



**REGULAR MEETING**  
**New Bedford School Committee**  
**Keith Middle School: Monday, January 13, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**

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

**ABSENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ROBERT TETRAULT,

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: RAINA GRACE

**2. ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	7-Yeas, 0-Absent

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- Regular Meeting Minutes: December 9, 2019

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	6-Yeas, 1-Nays, 0-Absent

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public participation requested.

**5. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Student Representative, Raina Grace began her report with an update on holiday shopping at New Bedford High School (NBHS) for students. She shared that 150 students participated in the holiday shopping spree which included items

donated and wrapped by NBHS staff and were available free of charge to students in need. Ms. Grace went on to inform the committee that Ty Spencer, NBHS senior and herself were invited to attend the Massachusetts Government Day for student leaders being held at the State House in Boston, MA on Friday, April 3, 2020. Ms. Grace also shared that on Friday, January 10, 2020, NBHS alumni Class of 2017, Skyler Reese spoke to approximately 100 NBHS Academy of Honors students about the college application process. She is currently a junior at Harvard University. Ms. Grace added that over winter break Ms. Reese will be speaking with about 30 schools on this same college application process. Ms. Grace also shared information on upcoming testing and mock exams at the high school and added that the JROTC fitness contest would be taking place on Saturday, January 25, 2020. In conclusion, Ms. Grace announced the NBHS "Mr. Whaler" contest would be taking place on Saturday, February 8, 2020 after not being held for a few years. She added that 15 senior students will be participating, and the contest has a 1980's theme.

## 6. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson began his report giving an overview of the seven goals he is striving towards. Superintendent Anderson explained the parallel focus that is leading all aspects of the goals which included depth of instruction, operating effectively and having a healthy cultural climate along with constant communication and collaboration. Superintendent Anderson went on to highlight each of seven goals and how they are connected to the mission of the school system. He began by reviewing Goal 1 which was professional practice. He shared the key actions and benchmarks that will be reached. He stated that goal 2 is district improvement and this goal will be used to bring NBPS out of the lowest 10% of school districts in the state by increasing graduation and enrollment and reducing chronic absenteeism. Superintendent Anderson shared goal 3 which was student achievement. He explained the supports that are in place to achieve this goal and shared the targets that NBPS is striving towards. Goal 4 on Superintendent Anderson list was district improvement. He shared the actions and benchmarks for this goal and gave examples of TV infomercials, printed materials and School Committee weekly updates as samples of what has been done as of date. Superintendent Anderson wrapped up his discussion with briefly overviewing his last three goals surrounding reducing chronic absenteeism, increasing advanced placement scores and SAT scores.

Superintendent Anderson went on to share with the School Committee members what his project-based goals were. He began with what was being discussed about the Magnet Program at NBHS and what it will take to expand this program and his timeline is from August 2019 to this coming June 2020. He included that the plan will entail hiring a coordinator for the program, identifying courses and initializing courses for a full program to be implemented during the 2019-2020 school year. Superintendent Anderson explained his next project goal, his Capital Maintenance Plan. This plan will entail high standards of school grounds appearance, developing and monitoring action plans, effective project management including reviewing and revising expectations of standard care. The last project-based goal that Superintendent Anderson reviewed was the district's Athletics plan which included finalizing the strategy, establishing benchmarks and milestones, as well as, communicating and outreach of support from the community.

Superintendent Anderson went on explain how NBPS has included a wide range of the community's input in developing his goals and plans for the district. He shared information on how this insight was collected over the last year. He stated an example of how he set up 3, one-hour sessions led by a facilitator to generate the feedback from the community and how the audience was made up of students, parents, staff, administrators and community members.

Next, the School Committee received some updated data surrounding attendance from Karen Treadup, the Deputy Superintendent. Ms. Treadup gave the district-wide average for attendance for the past two years for the period between September and January. She told the committee that for the 2018-2019 school year NBPS district average was 95.53% and for the 2019-2020 school year it is at 96.02% compared to the state average of 94.6%. Ms. Treadup went on to share some attendance data for some of the schools with Superintendent Anderson contributing that Whaling City High had a 3% increase in their attendance from the start of school till

January 1<sup>st</sup> of the past two school years. Ms. Treadup went on discussing the changes and protocols for chronic absenteeism and how it is being addressed. She shared how the schools can drill right down to the student level and address the problems right away. School Committee member, Jack Livramento asked for some clarification on the absenteeism comparison chart that was being displayed. Ms. Treadup explained how to read the chart and pointed out Whaling City High as an example. She showed how the school went from 69% of the students in the 2018-2019 school year had more than 10 absences compared to the 2019-2020 school year in which 38% of the students had more than 10 absences. School Committee member, Mr. Joshua Amaral added a question, he asked if Superintendent had absentee statistics for all the school and not just what is being seen on the presentation screen. Superintendent Anderson said yes and shared that the schools were all in the same percentage range. Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Amaral and School Committee member Mr. Bruce Oliveira bantered a few statistical questions around that Superintendent Anderson clarified answers on. Mr. Amaral had an additional question and asked the Superintendent if he had a way of discerning the information. Ms. Treadup assured him the data specialist can provide further breakdowns in the categories. Mayor Mitchell asked Ms. Treadup, what is the reason for these decreases. Ms. Treadup stated that the new protocol was implemented last-year and teachers have had time to adjust and implement the new policy and be more accountable for the students. Superintendent Anderson concluded with sharing more details about some of the attendance process and stressed that communication is the biggest key. School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked if the Superintendent could provide a snapshot for the School Committee to know what is happening that is related to this change in attendance.

Deputy Superintendent Treadup went on to update the committee on the instructional focus that the schools are taking in the essential areas for growth. She discussed standard-based and grade appropriate assignments, effective instruction, student engagement and the high expectations for all students and how all ties into the district's strategic plans. Before going on to general updates, Superintendent Anderson ended his report by reminding the School Committee that NBPS is focusing on the whole child. He shared that over the past year nurses and counselors are being assessed and supported and NBPS continues social emotional development and support for students.

- B. Superintendent Anderson informed the committee of some general updates. He stated that the Acceleration Academy is working with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). During vacation weeks, at no cost to parents, students will be able to gain a focus in math. DESE will cover the cost of teachers coming from across the country to participate in this academy. The Superintendent did state to the committee after Mayor Mitchell asked, that there will be limited seats and the target groups are Grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> for a full school day. He added that in February the focus is ELA and April's focus will be Math.

School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter had one quick question for the Superintendent. Mr. Cotter asked for an update on the City on a Hill Public Charter School. Superintendent Anderson responded that the students are working with the counselors on getting themselves started with the transfer process and are reviewing when exactly should they transfer. He also added that the City on a Hill students can still call the Superintendent Office for assistance.

## 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. Mr. O'Leary explained the report and stated that it compares the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Mr. O'Leary explained the categories within the report and made the committee aware that he is monitoring the status of the Special Education due to the spike in the numbers. He did state this there was more elbow room with last years numbers compared to this year's numbers. Mr. O'Leary explained that the cost of enrollment, increased out of district placements and the cost of out of district placements are some of the reasons for the spike. He added that it is manageable this year but, he will be monitoring these numbers closely over the next year.

Superintendent Anderson gave a more in-depth explanation on the cost of Special Education. Mr. O'Leary went on to give informative details about the general expenses, salary and transfer reports. He included that the schools got a boost in funds and are using the monies to obtain needed classroom supplies. After Mr. O'Leary concluded his reports, School Committee member Mr. Bruce Oliveira added for the record that the transfers were recommended by the Finance Sub-Committee to move forward to the full School Committee for approval as presented.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to approve the Transfer Report.

Facilities Report: 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. He added that on-call architects are being using for facilities and security projects. He ended his report by letting the committee know that the Parker Street project, behind NBHS, is underway.

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

- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services, shared that there were 21 appointments with six from Unit A, five from AFSCME, 5 paraprofessionals and 5 non-union, as well as, 8 retirements from Unit A. Ms. Emsley added that there we're a total of six resignations with one from Unit A, 4 non-union, 1 AFSCME and 2 paraprofessionals. She concluded that there were 14 substitutes with three from Food Service, 6 teachers and 2 custodians and a total of 3 transfers which consisted of 1 paraprofessional and 2 AFSCME. Ms. Emsley concluded her report by announcing to the committee that the District Career Fair will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 am -12:00 pm in the Community Room at the Keith Middle School.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to accept the Personnel Report.

- C. School Committee Report: School Committee member, Ms. Colleen Dawicki shared information on the Congdon Elementary School recess visit on Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 11am. Ms. Dawicki shared that the School Wellness Committee has been meeting throughout the school year. She stated that the School Wellness Committee has been working with community partners. She stated that Emily Westgate from Playworks New England was in the audience and she would be discussing and sharing information during the visit to Congdon Elementary School. Ms. Dawicki also shared that more information would be shared at the February School Committee meeting. School Committee member, Mr. John Oliveira shared a report on his visit to the Family Engagement Center at the Keith Middle School and expressed that NBPS needs to do a better job with the school websites. Superintendent Anderson explained that NBPS are working with an outside vendor to better develop the school websites and how NBPS is trying to make what is being used now functional as the process moves forward.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mayor Mitchell began discussing the new business for the committee and reminded everyone that major projects are sponsored by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and gave examples of how the School Committee and district has used the MSBA in the past for accelerated projects and repairs. Mayor Mitchell asked Mr. O'Leary to share what projects the upcoming submission of Statements of Interest to the MSBA were for. Mr. O'Leary explained the MSBA process and shared the categories that the MSBA covers. He shared information on past projects with the MSBA and reviewed the Statements of Interests forms dated January 13, 2020 that were currently going to be submitted to the MSBA for the Elwyn G. Campbell Elementary

School located at 145 Essex Street, the James B. Congdon Elementary School located at 50 Hemlock Street and the John B. DeValles Elementary School located at 120 Katherine Street in New Bedford, Ma. Mr. O'Leary stated that the MSBA is requiring two statements of interest at this point, but the expectation is for the MSBA to combine the 2 projects, the John B. DeValles School and the James B. Congdon School into one project and one new building for the two aging schools. Mr. O'Leary shared how the NBPS School Building Committee reviewed and recommended what buildings out of the seven aging school buildings left were in the greatest need of repair. School Committee member, Mr. Bruce Oliveira commented on how the committee made the determination between pre-war (world war one) school buildings and post-war school building in need of repair and how to best maximize the funds for the Statements of Interest that will be submitted by the Superintendent. After discussions, Mr. Bruce Oliveira read the motions and voted concurrently as follows:

**MOTION ONE:**

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira, "Having convened in an open meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 prior to the Statement of Interest submission closing date, the School Committee of the City of New Bedford, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated January 13, 2020 for the Elwyn G. Campbell Elementary School located at 145 Essex Street, New Bedford, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for Priority 5: replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility. This Statement of Interest is specifically for window, door, roof and boiler replacements; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional school district to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority" and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the Superintendent submitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes

Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes

Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes

Mayor Mitchell - Yes

7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

**B. MOTION TWO:**

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral, "Having convened in an open meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 prior to the Statement of Interest submission closing date, the School Committee of the City of New Bedford, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated January 13, 2020 for the James B. Congdon Elementary School located at 50 Hemlock Street, New Bedford, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for Priority 7: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional school district to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority" and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento

to approve the Superintendent submitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

**MOTION THREE:**

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral, “Having convened in an open meeting on Monday, January 13, 2020 prior to the Statement of Interest submission closing date, the School Committee of the City of New Bedford, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest form dated January 13, 2020 for the John B. DeValles Elementary School located at 120 Katherine Street, New Bedford, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for Priority 7: replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional school district to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority” and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to approve the Superintendent submitting a Statement of Interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>6-Yeas, 1-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

- C. Mayor Mitchell continued the agenda by asking Mr. Andrew O’Leary to share information with the School Committee regarding the renewal of the Bus Transportation Contracts for the school district. Mr. O’Leary shared that the last time the district went out to bid the district adopted a two plus one contract. Mr. O’Leary went on to explain that what this vote would do is follow the recommendation of the Transportation Sub-Committee who reviewed the contract, reviewed the performance of the vendor and the price. Mr. Jack Livramento, chair of the Transportation Sub-Committee recommended that the School Committee approve the contract with the vendors for another year, 2021. Mr. Livramento stepped in and explained to the committee what the sub-committee reviewed in order to make this recommendation.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to follow the recommendation of the Transportation Sub-Committee and approve the bus transportation contract renewal for the third-year option.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes

Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

#### 9. OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Mitchell reviewed what polices were approved for the first reading during the November 2019 School Committee meeting: Files GBEB Employee Conduct, EFD Meal Charge and BEDG Minutes. Mr. Joshua Amaral went on to review what the Policy Sub-Committee reviewed on the policies and after discussion the committee voted as follows:

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to approve the second and final reading of the GBEB Employee Conduct, EFD Meal Charge and BEDG Minutes policies.

#### 12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to not enter Executive Session.

#### 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 adjourned at 7:32 pm

The roll call was as follows:

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

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

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes  
Senior Executive Assistant  
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent  
Secretary, School Committee

