



December 10, 2018
Keith Middle School
6:05 P.M.
Pages: 4

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. BRUCE OLIVEIRA, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL, MR. CHRISTOPHER COTTER,
MS. COLLEEN DAWICKI, MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO, MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. ANDERSON, MS. TREADUP, MS. BETTENCOURT, MS. EMSLEY, MR. O'LEARY,
MR. MOTTA, MS. FERREIRA (Recording Secretary)

The School Committee Student Representative, Amanda Braga, was present.

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by John Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, to accept the School Committee meeting minutes as follows: (Supporting document labeled "3")

Transportation Sub Committee August 2, 2018
Regular Meeting November 19, 2018

No one signed up to address the Committee during Public Comment.

Amanda Braga, Student Representative, gave her report.

Superintendent's Report (Mr. Anderson):

Mr. Anderson stated that he had the opportunity to visit 200 classrooms which allowed him to review patterns and trends in our schools. He acknowledged the work of our staff explaining that sometimes the test scores and numbers do not measure the level of interaction and engagement students have in their classrooms.

There will be a visioning planning with community members sharing ideas around the district's focus for the future, discuss expectations and values for our schools.

The district is currently reviewing a curriculum plan that would permit the students to receive assigned work during snow days with the possibility for DESE to count it as a full day. This would require approval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that a school funding meeting is scheduled for January 8th, 2019 with a snow date scheduled for January 9th, 2019. He explained that there would be three meetings across the state to conduct panel discussions around the topic of Net School Spending and School Finances. This will be an opportunity for the public to learn about the process and everyone is welcome to attend.

Plans are underway to bring back the Wellness Committee that was once in place. The committee will engage in strategies to assist with different health concern such as child obesity and help students learn to be a teammate.

School Committee Members shared their experience while attending school visits. Bruce Olivera was impressed to observe the students using technology and commented that it was great to see how the decisions made during the budget season impact the classroom. Several Committee members commended the work that teachers do every day to keep our students engaged.

Business Office Report (Mr. O'Leary): (Supporting documents – 7A)

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the financial reports with the Committee. He noted that the new Chapter 70 funds of \$800K are reflected in the Function Code Report and brings the new FY19 budget to \$137,830,000. Mr. O'Leary explained that funds would be assigned to Special Education cost centers.

To a question by Jack Livramento, Andrew O'Leary responded that the additional funds were placed in Special Education salaries for teachers and paraprofessional. He mentioned that the out of district tuition would be closely monitored.

Christopher Cotter questioned the 107% utilities services and 99.7% heating of buildings listed in the Function Code Report. Mr. O'Leary explained that the district locked that amount for the entire year with the utility provider. Regarding the utility payments, the district works with the City to apply credits which will make the 107% disappear, and the heating of buildings will not be increasing.

The General Expense Report was at 85.2% encumbered, indicating that all departments and schools are expanding their allocations appropriately. He added that the district began preparations for the FY19 process by having schools and departments complete their budget entry.

The Salary Spenddown report shows a current balance of \$103,847,530 due to the additional \$800K increase. Mr. O'Leary pointed out that the salary deficit is now at \$164K and the amount will be decreasing at every pay period.

The FY19 grants report was reviewed.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the transfer requests. Bruce Oliveira explained that the \$13K transfer request to the McCoy Fieldhouse was due to a water system that needed repairs. The report was reviewed and approved by the Finance Sub Committee.

Christopher Cotter questioned the \$2K classroom supplies that are being transferred to postage funds. Andrew O'Leary stated that the transfer is to restore the account that is usually used for mass mailings during report cards and other communication with families.

Christopher Cotter shared concerns that Classroom supplies are being taken away from the students. Mr. Anderson will look into the matter and share the answer with the Committee.

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira, and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the transfers request as presented. (Transfer request attached).

MSBA Updates

- Brooks Elementary School- general contractor bids are opening this month. The re-bid looks favorable for the \$4M appropriation project, but the Business Office will continue to monitor the bids closely.

Mr. O'Leary updated the Committee on the High School facilities project. A contractor was awarded to work on the electrical and lighting improvements for the auditorium; the project is expected to be completed by mid-March. Mr. O'Leary explained that there was not sufficient capital funding for the locker rooms project and additional funds would be needed.

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Jack Livramento, 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 15 appointments, five retirements, five resignations, and five transfers since the last personnel report in November. She also shared that there were eight substitutes. A position vacancy report as of 12/8/18 was provided to the Committee.

Ms. Emsley reminded the public that Unit A staff wishing to take advantage of their retirement benefit will need to submit their notices by December 28th, 2018.

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

School Committee Reports

Mr. John Oliveira raised concerns concerning two projects that were brought up for the first time during the Facilities Sub Committee meeting and would like more information to be available to the Committee. The projects in question are as follows: the remediation of an athletic field for Keith Middle School; and the \$250K capital improvement plan to clean up the Liberty street corner.

A discussion ensued between John Oliveira and Mayor Mitchell in which Mr. Oliveira requested answers to the aforementioned projects.

At approximately 6:30 P.M., a recess was called by Mayor Mitchell.

At 6:42 P.M., the meeting continued.

Mayor Mitchell explained that Keith Middle School is the only middle school in the city that does not have an Athletic field given that it was built in a small footprint. In time, the city acquired properties around Nemasket St. adjacent to Keith Middle School. The acquired properties has been covered through different media outlets over the years. He continued saying that the parcel next to Keith is in the process of being remediated as part of the Parker St. clean up. The plan is to build an athletic field for Keith that will serve for a variety of purposes including a soccer field, field hockey, etc. In due course, the school department and the city will discuss the design and the information will be presented to the public including the Committee.

As far as the Liberty street, Mayor Mitchell stated that the site had been tested over the years and apart is on the school district side (under School Committee control). However, it will continue to be under City control for construction space for the Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI). He said that the City had made the corner of Liberty St. available to the school department for parking of vehicles.

Several members praised the play "Is a Wonderful Life" performed by the New Bedford High School drama club. Members also congratulated the New Bedford High School football team for winning the game against Dartmouth High School.

New Business

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Jack Livramento, and seconded by Christopher Cotter, to approve a recommended list of surplus property located at Swift Elementary School and the Paul Rodrigues Administration Building.

The Committee reviewed the Sub Committee schedule and assignment of members.

On a motion by Joshua Amaral and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to adopt the following policies as presented: (Reviewed and approved by the Policy Sub Committee)

- File: IJOA Field Trips and Student Overnight Travel
- File: JJF Student Activity Accounts
- File: JFABF Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
- File: JFABE Educational Opportunities for Military Children
- File: JICJ Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

At 6:52 P.M., on a motion by Jack Livramento and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – No	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas 1 – Nays 0– Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Adlybeiry Ferreira
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Thomas Anderson
Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee