

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. AMARAL, MR. COTTER, DR. FINNERTY (Left at 7:35 pm)
MR. LIVRAMENTO (arr. at 6:51), MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

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

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

At this time Mayor Mitchell requested a moment of silence to remember Commissioner Chester and recognized his valuable contribution to New Bedford. Dr. Durkin also added that the Commissioner was concerned about the people behind the work and he continued to validate the efforts of New Bedford Public Schools.

Approval of Minutes:

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

- Finance Sub Committee Meeting: April 5, 2017
- Regular Meeting: June 12, 2017

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin):

(Supporting documents labeled "4")

Dr. Durkin addressed the Committee to announce that the Department of Secondary and Elementary Education (DESE) will no longer monitor the district's Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP). Dr. Durkin stated that this meant that DESE agrees with our strategy and the system we developed to keep us on the right track. She continued saying that our team was very transparent and communicative during the monitor's visits.

Dr. Durkin introduced new administrators to the Committee:

- Jamal Safi – Principal of Whaling City Jr/Sr High School
- Tonya Vitorino – Principal of Swift Elementary School
- Marc Bell – Assistant Principal at Pulaski Elementary School

Dr. Durkin presented an update on Summer School programs reporting that this year we worked very closely with several partners by placing our teachers in their programs to serve over 300 kids. In addition, the Power Scholars Academy (PSA) is serving 132 students, the 21st Century Community Learning Center is serving 200 kids, and the English Learners Program is serving 200 students. Other summer programs included the generalized Special Education program including CBIP and ongoing tutoring.

Dr. Durkin introduced the Elementary Report Card stating that we needed to reflect the Massachusetts standards and have now created a better communication tool for families. Dr. Dion and Dr. DeFalco addressed the Committee to explain the process used to create the report card and its benefits. Dr. Dion indicated that the report card is divided into subject areas that were aligned with the standards and it also reflects the social emotional learning by adding a column of "Core Values".

Dr. Dion continued saying that after much research, it was decided that students would be graded by performance level, ranging from 1-4, to allow the teacher-student to work towards the goal. She also noted that teachers will have the opportunity to add personalized comments within the comment box. She finished by adding that during the open house in September, every elementary school will have a Parent Informational Session to go over the new report card.

Mayor Mitchell stressed the importance to have the local history of New Bedford as part of the instruction. Dr. Dion responded that the District is already planning on working with partners to incorporate the local history into the curriculum and report cards.

Mr. Amaral suggested adding a question, in the regard to the report card, under the parent survey to obtain feedback from families. Dr. Dion agreed that feedback is needed and said that after the Parent Informational Session they could also create exit tickets.

Mr. Cotter commented that he would like to see the comment box with straightforward messages for the parents who do not attend the parent-teacher conference.

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 final salary spend down shows how we closed out the salary balances for FY17. He also indicated that, as discussed during the budget process, some circuit breaker funds will be carried forward to FY18 to help mitigate Special Education costs. Moreover, he stated that the remaining balance of General Expense is being moved to Circuit Breaker as customary.

Mr. O'Leary answered several specific questions from the Committee regarding the transfer requests salary and surplus.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira, and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the transfer request. (Attached)

MSBA

- Delivering furniture to Taylor/Sea Lab project through the summer
- Building Committee for the Jacobs School to do a walk-through to review the readiness of the school
- Accelerated repair project is on track- testing of windows and ancillary items (Pulaski and Carney)
- High School Fitness Center is substantially complete
- First phase of Parker project its being completed- windows project will be scheduled for next summer
- Brooks -awaiting for the final vote from the City Council to approve the feasibility study and begin the project over the next two summers.

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to take item 7C out of order.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve that a utility easement be granted to Verizon New England, Inc. and Nstar Electric Company d/b/a/ Eversource Energy for the purpose of providing utilities over the premises constituting a portion of the property dedicated to the Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School and located at Assessors Map 13, Lot 122, and that the New Bedford City Council be authorized and directed hereby to grant such utility easement as described on the document entitled "EASEMENT". (Supporting document 7C)

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 39 appointments since the last personnel report in June. There were 5 retirements, 19 resignations and 25 transfers. She also pointed out that there was an addendum to the personnel report with one appointment.

To a question by Mr. Amaral, Ms. Emsley responded that currently the district receives low exit responses from staff who retire and resign but for FY18, they will work on ways to incentivize data and exit survey responses as their feedback is valuable.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Ms. Emsley explained that the District reviews Licensure of administrators and yearly audits are conducted to ensure that they maintain their appropriate certification. In regard to Unit A positions, Ms. Emsley stated that DESE allows the district to hire a non-licensed candidate for 90-days and if the requirements are still pending, then the district would have to apply for a one-year waiver. Ms. Emsley continued explaining that, if by the end of the first year, the individual is still not licensed, we are required to issue a non-renewal and post the position but if the district feels that the person is the best candidate, after interviewing licensed candidates, then a waiver would be submitted with a narrative of each candidate to justify why the non-licensed individual should be considered for a second-year waiver.

A discussion ensued in regard to posting of positions. Ms. Emsley stated that the district always tries to keep an active pool of candidates at all times and that they remove a posting from School Spring after the person has signed the contract.

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

Several members gave reports.

NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the 2017-18 School Committee Meeting Calendar. (Supporting document 7A)

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to hold New Bedford High School Summer Graduation Exercises on Thursday, August 17, 2017 in the Bronspiegel Auditorium at New Bedford High School at 6:00 P.M. (Supporting document 7B)

At 7:25 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 union personnel:

- New Bedford Educators Association – Unit A

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 7:40 P.M. on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to go 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 – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Absent
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

Ms. Emsley reviewed the following (7D, 7E, 7F, 7G):

The Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the New Bedford School Committee and Unit A of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. with regard to the redesign process at Keith Middle School. (Supporting document 7D)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

On a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the New Bedford School Committee and Unit A of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. with regard to the redesign process at Roosevelt Middle School. (Supporting document 7E)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Cotter, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the New Bedford School Committee and Unit A of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. with regard to the Additional Learning Time at Jacobs Elementary School. (Supporting document 7F)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the New Bedford School Committee and Unit A of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. with regard to changes in terms and conditions of employment for Unit A members employed at New Bedford High School. (Supporting document 7G)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Oliveira - Abstain

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent 1 - Abstention

At 7:45 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, 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 – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Absent
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Adlybeiry Ferreira
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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