

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

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, MRS. USSACH, MR. NOBREGA, DR. FLETCHER, DR. FINNERTY
ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK, MS. POLLOCK, JUSTIN BRAGA (Student Representative)
IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. COSTA, MRS. MOURAO
(Recording secretary)

Kendra Vieira, Alternate Student Representative, was in attendance.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take the School Choice participation for 11/12 SY item off the table.

Superintendent Francis informed the Committee that in the case of Circuit Breaker, that the receiving school district would be receiving allocation for each student. In addition, Dr. Francis indicated that additional reimbursements based on types of services provided to special education students would be made on a case-by-case basis. Mrs. Larkin recently consulted with Attorney Catherine Lyons who looked into this program at districts as large as ours. However, most districts did not provide the complex and vast services to special needs students as we do. Atty. Lyons cautioned that School Choice participation may cause an influx of special education students to our District.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to table School Choice participation for SY 11/12 to the next meeting.

At this time, Superintendent Francis explained the budget documents each member had received in their packets. Documents received were "Positions through Attrition", "Three-Year Transportation Comparison" and updated "General Expense Line Items – Reduced by 19%".

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to cut the School Committee expenses to \$0.

After a discussion on the updated budget, Mrs. Ussach made a motion, seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to adopt the revised General Expenses budget – reduced by 19% (\$21,247,092.18).

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 - Yeas 0 - Nays 2 - Absent

Members of the School Committee discussed other ways to save money district-wide. Mr. Oliveira recommended reinstating two out of the four guidance clerk positions that had been cut last year at New Bedford High School. These positions would be funded through neutral expense.

Mayor Lang stated that the FY2012 was a work in progress due to unknown revenue on the state and federal level and there will be a need to get a firm handle on priorities and expenditures to balance the budget. He suggested suspending this session and voting on additional meeting dates.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to continue the budget working sessions on June 20th and 23rd, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to go into Executive Session to discuss the following:

- Negotiations Update
- Non-Union Issue
- Pending Contract

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

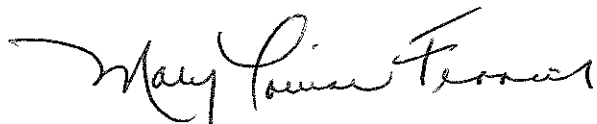
5 - Yeas

0 - Nays

2 - Absent

At 8:25 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Fletcher 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