



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
Keith Middle School: Monday, December 9, 2019
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY

IN ATTENDANCE: MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MR. ROBERT TETRAULT, MS. SONIA WALMSLEY

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: RAINA GRACE

2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

6-Yeas, 1-Absent

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Regular Meeting Minutes: November 18, 2019

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public participation requested.

5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative, Raina Grace updated the School Committee on New Bedford High School (NBHS) spirit week activities. They had a day time pep rally with the entire student body which included a float contest, door decorating and daily theme attire. Ms. Grace shared information on the upcoming holiday music concert that will be held on December 10, 2019 at 7:00pm in the NBHS auditorium. She also added that there would be a Pops concert held in the NBHS gymnasium on December 13, 2019 at 7:00pm. Ms. Grace informed the School Committee that earlier that day NBHS students participated in the Kindness Campaign that was held for the New Bedford Public Schools "Kindness Day" celebration. Students did a variety of activities throughout the day in regards to their selected theme "Change Starts with Us". NBHS students started the day with broadcasting Superintendent Thomas Anderson's kindness message to the district.

Ms. Grace went on to share that the planning has begun for the upcoming NBHS “Mr. Whaler” contest for seniors. The contest is being held on Saturday, February 28, 2020 at NBHS.

In conclusion, Ms. Grace informed the School Committee that student progress reports will be released on December 18, 2019. She added that AP ELA sessions took place on December 7, 2019 at B.M.C. Durfee High School in Fall River, MA and more than 100 NBHS students attended.

6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson started his report by sharing the information on the “Be Kind Day” that was held across the school district and thanked student representative Ms. Raina Grace for her update to the School Committee. Superintendent Anderson went on to update the School Committee by highlighting how instruction, operations and culture are all connected to the NBPS goals. He went on to explain to the committee what the NBPS budget priorities were and included information as to how staff levels, personnel development and curriculum are very important and connected to the process. He discussed examples including literacy focus, special education and English learners. Superintendent Anderson stressed that literacy enhancement is a main focus, as well as, physical education and the music program. He ended this portion with sharing what technology and facility upgrade projects were happening within the New Bedford Public Schools.

Superintendent Anderson discussed the District Strategic Plan and how it was shared with community organizations and that there is an upcoming meeting with the Greater New Bedford Youth Alliance to circle back and update them with the steps that were taken with their input. The Superintendent shared the continued investments that are still taking place, such as: strengthening staff development, maintaining and enhancing student services, upgrading learning spaces, expanding socio-emotional supports, etc. The Superintendent updated the committee with information on the Student Opportunity Act that implements schools turning in their action plans. He assured the committee that NBPS is pleased with the action plans and has been working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and will continue to work to meet target goals within the school district. He shared that NBPS has already been doing action plans with DESE and has set high goals. The Superintendent shared that he is not worried because NBPS has been part of this process and he would share more details and meeting dates in the future. School Committee member, Mr. Jack Livramento followed up with asking if NBPS is working towards strengthening the socio-emotional area? Superintendent Anderson explained if NBPS is not prepared in advance in this area the pool of eligible candidates is going to dwindle. He shared what NBPS sees as possible open vacancies in the future but the district continuously plans for future candidates. He followed up by letting the committee know that current staff needs to be equipped now while being thoughtful about the process before just adding more staff.

Superintendent Anderson updated the School Committee on how NBPS is available to support the City on a Hill (COAH) Charter School students in this time of transition with the closing of their New Bedford school location at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Superintendent Anderson shared how the City on a Hill students submitted questions and concerns to NBPS and what NBPS response was to their questions. Superintendent Anderson informed the School Committee that he is meeting with Mr. Kevin Taylor, Chief Executive Officer of COAH to see how NBPS can support and assist the transitional process for their students. Superintendent Anderson was very clear that NBPS would be flexible and supportive, but would not just hand out diplomas. He gave an example of how these students could use the winter and spring vacation break to address any work that may be needed to graduate or promote to other grades. Mayor Jonathan Mitchell asked, “How many students are involved in transitioning back to NBPS?” Superintendent Anderson and Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Andrew O’Leary, stated approximately 140 students. School Committee member, Mr. Jack Livramento asked what level students were involved in this transition? Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Karen Treadup, stated they are all high school students, grades 9 through grade 12. School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked if Superintendent Anderson would put together an assembly for the seniors to make sure they will be on track for graduation. Superintendent Anderson said he is hoping that after meeting with Mr. Taylor, the CEO of

COAH at his upcoming meeting with him that he'll be able to obtain student information so NBPS can reach out to the COAH seniors.

After sharing additional "Kindness Day" information, Superintendent Anderson updated the School Committee on the Family Institute for Student Success graduation on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the Hayden McFadden Elementary School. He shared that there were approximately 60 parents and guardians who graduated from the current program. The Superintendent took a moment to show a short video clip of a parent that shared the impact of the program on her and her family. Superintendent Anderson informed the committee that to date 100 parents and guardians have graduated from the program. Mr. Jack Livramento asked how are parents able to sign up for the Family Institute for Student Success program and if it is only available at certain schools. Superintendent Anderson ended his report by stating to Mr. Livramento and the community that no matter which school your student attends you can participate in the program.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Finance and Operations Report: Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Mr. Andrew O'Leary began by updating the School Committee on the NBPS Function Code Report which shows the full appropriated budget for the district. Mr. O'Leary gave an explanation of the report and stated that NBPS was half way through the fiscal year and about half way spent down. He went on to give informative details about the Salary Report and Transfer Reports. Mr. Bruce Oliveira, School Committee member, added for the record that the transfers were recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee to move forward to the full School Committee for approval.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the Transfer Report.

Mr. O'Leary went on to explain the process going on with the grants and how the spend down process would be as we head into the end of this fiscal year. After no questions from the committee, Mr. O'Leary proceeded to inform the committee on his Facilities Report. He updated the committee on a variety of facilities projects and added that the work being done on the locker rooms, as well as, the water tank issues at NBHS should be resolved in a week. He also informed the School Committee that the Parker Street side of the high school will begin construction of the new softball facilities. Mr. O'Leary shared that NBPS has begun the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process for "Statements of Interest" for accelerated repairs and new construction for March and April 2020.

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

- B. Personnel Report: Mr. Andrew O'Leary stepped in to provide the following details of the Personnel Report that was prepared by Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services, who could not be in attendance. Mr. O'Leary shared that there were 21 appointments with six from Unit A, five from AFSCME, 4 paraprofessionals and six non-union, as well as, 10 retirements with eight from Unit A, 1 AFSCME and 1 paraprofessional. Mr. O'Leary added that there were a total of six resignations with one from Unit A, 2 non-union and 3 paraprofessionals. He concluded that there were 10 substitutes with five from Food Service, 4 teachers and 1 paraprofessional and a total of 3 transfers which were paraprofessionals.

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

- C. School Committee Report: School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter complimented the NBHS Drama Club on their production of "Letters to Sala". He felt the NBHS students were very successful in this

emotional performance. Mr. Cotter praised the president of the Drama Club for the piece that she wrote on her own that was included in the production. Mr. Bruce Oliveira ended the School Committee report by wishing everyone a happy holiday. Mr. Jack Livramento added by wishing everyone a Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukah, and a Happy New Year to year to all.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The School Committee reviewed the Surplus Property Report for October 2019 on property located in the Paul Rodrigues Administration Building.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to accept the Surplus Property Report in accordance with the School Department Policy DN on property located at the Paul Rodrigues Administration Building.

- B. Superintendent Anderson spoke to the School Committee about approval for NBPS to join the South Coast Educational Collaborative (SCEC). The Superintendent went on to describe what the collaborative is, what they do for work and student programs, as well as, the benefits to the NBPS district in partnering with SCEC. He shared with the committee how joining the collaborative would allow for special education students who cannot be served within our district to be served with the collaborative at other locations. Superintendent Anderson concluded with the cost to the district and the possible savings over time surrounding tuition.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to approve the New Bedford Public School district join the South Coast Educational Collaborative as a member with full benefits, privileges, responsibilities and subject to the terms and conditions of the Collaborative agreement approved by the Department of Education and subject to applicable Commonwealth rules and regulations. The School Committee also moves that the Chairman of the School Committee is authorized on behalf of the committee to execute all appropriate documentation and to consummate the committee's decision and further moves that the Superintendent of schools is appointed as the districts representative on the South Coast Educational Collaborative Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

- C. Mayor Mitchell started by asking if the committee reviewed the tentative School Committee Sub-Committee dates for the calendar year 2020. The committee members reviewed the dates and were in agreement. Mayor Mitchell instructed everyone on the committee that after the meeting any date changes should be brought to Superintendent Anderson or his Executive Assistant, Marjorie Fernandes.

Mayor Mitchell went on and explained to the committee that each December the School Committee votes for a new Vice Chairman of the School Committee and asked if anyone has nominations. School Committee member, Mr. Joshua Amaral presented that School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter be nominated for the position of Vice Chairman of the School Committee. Mr. Bruce Oliveira seconded that with no one in disagreement.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to approve Mr. Christopher Cotter as the Vice Chairman of the School Committee for the 2020 calendar year.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion and vote by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to meet in Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) for purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the New Bedford Educators Association Unit B and the Massachusetts Teacher Association for the following purpose:

- A. Updates with respect to the New Bedford Educators Association Unit B collective bargaining agreement.
- B. To discuss the Massachusetts Teacher Associations request received with respect to forming a collective bargaining unit: New Bedford Support Specialist Union.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

The New Bedford School Committee will now be meeting in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A, section 21(a) for purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the New Bedford Educators Association Unit B because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee. The Negotiation Subcommittee will be reconvening in open session.

10. OLD BUSINESS (after Executive Session)

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

- A. Mr. Andrew O’Leary began by highlighting the New Bedford Educator Associations Unit B collective bargaining agreement between the New Bedford School Committee and the New Bedford Educators Association Unit B. He explained some of the changes and increases to the collective bargaining agreement.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the collective bargaining agreement between New Bedford School Committee and Unit B of the New Bedford Educators Association.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

11. ADJOURN

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to adjourn the School Committee meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee