

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

PRESENT: MR. OLIVEIRA, MR. AMARAL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. LIVRAMENTO

ABSENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MS. POLLOCK

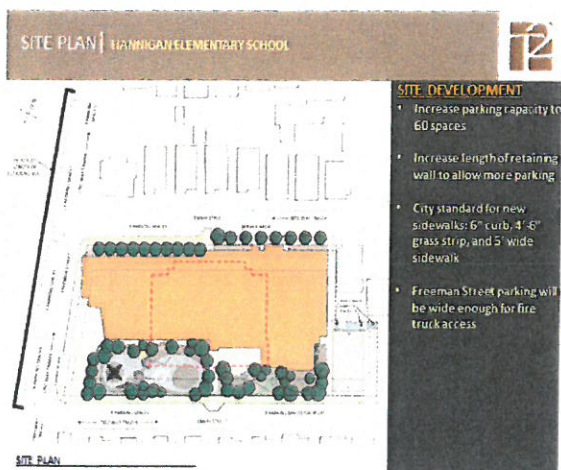
IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MRS. DUNAWAY
(Recording Secretary)

The Special Meeting was held to discuss the following items:

- Consideration of approval of the schematic plans for the new John Hannigan Elementary School
- Review of suggested budget reductions
- Consideration of ratification of a Memorandum of Agreement between the School Committee and Unit B of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc.

The architects for the proposed Hannigan School building addressed the Committee and explained that several modifications had to be made to the schematic design due to issues that were of concern, including situations that may cause a delay. The Building Committee voted to approve Option 4a rather than the previously proposed Option B after the Phase 2 site assessment of the school property and adjacent parcels was completed.

The highlights of the presentation are as follows:



FIRST FLOOR PLAN | HANNIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN | HANNIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



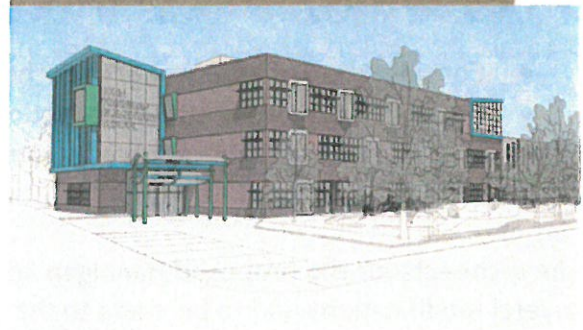
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THIRD FLOOR PLAN | HANNIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

SCHEMATIC RENDERING | HANNIGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



VIEW FROM SOUTH WEST

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Building Committee Meeting	June 9, 2015
MSBA Schematic Submission	June 11, 2015
MSBA Board Approval	July 29, 2015
City Council Approval	September 9, 2015
Design Development Completion	November 25, 2015
100% Construction Documents	April 13, 2016
General Bids Due	May 20, 2016
Substantial Completion	June 9, 2017
Open School for Staff	August 11, 2017

It was noted that the cost was reduced by eliminating approximately 5000 sq. ft. by tightening up the design. As noted above, the target date for opening the new John Hannigan Elementary School would be August of 2017.

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to send the schematic design, as presented, to the Massachusetts School Building Authority for approval.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 – Absent

Dr. Durkin reviewed the proposed FY 16 budget and noted that the \$120,411,973 that was approved on May 11, by a 6 – 1 vote of the Committee, would have to be reduced to meet the total that was submitted to the City Council by Mayor Mitchell. A Power Point presentation was given to explain the process and to review suggestions for \$1.6M in reductions.

New Bedford Public Schools

FY 16 Budget Presentation for School Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee
Thursday, June 4, 2015

(1)

Fiscal Context

FY 16 Budget

• Original Request for Recovered Services Budget	\$143,929,551
• Same Level as prior year Services Level	\$124,764,983
• Budget Reductions	\$4,353,010

Budget Request for FY16 = \$120,411,973
Approved by the School Committee – 5/11/15

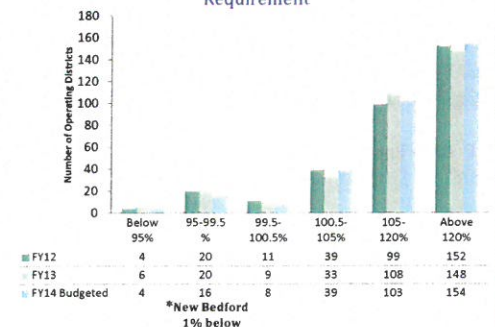
(2)

Net School Spending Calculation

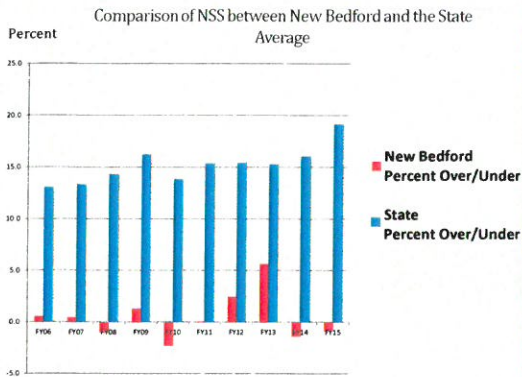
Net School Spending Estimate:	\$117,826,159
Shortfall in Budgeted FY15 NSS	\$971,849
Total Net School Spending	\$118,798,008
School Department Request	\$120,411,973
Difference between NSS and Request	\$1,613,965
Request above NSS	1.36%

(3)

Most Districts Spend in Excess of Their Net School Spending Requirement



(4)



FY 15 Opportunities

- \$500,000 is available from the Retirement Payout line. This was budgeted above FY 14 levels because of volatility in this line.
- \$1,200,000 is available from salary lines from vacancy savings.
- 2% of our \$116,400,000 FY 15 budget is \$2,360,589.70

Having up to 5% of a budgeted amount left is sound fiscal management.

Reductions

Reductions in Salary Accounts	\$1,760,000
Reduce ELL Hires from 20 to 12	\$400,000
Reduce Math TLS from 10 to 8	\$100,000
Science Material for Elementary Kits	\$50,000
Total of Reductions	\$2,310,000

Reviewing Sound Fiscal Priorities

- Transparency and clear monthly tracking reports
- Keeping within the FY 14 and FY 15 fiscal allocation
- Taking FY 14 actuals from previous accounting system to the FY 15 budget
- Staffing realignment and consolidation review

FY 16 Reduced Request

Total Bought from Savings	\$1,629,485
Total Reductions	\$2,310,000
Total from Closing of Kempton School	\$235,741
Additional Reductions from Principals	\$177,784
Total Budget Reductions	\$4,353,010
Original Budget Request (4/13/15)	\$124,764,983
New School Department Request	\$120,411,973

Dr. Durkin added that it would be difficult for the district to be designated out of Level 4 without sufficient funding.

FY 16 Reduced Budget
(Per Mayoral Authority)
\$118.8 million
as of May 13, 2015

*Added reduction -
\$1.6 million*

(10)

FY 16 Budget Process and Steps

Budget Description	Additions/Reductions	Cost of Goods and Services
Level service proposed budget with needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Day Fridays for 6000 students (20 teachers needed for elementary students for music, art, PE and technology) New K-5 Math Program + 10 Teaching & Learning Specialists ELL Teachers (20 <u>down</u> from 35) Reading Street Payment (year 2) Needed maintenance/technology contracts Increases in staff for class size reductions and loss of K grant 	\$124,764,983

(11)

FY 16 Budget Process and Steps

Budget Description	Additions/Reductions	Cost of Goods and Services
School Department proposed budget voted and approved by school committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Day Fridays for 6000 elementary students (20 teachers needed) New K-5 Math Program + 8 Teaching & Learning Specialists ELL Teachers (12 <u>down</u> from 20) Reading Street payment (year 2) Needed maintenance/technology contracts Closing Kempton School Increases in staff for class size reductions and loss of K grant 	\$120,411,973

(12)

In regard to full day Fridays, Dr. Durkin explained that currently, elementary teachers stay after student dismissal for planning time. The additional 20 teachers would be for hired for art, music and physical education classes which would give students much needed time in these areas and allow classroom teachers the added common planning time that is necessary.

During some discussion, Dr. Finnerty asked if the Renaissance School is affected by the cuts. Dr. Rabinovitch responded that the school's budget is less than last year's; they have their own budget and are autonomous. Dr. Finnerty voiced concern that all other schools were asked to cut their budgets. Dr. Rabinovitch replied that he would review it further, including looking into it with their board.

Mr. Oliveira asked if a Level 4 school could be closed before it went to Level 5. Dr. Durkin responded that she believed it could be done but did not know the sequence of events. She also reiterated that the turnaround will take time and if the resources are not adequate, it will be difficult to keep at least one school from going to Level 4.

Dr. Finnerty asked who is making the cuts at the schools where principals are leaving. Dr. Durkin responded that the current principals were reviewing their budgets with oversight by Mr. DeFalco and Ms. Emsley.

Dr. Durkin appealed to the Committee to keep the new math program in the budget no matter what, along with the needed materials and professional development.

Mr. Livramento inquired if all possible resources were being looked at. Dr. Durkin explained that the district pursues all possible grants, etc. She also explained that Title I funding can only be used to supplement and not supplant the budget.

FY 16 Budget Process and Steps

Budget Description	Additions/Reductions	Cost of Goods and Services
Mayor's budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminating Full Day Fridays for 6000 elementary students (20 teachers needed) New Math Program + 6 Teaching and Learning Specialists Reading Street payment (year 2) Needed maintenance/technology contracts Closing Kempton School Increases in staff for class size reductions and loss of K grant Reductions in services/resources across the district (cut of \$600,000) impacting every school 	\$118,800,000

Not in FY 16 Budget

- Full-Day Fridays for 6000 elementary students (2 extra weeks of instruction per year – Total - \$1 million)
- Science Director and Science Resources/Professional Development (new standards out in 2016-17)
- Expansion of the after-school accelerated Spring ELL Program to develop English proficiency
- Lack of 8-23 ESL teachers needed for identified ELL students
- Additional mental health workers, social workers and behavior specialists to support high need students in classrooms across the district
- Additional \$600,000 of cuts/reductions impacting every school in New Bedford
- Increase in Maintenance Staff
- Computer/Technology expansion for on-line testing (PARCC)
 - NBHS – 8 computer labs - \$192,000
 - 3 Middle Schools – 9 computer labs and 3 libraries - \$288,000
 - 17 elementary schools – 21 computer labs - \$504,000
 - Total: \$984,000

Administration Expenditures per pupil

Rank*	District	Percentage
#1	Provincetown	6.17
#203	Brockton	3.19
#241	Fall River	2.78
#281	Worcester	2.29
#315	New Bedford	1.96
#320	Dudley Charlton	1.81

*Most recent available data for FY 14 expenditures per pupil

Planning for the FY 17 Budget

- Full-Day Fridays for all elementary students (20 teachers) – \$1 million
- Additional 8-23 ESL teachers for identified ELL students - \$400,000 – 1.15 million
- Computer/Technology expense for on-line testing (PARCC) - \$984,000
- Needed mental health workers, social workers and behavior specialists for student support
- Additional teaching learning specialists for coaching and professional development
- Additional support of Level 3 schools to prevent movement to Level 4
- District investment to exit Level 4 status

New Bedford Public Schools

- New Bedford's Level 4 status obligates **reform linked to resources** to set an even playing field for 12,600 kids to accelerate progress after a history of underfunding schools and missed opportunities.
- We can no longer afford to fund merely what is minimally required. Rather we must fund what is **necessary**.

Investing in the Future

The success of our New Bedford's schools IS the success of the City of New Bedford

Dr. Finnerty commented that foundations and grants will not invest in New Bedford if the district can't support their students and they will not contribute to operating costs.

Mr. Amaral stated that in order for the district to grow, it takes an investment up front. Property values will not go up until people move here and come to a district with a great school system.

Mr. Livramento noted that students are told to work hard and do their best but we don't give them all the resources to do it. He added that there must be concern about the budget.

Mr. Oliveira stated that at this time, a potential tax increase is not a reason not to fully fund the budget as the additional funding would amount to approximately \$35 per year for the average homeowner.

At 7:50 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, with the intent to return to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing strategies in preparation for Collective Bargaining with Unit B of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 – Absent

At 8:03 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to return to Open Session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 – Absent

At this time, a motion was made by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a Memorandum of Agreement with Unit B of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. which extends their Collective Bargaining Agreement dated July 1, 2011-June 30, 2014, except as modified, through June 30, 2015. Ms. Emsley outlined the items which included:

- Salary schedule increase for Step 4 Administrators
- Salary schedule increase for Administrators below Step 4
- Provision for mandatory pay through Direct Deposit
- Work Year: 195 days
- Language changes involving “cause”, evaluations and title changes

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 – Absent

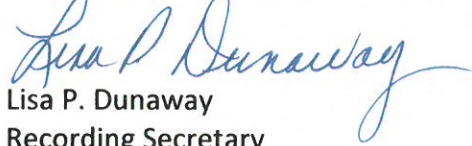
At 8:09 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted to adjourn.

The roll call vote was as follows:


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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Pia Durkin, PhD
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee

/lpd