



August 13, 2018
Keith Middle School
6:03 P.M.
Pages: 6

**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, MS. WALMSLEY, 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 Christopher Cotter and seconded by Jack Livramento, to accept the School Committee meeting minutes as follows: (Supporting documents labeled "3")

- Transportation Sub Committee Meeting: October 5, 2016 and December 14, 2017
- Regular Meeting: July 16, 2018

Superintendent's Report (Mr. Anderson):

Mr. Anderson introduced new administrators to the Committee:

- Jennifer Medeiros- Principal at Elizabeth C. Brooks Elementary School
- Carolyn Pontes- Principal at Betsey B. Winslow Elementary School
- Trina Camarao- Curriculum, Data and Assessment Manager
- Brian Turner- Curriculum, Data and Assessment Manager
- Glenn Piros- Assistant Principal at Normandin Middle School

Superintendent's Entry Plan

Mr. Anderson stated that as incoming Superintendent, the objective of his entry plan is to layout the first 90-100 days in the district. He continued that several documents are being reviewed, including the Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP), Budgetary Items, and Staff Evaluations. Mr. Anderson highlighted that there is no intention to make unnecessary changes, but rather to understand the foundation and have discussions with different individuals to listen to their feedback.

A timeline of action items was shared with the Committee. Mr. Anderson will be reporting back at the October School Committee meeting. Mayor Mitchell suggested uploading the plan to the district's website.

District Updates

Mr. Anderson stated that he has been able to schedule and participate in several key meetings, including meetings with the Police and Fire Chief. In addition, Mr. Anderson had the opportunity to meet Chancellor Johnson from UMASS Dartmouth and the president of Bristol Community College.

Mr. Christopher Cotter requested to include the Supervisor for the School Resource Officers (SRO) in the meeting with the Chief of Police.

Mr. Anderson reported that he met with Mr. Michael Shea to discuss the Fine Arts and Athletic Strategic Plan. He stated that Mr. Shea is volunteering his time to bring together a group of individuals that will give a broad perspective on Fine Arts and Athletics. Mr. Anderson will be following up with Mr. Shea in the coming weeks to discuss the selected group, timeline and scope of work for the assessment.

John Oliveira and Christopher Cotter shared concerns with regard to the use of unnecessary funding for the strategic plan. They also encouraged the participation of the Athletics Director and Fine Arts Director in such a plan. Mr. Anderson pointed out that the district has not contracted any individuals and there has not been any funds exchanged at this time.

Mayor Mitchell commented that sometimes having a 3rd party of professionals involved in the process offers another level of expertise, and disinterested input. He also commented on the value to review what other urban districts are doing and to adopt the ideas that will fit New Bedford.

To a question by Colleen Dawicki, Mr. Anderson responded that the district needs to review the structure, amount of participation and the general impact of the programs. Mayor Mitchell added that the mission of Fine Arts and Athletics is to support academics and to offer students character building. Hence the importance to review how that mission is executed.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that he has had discussions with Global Learning Charter School and Alma del Mar Charter School leaders. Given that both charter schools are looking to extend their seats, Mr. Anderson emphasized the importance to establish positive relationships to gather an understanding of their objective. He stated that his priority is to make sure New Bedford Public Schools are positioned to offer a quality education and to expose the good things that are happening in our buildings.

Superintendent Anderson will be holding Parent meetings at the following times and locations: August 21th at 5:30 P.M. at Keith Middle School, August 22th at 5:30 P.M. at Roosevelt Middle School, and August 27th at 5:30 P.M. at Normandin Middle School.

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 Function Code Report show a \$137M budget with 12.7% encumbered. Mr. O'Leary was satisfied that the General Expense Report was at 63.3% encumbered, stating that this is a good indicator when compared to previous years (28% last year).

There were no concerns on the salary spenddown report. Mr. O'Leary noted that the plan is to forecast the year and track the breakage savings as well as the end of year balances. He continued saying that an average number will begin to appear around mid-September and October.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the revolving funds and transfer requests.

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

Christopher Cotter questioned the \$41K for the installation of a new phone system. It was explained that the 5-year-old models are being upgraded to a new system.

MSBA updates

- Taylor project is at the final stage
- Parker roof and Trinity Day Academy boiler are in progress
- Brooks –the district is looking to re-bid the project in the next couple of weeks. If unsuccessful, the Business Office will work with the City's Chief Financial Officer to return to City Council and request a vote for a higher amount.

To a question by Christopher Cotter, Mr. O'Leary responded that the reason behind re-bidding the Brooks project is related to cost, as the first round came 10% higher than expected. Mr. O'Leary said that there were no other major concerns found.

Mayor Mitchell asked for an update on the Facilities Review Process. Mr. O'Leary stated that the comprehensive facilities report has been completed and it will be shared with the Committee. This report permits the district to work on its recommendations, improve monitoring repairs across the district and planning a preventive maintenance schedule.

Chapter 70 increase will represent an additional \$800K to the school budget, pending a vote by the School Committee on September and City Council's approval.

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 76 appointments, 2 retirements, 19 resignations and 42 transfers since the last personnel report in July. Ms. Emsley stated that 94.4% of the appointed teachers were licensed.

To a question by Christopher Cotter, Ms. Emsley reported that the State releases the licensure report on a yearly basis, at the end of a school year. The 2017-18 school year data shows that the percentage increased for New Bedford.

Colleen Dawicki asked if it was possible to share a monthly report with the Committee concerning unfilled vacancies, especially on teachers. Ms. Emsley stated that a report can be created but cautioned that the numbers fluctuate constantly.

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

Collen Dawicki gave a report related to a Sea Lab school visit. Mr. Christopher Cotter commended the work done by the Power Scholars Academy summer program.

Amanda Braga, Student Representative, shared her experience during the summer internship “Learn and Earn” with South Coast Energy Challenge that focuses on renewable energy.

OLD BUSINESS

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted to leave item 7A on the table, discussion of the long-range Fine Arts and Athletics Strategic Plan. (Tabled from the June 11, 2018 meeting).

On a motion by Joshua Amaral and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY that the School Committee retains its grievance authority of the following grievances and discontinue the use of a designee:

- Level Three grievances pursuant to Article 26 of the Unit A collective bargaining agreement with the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc.
- Level Three grievances pursuant to Article 19 of the Unit B collective bargaining agreement with the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc.
- Level Three grievances pursuant to Article 12 of the New Bedford Federation of Paraprofessionals collective bargaining agreement
- Level Two grievances pursuant to Article 5 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) collective bargaining agreement

Joshua Amaral explained that the grievance authority will give the opportunity to the School Committee to act as the last level of grievance instead of being designated to the Superintendent.

NEW BUSINESS

Joshua Amaral nominated Bruce Oliveira to represent the Committee as the voting delegate at the MASC annual business meeting.

After the Chair asked if there were any further nominations, and hearing none, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Joshua Amaral and seconded by Jack Livramento, to nominate Bruce Oliveira as the voting delegate to represent the New Bedford School Committee at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) annual business meeting on November 9, 2018. (Supporting document 8A)

Bruce Oliveira nominated Joshua Amaral to represent the Committee as the alternate voting delegate at the MASC annual business meeting.

After the Chair asked if there were any further nominations, and hearing none, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, to nominate Joshua Amaral 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 9, 2018.

A discussion ensued with regard to the additional seats requested by Charter Schools to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Several members shared concerns related to the impact in the district budget and the significant number, close to 2500 seats, proposed for New Bedford alone. The School Committee agrees that New Bedford Public Schools offer competitive programs and comprehensive services to their students; and feel that it is not the right time for a Charter expansion of this magnitude.

Mr. Anderson stated that the district will have an opportunity to submit written information regarding the Charter renewals (280 seats for City on a Hill Charter School) by November 1st.

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Joshua Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY that the New Bedford School Committee go on record as being in opposition of any additional Charter Seats for New Bedford.

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

Mr. Anderson explained that the position of Business Manager be changed to Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations. Several members commented positively about the proposed change. Mr. Cotter stated the importance for the position to remain focused within the job description.

On a motion by Jack Livramento and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to create the position of *Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations*.

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 Paul Rodrigues Administration Building and Jireh Swift Elementary School. (In accordance with School Department Policy DN).

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Christopher Cotter and seconded by John Oliveira, to approve a request by Chris Chambers/Music/Band/Chorus/Normandin Middle School for permission to take approximately 125 students and 25 chaperones to Hershey, P.A., from May 16-19, 2019 to perform their concert program in competition. (Cost per Student: \$400, expenses covered by fundraiser and family contributions.) (Supporting document 8E)

At 7:26P.M., on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Jack Livramento, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, to go into Executive Session, for the following purposes:

A. To discuss updates with respect to negotiations with union personnel:

- New Bedford Educators Association Unit A
- New Bedford Educators Association Unit B
- New Bedford Federation of Paraprofessionals

B. To discuss strategy with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel:
Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operation

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

At 8:10 P.M. on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Jack Livramento, the Committee voted to go back into Open Session.

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Joshua Amaral, the Committee voted to approve the Employment Agreement between the New Bedford Public Schools and Andrew O’Leary, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations .

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

Mayor Mitchell stated that there will be minor typographical changes on the contract that will not affect the ratification of the employment agreement.

At 8:12 P.M., on a motion by Jack Livramento and seconded by Joshua Amaral, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Adlyberry Ferreira
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Thomas Anderson
Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee