in February.

Mayor Mitchell asked that the Work Plan also include Facilities Assessment. Dr. Durkin will add it to the plan going forward.

Rhonda Veugen, Development Director of YMCA Southcoast, addressed the Committee and delivered a report on the Power Scholars program. Ms. Veugen explained that Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL), NBPS and the YMCA Southcoast combined resources to deliver the BELL summer program model known as Power Scholars Academy to 152 students in grades 2-7 during the summer. She went on to note that students attended the program for seven hours a day, five days a week for five weeks. They received breakfast and lunch and went on educational field trips on Fridays. The mornings were used for instruction with NBPS staff; the afternoons were spent with YMCA staff. STAR testing was used to measure gains and concluded that elementary students gained three months of reading and two months of math; middle school was even in ELA and gained three months of math. Attendance was strong as was parent involvement. Social/emotional skills were embedded in all programs which also included physical health and well-being instruction.

Ms. Veugen presented New Bedford Public Schools and Dr. Durkin with a framed newspaper article highlighting the program with the phrase *“True partnerships are formed on a shared set of values”* inscribed.

Public Comment:

1. Patricia Reynolds – Concern for John Oliveira

2. Dr. Christopher Boerl – Concern in regard to No Trespass orders
3. Carol Strupczewski – Concern about Pulaski School grounds

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

Mr. O’Leary informed the Committee that most cost centers have been encumbered for the year including large expenses such as Special Education – Out of District Services. This has been fully expended and we are now in the Circuit Breaker account. School accounts have been mostly encumbered and approaching 90%. This is satisfactory and a reasonable target at this time of year.

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

TRANSFER OF FUNDS									
									10/31/2017
FOR APPROVAL									
FROM				TO					
Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason
S1239510	2305	511110	Pulaski Teacher Salary	S1234810	2710	511110	Pulaski School Adj Counselor Salary	161,102.00	Error: Originally transferred to incorrect line
S2060011	2800	511110	Behavior Asst Salary DW	S1159512	2305	511110	Sped Facilitator Parker	26,296.00	Converted an FTE to a sped facilitator
060011	2800	511110	Behavior Asst Salary DW	S0759512	2305	511110	Sped Facilitator Hathaway	17,530.00	Converted an FTE to a sped facilitator
S0019560	9100	522190	Tuition Mass Other Districts	S0040660	9400	522190	Tuition Reg Ed Collaborative	8,231.00	Funds needed for purchase order
S2132050	2110	540005	Director of ELA Supplies	S1243080	2410	580008	Renaissance Textbooks	8,000.00	Envision Math
S2138450	2110	540005	Curriculum Director Supplies	S1243080	2410	580008	Renaissance Textbooks	4,000.00	Envision Math
S1159512	2800	511110	Behavior Specialist Salary	S1159541	2710	520004	Counseling Services Contracted Service	50,000.00	Northstar Learning Mental Health Outreach Program
S4059531	2330	511110	Keith Para Salaries	S4050030	3100	511110	Keith Parent Support Specialist Salaries	23,660.00	Chart of Account correction
S0078420	1230	511110	Family Welcome Center Clerical Salaries	S0078421	3100	511110	Family Welcome Center Clerical Salaries	34,502.00	Chart of Account correction
S4159531	2330	511110	Roosevelt Para Salaries	S4150030	3100	511110	Roosevelt Parent Support Specialist Salaries	21,822.00	Chart of Account correction
S6159540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment Sea Lab	S6158441	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Sea Lab	3,358.96	Funding of new copier lease

S6159540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment Sea Lab	S6150330	4110	511480	Custodial Overtime	1,000.00	Fish Tank Cleaning & Maintenance
S6159540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment Sea Lab	S6155750	2430	540005	Sea Lab Supplies	400.00	MAD Science Presentations
S0453150	2410	540005	Carney Workbooks	S0455480	2451	580008	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Carney	6,500.00	Purchase of laptops
S1259551	2430	540005	Rodman Classroom Supplies	S1255480	2451	580008	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Rodman	6,500.00	Purchase of Chromebooks
S1253150	2410	540005	Rodman Workbooks	S1255480	2451	580008	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Rodman	1,295.62	Purchase of Chromebooks
S0098450	1410	540005	Payroll Supplies	S0098441	5300	520004	Payroll Lease of Equipment	187.20	Copier Lease
S5158440	3600	520004	School Security Whaling City Contracted Services	S5159540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment Whaling City	252.50	Repair of 2 Way Radios
S1159550	2430	540005	Parker Classroom Supplies	S1159580	2420	580008	Parker Instructional Equipment	669.99	Portable Media Player & 5X8 rug for PK room
S1403150	2410	540005	Winslow Workbooks	S1405481	2451	58000	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Winslow	1,000.00	Purchase of 2 Chromebooks
S5109550	2430	540005	Trinity Classroom Supplies	S5109540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment Trinity	310.00	Culinary Class Equipment
S1239552	2430	540005	Pulaski Classroom Supplies	S1235480	2451	580008	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Pulaski	2,571.72	Purchase of Chromebooks
S1233150	2410	540005	Pulaski Workbooks	S1235480	2451	580008	Class Instructional Technology Equipment Pulaski	1,600.85	Purchase of Chromebooks
S5055461	2451	521050	Classroom Instr Tech Other Expenditures	S5059542	2440	520004	Other Instructional Services High School	15,300.00	Virtual High School
S5058060	4130	522080	High School phones	S5059542	2440	520004	Other Instructional Services High School	1,575.00	Virtual High School
S5058060	4130	522080	High School phones	S5055741	2358	520004	Professional Development contracted Services	2,745.00	Professional Development Services provided - Syd Smith
S5055452	2455	540005	Instructional Software High School	S5055741	2358	520004	Professional Development contracted Services	3,455.00	Professional Development Services provided - Syd Smith
S5058460	2210	521050	Principal Other Expenditures	S5055741	2358	520004	Professional Development contracted Services	20,000.00	Professional Development Services provided - Syd Smith
S5055452	2455	540005	Instructional Software High School	S5055762	2356	521050	Professional Development Other Expenditures	10,000.00	Training for Advanced Placement

									Teacher
054841	2710	520004	Guidance Testing Fees High School	S5059542	2440	520004	Other Instructional Services High School	24,000.00	Mass Insight Advanced Placement Services
S5055280	2420	580008	Math Equipment High School	S5055250	2430	540005	Math Supplies High School	15,750.00	purchase of calculators
S5055452	2455	540005	Instructional Software High School	S5055710	2356	511110	Professional Development High School Salaries	2,310.00	Professional Development Training Hours

**MSBA –**

- Accelerated Repair Project (ARP) for Brooks School will be voted on by MSBA in mid December.
- Jacobs School had a smooth opening on November 27.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Cotter, 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 13 appointments, eight retirements and 13 resignations since the last personnel report in November.

Ms. Emsley also reported that bi-weekly pay for employees will commence in January as well as required direct deposit. Unit A notice of retirement is due by January 1, 2018 to be eligible for additional benefits.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

Several members gave reports.

NEW BUSINESS

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

- Request from Dr. Dominique Branco/Asst. Principal/Normandin, for approval to travel to New York, NY, from April 12-13, 2018, to attend the American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference. (No cost to the district.)
- Request from Dr. Pia Durkin, Superintendent, for approval to travel to New York, NY, to attend the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual District Management Group’s Superintendents’ Strategy Summit -2018, from January 10-12, 2018. (All costs to be paid by DMG excluding travel.)

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to declare, in accordance with School Committee Policy DN, a recommended list of surplus property located at Normandin Middle School.

At this time, Dr. Durkin left the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell announced that the Committee would be forming a screening committee to be involved with the Superintendent's Search. He continued that the timing is late but not too late and hopes to have a robust field of candidates.

Mr. Oliveira made a motion to create a Committee to investigate professional firms to manage the search process. He suggested that Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Livramento and Mr. Cotter be appointed to this committee. It was seconded by Mr. Livramento.

Mr. Amaral said he was in favor of hiring a search firm. Mr. Cotter commented that he was not sure if he was in favor of hiring a search firm but would be willing to serve on the committee.

The vote was UNANIMOUS to create a committee to explore search firms/search firm process – members to include Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Livramento and Mr. Cotter.

At 7:30 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session with the intent to return to Open Session for the following purposes:

- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel:
  - Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services
- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with union personnel:
  - Memorandums of Agreement in regard to reauthorization of Innovation Plan for Renaissance Community School.
  - Memorandums of Agreement in regard to New Bedford High School Redesign Plan 2018-2021.
- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations regarding expiring contracts.

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

At 8:25 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to continue 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 – Absent
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

5 – Yeas      0 – Nays      2 – Absent

Ms. Emsley reported that the employment contract between New Bedford Public Schools and Kimberli Bettencourt, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services, would be a successor agreement for a term of three years, ending at the end of June, 2021 and would reflect a 2% salary increase for FY19.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to renew the employment contract between New Bedford Public Schools and Kimberli Bettencourt, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services, for a term of three years, ending at the end of June, 2021.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas      0 – Nays      2 – Absent

Ms. Emsley explained that in the process of the reauthorization of the Renaissance Innovation Plan, there may be portions of the agreement that would affect working conditions. She asked, on behalf of the Superintendent, for the Committee’s approval to enter into negotiations with union personnel if necessary.

On a motion by Mr. Cotter and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to authorize the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with union personnel in regard to Memorandums of Agreement, that may affect working conditions, at the Renaissance Community School relative to the reauthorization of their Innovation Plan.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas      0 – Nays      2 – Absent

Ms. Emsley explained that the DESE requires that the district develop a revised plan for NBHS. The process may involve changes to working conditions of union employees. She asked, on behalf of the Superintendent, for the Committee’s approval to enter into negotiations with union personnel if necessary.

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted to authorize the Superintendent to enter into negotiations with union personnel in regard to Memorandums of Agreement

that may affect working conditions at New Bedford High School, relative to continuation of the NBHS plan, from 2018-21.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas      0 – Nays      2 – Absent

At 8:30 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, 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 – Absent	Dr. Finnerty – Absent
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

5 – Yeas      0 – Nays      2 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Lisa P. Dunaway  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

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