

**SPECIAL MEETING & BUDGET WORKING SESSION  
OF THE  
NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, MRS. USSACH, MR. NOBREGA, MS. POLLOCK, DR. FLETCHER,  
DR. FINNERTY

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK, JUSTIN BRAGA (Student Representative)

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. COSTA, MRS. MOURAO  
(Recording secretary)

A student representative was not in attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Oliveira explained the two different documents that were distributed that evening and what the options are of getting the budget amount down to where we need to be. Mr. Oliveira indicated that the amounts listed on the original sheet are what the School Committee asked the administration to cut.

The amount to be resolved is \$3,724,043. The documents detailed the following options:

ORIGINAL – prepared by Mr. Oliveira

Options:	
Charge 1 Professional Development Day to Title IIA Grant	\$300,000
Reduce Paraprofessional staff (20 full time and 30 substitutes)	\$700,000
Close Kempton School/1 Nurse (or 12 teachers)	\$600,000
Cut 1 Technology Position	\$37,453
Reduce Systemwide - 45 Teachers	\$2,250,000
Cut 2 Vice-Principals – Middle Schools	\$160,000
Cut 1 Nurse	\$50,000
IT Manager (in NSS)	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL CUTS:</b>	<b>\$4,147,453</b>

REVISED – revisions made by Superintendent & Mayor Lang

Options:	
Charge 1 Professional Development Day to Title IIA Grant	\$300,000
Reduce Paraprofessionals (20 full-time and 30 substitutes)	\$700,000
Cut 1 Technology Position	\$37,453
50 Reduction in Staff by Resignation or Retirement	\$3,500,000
IT Manager (in NSS)	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL CUTS:</b>	<b>\$4,587,453</b>

**SURPLUS TO BE USED TO ADD BACK, IF NECESSARY: \$863,410**

Dr. Fletcher expressed his concern about how unfair it would be to close the Kempton School after the school year had already ended. Mayor Lang reminded the Committee that they had already voted to close only one school this year.

Mayor Lang indicated that the surplus money could add 16 teaching positions to help with class size reduction. Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee that only 43 positions are positions through retirement (39 teachers and 4 paraprofessionals). He also stated that the surplus amount is approximately \$400,000.

Mayor Lang informed the Committee that for the record, the revised amount in reduction in teaching staff due to retirements should be \$3,050,000.

Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira to provide the Committee with the amount of unemployment obligations due to paraprofessional layoffs.

Dr. Finnerty asked Assistant Superintendent Larkin if she was working on ideas to assign paraprofessionals to specialized programs versus a group of students. Mrs. Larkin indicated that she was not aware of any student in the District needing full-time services. According to Mrs. Larkin, all special education students require services for only part of the day. Dr. Finnerty expressed his support for this reorganization of paraprofessionals.

Superintendent Francis informed the Committee that the \$3.6 million left in Race to the Top funds will be used to fund technology positions.

Mayor Lang indicated that he will be making a strong plea to the State to bring back additional funding (Chapter 70) to our District. He also stated that the budget will be finalized tonight but that it can always be reopened in the near future to add back, if necessary.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up the cuts as noted in the documents altogether:

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to CHARGE ONE (1) PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY TO TITLE IIA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		
6 - Yeas	0 - Nays	1 - Absent	

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to REDUCE PARAPROFESSIONALS – 20 FULL-TIME & 30 SUBSTITUTES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$700,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		
6 - Yeas	0 - Nays	1 - Absent	

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to **DENY** the request to CLOSE KEMPTON SCHOOL /1 NURSE (or 12 TEACHERS) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$600,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to CUT ONE (1) TECHNOLOGY POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,453.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to **DENY** the request to REDUCE 45 TEACHERS SYSTEMWIDE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,250,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to **DENY** the request to CUT TWO (2) VICE-PRINCIPAL POSITIONS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$160,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to **DENY** the request to CUT ONE (1) NURSE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to CUT NET SCHOOL SPENDING (NSS) FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE IT MANAGER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to APPROVE REDUCTION IN STAFF - 43 POSITIONS DUE TO RESIGNATION OR RETIREMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,050,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to ADOPT THE OVERALL BUDGET of \$104,957,569.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

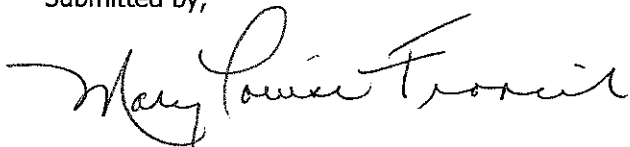
0 - Nays

1 - Absent

Superintendent Francis informed the Committee that she was very close to hiring the candidates for all the Central Administration positions. She further stated that everyone will be in place within three weeks.

At 8:25 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the regular session of the special meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis  
Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm