



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
Paul Rodrigues Administration Building, 455 County Street, New Bedford, MA:
Monday, May 11, 2020
4:30 P.M.

This Meeting was held fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G. L. c. 30A, Section 20.

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

ABSENT: All in attendance

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. MARJORIE FERNANDES, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER ELMSLEY, MS. SANDRA FORD, MS. JENNIFER FERLAND, MS. SONIA WALMSLEY, MR. ARTHUR MOTTA, MS. TRINA CAMARAO, MR. BRIAN TURNER

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 | <i>7-Yeas, 0-Absent</i> |

3. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson requested of the School Committee to allow New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) to table the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Hearing until the June 2020 School Committee meeting. Superintendent Anderson explained to the committee what the initial plan was surrounding the FY21 budget hearing. He shared that at this point in time NBPS's has no concrete idea what the budget will look like due to the state of the school closings and State legislature. The Superintendent went on to share that it would make more sense to move the hearing up in order to propose consistent information to the committee with what process has been done in the past. Superintendent Anderson asked Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations to give a brief overview to the School Committee members in regards to the postponement. Mr. O'Leary began by explaining to the committee members where the State stands in grappling with the revenue figures and all the monitoring of the Governor's budget, the Student Opportunity Act, etc. has changed considerably. Due to this and the Covid-19 environment the State does not have a revenue picture at this time.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. John Oliveira to table the Fiscal Year 2021 School Budget to the June 2020 School Committee Meeting.

The 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. Tabled to June 2020 Regular School Committee Meeting

C. Tabled to June 2020 Regular School Committee Meeting

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

B. Superintendent Anderson began his report with a review of the initial plans for NBPS and explained that communication, well-being and safety, continuity of teaching and learning and meals for children were the priorities along with effective operations and cleaning during this time. The Superintendent stated that out of an abundance of caution that NBPS would continue its communications with the New Bedford Health Department, individuals who report any symptoms will not report for duty until 14 days after quarantine and/or medical clearance. He shared with the committee members that processes are being revamped in how items are being distributed: meals, learning packets, laptops. He included that staff offices requiring critical functions are working in rotations to limit staff, while adhering to Health Department guidelines. Superintendent Anderson assured the School Committee that NBPS focus continues to be the students' holistic needs and that the remote learning plan will continue to be guided by the safety & well-being of the students and staff, equity and access due to the crisis disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable students and their academics, and to maintain communications between staff and students.

Superintendent Anderson shared that 90% of students are engaged during the week and asked Deputy Superintendent, Karen Treadup to give a brief overview of what a student's day looks like. Ms. Treadup informed the committee that she had reached out to students to see exactly how they are feeling and how their days are through remote learning. She added that she reached out to all three populations: elementary, middle and high school students to get a feel for each population. She shared that students are working on multiple websites online. She pointed out the middle school students are using the Google format and the high school students are working with Microsoft TEAMS and OneNote. All of the students Ms. Treadup contacted stated that their teachers have reached out to them for support, checking their well-being and making sure they were receiving their assignments. Ms. Treadup went on to inform the committee as to how the teachers are getting the assignments out to students. She also reported to the committee that the students felt it was harder to do remote learning than in person learning and felt they were doing a lot more work with this new format. Ms. Treadup went on to give the example of what the elementary level was doing. She shared that the elementary students were having breakfast then logging onto their computers and doing work through Zoom lessons, as well as platforms like Freckle and IReady. The students also worked on assignments off-line also. She shared how parents are juggling schooling with more than one student in the house at different grade levels. Ms. Trina Camaro, Curriculum, Data & Assessment Manager for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction added that she'd like to stress that the teacher/student communication/connection is the most important thing in this process because of the sequence of class instruction when this pandemic crisis began. Mr. Brian Turner, Curriculum, Data & Assessment Manager for the Office of Curriculum and Instruction followed up with informing the committee as to what teachers were doing on their end in tracking who is or isn't participating in the learning process and to what extent students are engaged and how teachers can intervene when necessary. He shared with the committee that there is a team working on how to go about accomplishing this task and ensuring all students are participating.

Next, Ms. Sandra Ford, Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services updated the School Committee on how students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's) were being assisted. She shared with the committee that following the guideline of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) teachers are working to provide written notices of services. Ms. Ford shared that school facilitators are working in collaboration with the special education educators and service provider's to create individual remote service plans for each student. The plans will outline services and create weekly schedules for each student/parent. All parents were called to make sure the plans are will work for their student. When Ms. Ford completed her segment, Executive Director of Educational Access and Pathways, Ms. Sonia Walmsley shared how the English Language Learner (ELL) needs are being identified, plans are being set and worked through for these students. Ms. Walmsley added that there are three focus areas that teachers and students are staying consistent with and that weekly expectations and consistency is key in the learning process of ELL students. Ms. Walmsley also let the committee know that professional development is being offered for to be able to properly assist these students in the remote learning process. Ms. Walmsley added that ELL families are not always skilled in using technology so these students are working with learning packets, as well as, providing these families with language supports. In particular, K'iche families are being helped because culturally they do not reach out to ask or do not believe that materials like Chrome books are available for them for use. The new K'iche parent support specialist has been working hard to assist these families with schooling, meals and community resources.

School Committee member Ms. Colleen Dawicki asked "What are the top barriers that are being seen for students to access remote learning?" Superintendent Anderson pointed out that the environment the student is in, communication and consistency plays a role in making these barriers challenging. Additionally, committee member, Mr. Jack Livramento asked a follow up question to the information that Ms. Treadup provided. He understands that a small group of students were reached out to surrounding remote learning, but wonders if NBPS plans on reaching out to a larger group to obtain more information in regards to their experience with this type of learning and is NBPS thinking about what could happen in September, to anticipate the process if we are still in the state of remote learning. Superintendent Anderson shared what the planning process is in looking at the future which consist of, looking at classroom size, what transportation looks like, how classes would be social distanced, needing masks for everyone, what the impact will be, etc. Ms. Treadup added that teachers are in constant contact with the students and students/parents have not been surveyed specifically about remote learning, but it would not be hard to put a survey together to collect responses.

Mayor Jon Mitchell, School Committee Chairperson, asked Superintendent Anderson if NBPS have assessed if there are any areas in the city that students are unable to attain internet services. Ms. Jennifer Ferland, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships shared with the committee that NBPS does not have that information, but would reach out to Comcast to get the statistics and can report back through this process how internet connectivity is affecting students and families. She did include that Comcast is giving families six months of internet service for free.

Superintendent Anderson filled the committee in on some of the areas being used for teaching students: Zoom, Google Hangouts, pre-recorded lesson plans, etc. He went on to share that the school registration process is being moved to online registration and there is now a parent information line that families can call (508-997-4511) to get information in five languages to answer any of their questions. The Superintendent included that Food Services has given over 100,000 "Grab and Go" meals to date and thanked the Food Service team for all their hard work. The Superintendent shared what phase four, summer programming would look like for online learning. He stated that summer programming will be a good example and give ideas to what could be the possibilities for the future.

- A. Superintendent Anderson ended his report with letting the School Committee know that there is now a permanent principal for the Hathaway Elementary School which will be Mr. Alexander Pella. School

Committee Vice Chairperson, Mr. Christopher Cotter had a final question for the Superintendent. He was interested in knowing what the screen time for students is and are they being monitored. Superintendent Anderson gave a short review of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) remote learning structure is and stated that students are online for 3-4 hours a day.

5. OTHER REPORT

- A. Finance and Operations Report: Mr. Andrew O’Leary, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations started his report by reviewing the Function Code Report. Mr. O’Leary went on to explain the report and shared the unemployment figures and stated that there is 26% of the budget left which is in alignment with the 27% that was left this time last year. Mr. O’Leary reviewed the spenddowns that are being done at this time. He shared that the monies at the school level are being used for additional school supplies and how the supplies needed to be received no later than June 30th. Mr. O’Leary went on to review the Transfer Report and answered committee member, Mr. Cotter’s concern about one of the transfer adjusted amounts. Mr. O’Leary went on to explain how custodial services effected these numbers due to the pandemic crises and the cleaning/sanitizing of the schools. Mr. O’Leary concluded his report with the General Expense and Salary reports, as well as, reviewing the Grant report and shared that grant restrictions with state have been relaxed at this time.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to accept the Transfer report to place on file as presented to the School Committee.

The 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>

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to accept the Finance and Operations reports to place on file as presented to the School Committee.

The 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>

- B. Personnel Report: Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services, reviewed the May personnel report and stated that there were a total of 5 appointments with 4 from Unit A and 1 from AFSCME. She shared there are 3 retirements with 2 from Unit A and 1 non-union. Ms. Emsley added that there were 8 resignations with 4 from Unit A and 4 non-union. She concluded her report with sharing that there were 8 transfers which included 1 paraprofessional and 7 Unit A employees.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to accept the Personnel Report as presented to put on file.

The vote was as follows:

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

- C. School Committee Report: School Committee Vice Chairperson, Mr. Cotter thanked Superintendent Anderson and his team for moving the district through these trying times and commended all teachers and staff for all the preparations that they have done for the NBPS students and families.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fiscal Year Budget 2021 was TABLED earlier until the June School Committee meeting.
- B. Superintendent Anderson reviewed the School Choice process with the School Committee and reminded them that each year a vote needs to take place for the district to participate in School Choice and again this year he is asking the committee for approval. The committee was aware of the qualifying process and made a motion to accept school choice for the 2020-2021 school year. Before the vote was made, Mr. O’Leary informed the committee that NBPS has 260 students for school choice and is looking at a total of 500 students.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Colleen Dawicki to participate in the School Choice option for the 2020-2021 school year.

The vote was as follows:

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

- C. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve a recommended list of surplus property located at the Paul Administration Building.

The vote was as follows:

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

- D. Superintendent Anderson shared that an aggregator needed to be selected to complete the End of Year Evaluation process for his position and that it needs to be complete by June 30th. Chairperson, Mayor Mitchell assigned Vice Chairperson, Mr. Cotter as the aggregator and asked Ms. Heather Emsley to assist with the distribution of the materials.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to enter into Executive Session.

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>

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 and enter into Executive Session.

The vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell - Yes
6-Yeas, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee