

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. LIVRAMENTO, DR. FLETCHER, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: MR. NOBREGA, MS. POLLOCK

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. SHEA, MRS. MOURAO

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was not in attendance.

Members of the Esperanza School for Language and Culture presented their Innovation School plan to the School Committee. The goal of the Esperanza School is aimed to support the goals of the New Bedford School District in improving student academic performance and realizing their overall student achievement goals. The focus is on dual language and two-way immersion. According to the members, their educational model *"promotes high academic achievement, first and second language development and cross-cultural understanding for all students. In dual language programs, language learning takes place primarily through content instruction. Academic subjects are taught to all students both English and the partner language. As students and teachers work together to perform academic tasks, the students' language abilities are developed, along with their knowledge of content area subject matter."* Two-way immersion *"includes balanced numbers of students from two language backgrounds and integrates students from both language backgrounds. In addition, it provides core academic curriculum to both groups in both languages."*

School Committee members asked several questions.

Members of the Renaissance Community School for the Arts presented their Innovation School plan to the Committee. The mission of the Renaissance Community School for the Arts is to *"provide students with a broad-based and challenging academic program in the context of an arts-integrated curriculum. We believe that every child is entitled to a comprehensive, dynamic, educational experience. We seek to create well-rounded, inquisitive learners who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to succeed in secondary education, college or other postsecondary training, and the 21st-century world of work. We believe families are the primary stakeholders in their child's success, and thus we strive to weave families into the daily fabric of their child's education."* Their goal is to *"ensure all students reach their fullest potential. The school and curriculum emphasize social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong, safe, and cohesive school community. Students are engaged in a rigorous, multidisciplinary approach to learning that is grounded in the arts and informed by best practices in authentic arts integration. Students learn in small, flexible groupings in which they receive assessment-informed instruction that best meets their needs. Families are viewed as vital collaborators in their child's educational success. Families are afforded the opportunity and provided with the necessary tools to contribute to their child's education and the well-being of the school. Families receive individualized wraparound support to promote family stabilization and functioning and thereby improve student outcomes. Staff is culturally competent. Staff is provided with ample opportunity to plan, collaborate with, and learn from their peers. Staff is expected to continuously build their personal and professional competence to respond to the increasingly diverse needs and abilities of students. Staff and families are included in all levels of decision-making."*

School Committee members asked several questions.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Livramento to table item 3C – Statements of Interest – Massachusetts School Building Authority.