



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
Keith Middle School: Monday, October 21, 2019
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ROBERT TETRAULT, MR. STEVEN HARKEY, MR. BRIAN TURNER, MS. TRINA CAMARO, MS. SONIA WALMSLEY, MR. JOSHUA ALMEIDA, SANDRA FORD

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: TY SPENCER

2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The School Committee voted **UNANIMOUSLY**, on a motion by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral, to accept the following School Committee meeting minutes (*supporting documents #3*).

- Regular Meeting Minutes: August 12, 2019
- Regular Meeting Minutes: September 9, 2019

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public participation requested.

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Ty Spencer updated the School Committee on what the students and athletic teams have accomplished during the first month of the 2019-2020 school year at New Bedford High School (NBHS). Mr. Spencer talked about students with driver's licenses were able to participate in a Distracted Driver Simulation program hosted by the Tomlinson and O'Neill Insurance Agency on Union Street in downtown New Bedford. Students were able to experience the effects of driving while texting, as well as, other distractions. The students received a \$15 gas card and credit towards their car insurance. Mr. Spencer included that the high school students were participating in a showcase

for middle school students. The middle school students learned from the high school students about academics, athletics, performing arts and other opportunities the high school has to offer. He updated everyone that NBHS has an upcoming Open House for 7th and 8th graders on Thursday, November 14, 2019 and shared that the Open House that took place on Friday, October 4, 2019 was a success.

Mr. Spencer included that the NBHS Whaler Marching Band has also earned first place overall in the Division III Open and Caption award at the USBands marching band competition that was held at the Somerset-Berkley Regional High School in Somerset, MA on Saturday, October 19, 2019. He also included that NBHS football coach, Mark DeBrito was named the New England Patriots High Coach of the Week and was presented with a \$1,000 check for the football program from New England Patriots Hall of Famer linebacker, Mr. Andre Tippett. Mr. Spencer rounded out his update by informing the committee that the Boys Soccer team had won the South East Conference Championship and how Cross Country had won the sophomore race at the Twilight meet.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson started his report by recognizing student representative Ty Spencer and how New Bedford Public School (NBPS) high school students are balancing academics, sports, work and family obligations while balancing life. The Superintendent acknowledged the two NBPS employee spotlights for October 2019. School adjustment counselors, Lynn Markey and Dolores Rodrigues from the Whaling City High School. He also added that DeValles Elementary School head custodian, Susana Martins was featured in the Sunday, October 20th issue of the New Bedford Standard Times for her hard work and dedication to the students. The Superintendent pointed out how you do not have to be a teacher to make a huge impact on our students. Superintendent Anderson included that Principal Justine Medina from the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School was showcased in the Faces of New Bedford in the New Bedford Guide on Friday, October 11, 2019.

Superintendent Anderson started by highlighting information about the staff and how the NBPS lead, along with reiterating the district goals. He followed by summarizing who the NBPS are and how they are made up by reviewing the school populations, student race and ethnicity breakdowns. Superintendent Anderson took a moment to introduce Mr. Brian Turner, NBPS Curriculum Data and Assessment Manager working with the secondary schools from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction. He began by reviewing the progress of the targeted accountability goal and stated that it was met and is up +12% over the targeted 52% goal. Mr. Turner went on to convey that the Advanced Coursework percentages in advanced placement, international baccalaureate and other Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved courses for students who participated in 2019 in comparison to students in 2018. He shared that the target for 2019 was to get to 33.5% and that students met the target goal with a net improvement of +4.9%.

Mr. Turner showed the score information from over the past five years and stated there was an increase of 100 students passing the exam for the 2018-2019 school year. Mayor Mitchell followed up by asking if advanced courses include non-AP courses or just AP courses. Mr. Turner went on to state it does include non-AP courses and explained what courses were included, how they are designated and how DESE selects and identifies them. Superintendent Anderson added that NBPS can petition DESE to select a course. Mr. Jack Livramento wondered if NBPS should go through the process of encouraging students who are capable but do not apply for the courses out of fear. Superintendent Anderson shared that faculty are having these conversations with students.

Mr. Christopher Cotter asked Superintendent Anderson and Mr. Turner to explain the accountable progress. Mr. Turner shared how there are selected categories that are reviewed and DESE reviews to make sure the targets are being met. Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Karen Treadup shared how New Bedford students are meeting and exceeding the requirements set by DESE. She added that the gap is closing, but not quick enough. Mr. Bruce Oliveira asked what can be done to close the gap. Ms. Treadup reviewed the progress disaggregated by grade and how finding the gaps and closing them are expected. Mr. Joshua Almeida asked why 3rd graders

were performing better. Ms. Treadup explained how the levels are more demanding as the grades move forward. Superintendent Anderson added how instruction can make a change as part of this process.

Ms. Trina Camarao, NBPS Curriculum Data and Assessment Manager working with the elementary schools, and from the Office of Curriculum and Instruction added that attendance reviewed as chronic absenteeism is another accountability method. Ms. Camarao explained the non-high school and high school percentage changes from 2018 and 2019. She stated as a district chronic absenteeism improved by 2.6%. As the state level it improved 12.3%. Mr. Livramento asked if we are looking at what is causing these absences and do the schools interview the students. Ms. Camarao shared that protocol was put in place and staff has an instructional guide as to what the process is and how to target these students with the policy that went into effect last year. Superintendent Anderson expressed how NBPS is reviewing a variety of items that can play a role in a student's absence(s). Superintendent Anderson shared 18 days is the state's requirements and that he feels NBPS should strive to do better than that. Mayor Mitchell asked if absences are categorized. Superintendent Anderson said the schools will review that in order to address what problems can be and what NBPS can do to aid the student in attending school. Ms. Camarao included that solving the problem was more individual depending on the reasons for the absence. Mr. Livramento added if Ms. Camarao could explain how the attendance was calculated. Ms. Camarao shared how the attendance process is taken by the state.

Superintendent Anderson brought forward SAT information to review with the committee. He directed the committee to a Power Point slide that explained how SAT reading scores went from 476 in 2018 to 484 in 2019 and SAT math scores went from 479 in 2018 to 478 in 2019. Superintendent Anderson went on to share the data points that were considered, what level they are at, and the frequency of the stated data points. Superintendent Anderson went on to share what are we able to do to keep students at different levels engaged and the impacts it has on the student's progress.

Mr. Brian Turner stepped up to the podium to explain the current progress towards improvement targets in the middle schools. He shared that as a district it improved from 40% to 52%. He included the cumulative growth increases as well. Mr. Turner stated that cumulatively Keith Middle School increased by 42%, Normandin Middle School increased by 42% and Roosevelt Middle School increased by 37%. Mr. Turner included information about what target areas are being worked on to make these increases happen. Mr. Turner also shared that the DESE sets the targets and the targets are based upon the school's previous year scores and what is a reasonable target goal for the school. The School Committee expressed how happy they were to see these numbers. Superintendent Anderson added that we need to figure out how to move quicker and learn in real time how to resolve problems in the moment. Superintendent Anderson also stated that NBPS should look beyond the targets that DESE has set. School Committee member, Ms. Colleen Dawicki suggested to the committee members that they should review the DESE profile for each New Bedford school and review the breakdown for each individual school to get a better understanding.

Ms. Karen Treadup shared statistics about the James B. Congdon Elementary School and Carlos Pacheco Elementary Schools growth that was achieved and how they received state recognition. She shared that James B. Congdon Elementary School met the standards two years in a row and that the Carlos Pacheco Elementary School met more than 90% of the standards. Superintendent Anderson explained the meetings that are taking place to meet the success that students are achieving and what supports that are aiding them. Superintendent Anderson also shared what questions the NBPS administrative team is asking themselves to keep the consistency in the work. Mr. Turner followed up by sharing the implementation and execution of the NBPS strategic actions, as well as, sharing what meetings and opportunities the staff has had. Ms. Camarao rounded out the discussion with discussing the tools, data systems, professional development, attendance, class visits, curriculum, support systems and instructional leadership being used. Committee member, Ms. Dawicki liked the NBPS dashboard that was presented to the School Committee and wanted to know what the School Committee members could do when speaking with parents and families. Ms. Camarao answered that they should encourage parents to utilize early literacy, phonic awareness, music, songs and sound. Mayor Mitchell added to

the question by asking what they can tell a parent to look at on the dashboard and what is important to look at if you want to send your kids to NBPS. Superintendent Anderson went on to point out what families can review and look at to move their student forward.

Superintendent Anderson ended his portion of the meeting agenda by sharing with the committee a "Focus on Learning NBPS" video highlighting the James B. Congdon School. The video touched upon what teachers are doing at the James B. Congdon School and how they are teaching, enhancing themselves, and the schools progress.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Finance and Operations Report: Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Mr. Andrew O'Leary began by explaining the Function Code Report and the changes and expenses within it. Mr. O'Leary explained changes that stood out: salaries and cost for out-of-district schooling. Mr. O'Leary went on to review the general expense report and its increases, as well as, the salary spend-down report while explaining the transfer of funds to Special Education account. He also reviewed the transfer report and provided information on monies that were transferred into the school budget. Mr. O'Leary went on to share improvement progress on the capital projects going on.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the approval of all transfers.

Mayor Mitchell went on to ask for the order of each school's capital projects that are being worked on and Mr. O'Leary shared that information with the committee. Mayor Mitchell was curious to what the cost of the roof projects are. Mr. O'Leary stated it was one million. Mr. Christopher Cotter followed up with asking where NBPS stands on all the ongoing projects. Mr. O'Leary went on to include the status of the projects that are wrapping up.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to accept the Finance and Operations reports.

- B. Personnel Report: Executive Director of Human Capital Services, Ms. Heather Emsley reviewed the Personnel Report and shared with the committee that there were 81 appointments in total with 34 in Unit A, 11 from AFSCME, 19 paraprofessionals and 27 non-union. There were 8 retirements with 5 from Unit A and 3 from AFSCME. She also reported 27 resignations in total with 13 of them from Unit A, 6 non-union, 3 AFSCME and 5 paraprofessionals. There were also 24 substitutes reported which was made up of 4 custodians, 10 food service, 8 teachers and 2 paraprofessionals. Ms. Emsley added that there were a total of 7 transfers made up of 5 from Unit A and 2 Non- Union. Ms. Emsley highlighted information on the upcoming NBPS Wellness Fair that is taking place on November 14th at the Keith Middle School, as well as, the Whaling Museum Educator Night that is taking place on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at the New Bedford Whaling Museum located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in New Bedford.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the Personnel Report.

- A. School Committee Report: Mr. Bruce Oliveira made the other School Committee members aware that they had not chosen a voting delegate for the upcoming Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) & Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) Joint Conference that is being held from Wednesday, November 6th through Saturday, November 9th at the Resort & Conference Center in Hyannis, MA. The School Committee members had a discussion to move forward Mr. Bruce Oliveira as the voting delegate and Mr. Jack Livramento as the alternative.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to accept Mr. Bruce Oliveira to be the Voting Delegate and Mr. Jack Livramento to be the Alternate.

Mr. John Oliveira shared that he attended the Open House at the Keith Middle School and New Bedford High School. He expressed that the schools could do a better job at engaging the families and not wasting their time. Mr. Oliveira went on to state that Mayan students are being taught in Spanish and not their natural dialect of K'iche' and wants the schools to work on this.

Mr. Jack Livramento reported congratulations to the NBPS for opening the seven Family Welcome Centers and making families feel very welcome and comfortable to receive help at the centers. Mr. Livramento feels this is a great step in engaging families and getting them involved in their child's education. He credited the NBPS in how language gaps are being addressed with students and families. Mr. Christopher Cotter had a final note he wanted to share about the NBHS Whaler Marching Band for their achievement on band day at the Walsh Field and shared how proud he is of them and the parents who went the extra mile for the participating students.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to approve a recommended list of surplus property located at the Paul Rodrigues Administration Building.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to enter in to Executive Session for the following purpose:

- A. Updates with respect to the New Bedford Educators Association Unit A and B, as well as, New Bedford Federation of Paraprofessionals.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes
Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

10. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned 8:03 PM

Submitted by:

Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee

