



**REGULAR MEETING**  
**New Bedford School Committee**  
**New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, MA**  
**Monday, November 9, 2020**  
**6:00 P.M.**

***This Meeting was 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

**ABSENT:** MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. MARJORIE FERNANDES, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MR. ARTHUR MOTTA, MR. ROBERT TETREULT, MR. STEVEN HARKEY

- 1. *CALL TO ORDER*
  
- 2. *ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

- 3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES* Jack Livramento Christopher cotter

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to accept the approval of the July 13, 2020 School Committee meeting minutes.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

- 4. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT*

Superintendent Thomas Anderson began with reviewing the 2020-2021 Superintendent Goals: professional practice, New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) exiting the lowest 10% of school districts, increase in graduation, increase in enrollment, reducing chronic absenteeism, increasing the advanced

placement scores and SAT scores. He shared that his goals will align with the NBPS district goals. Superintendent Anderson included three project-based goals: a Magnet Program at NBHS, a Capital Maintenance Plan and an Athletics Plan.

The Superintendent's first goal, Professional Practice: Participate in conferences, workshops and meetings. The key actions he will take are attending and presenting at workshops and local sessions, Participating in national and local workshops and conferences and maintaining communication with the Department of Education. The Superintendent's second goal, NBPS exiting the lowest 10% of school districts. He went on to goal three, increasing the NBPS high school graduation rates. He stated, benchmark projected is growing 10% from baseline with target of 80% course pass rates, increasing the 9<sup>th</sup> grade pass rate, and monitoring attendance with a focus on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. The Superintendent's fourth goal, increasing district enrollment with benchmarks of carrying out TV infomercials, student-centered videos, newspaper articles and press releases.

Member, Mr. Jack Livramento asked, "What would attract students to come to NBPS?" Superintendent Anderson stated that sharing stories, quality of the work and happenings within NBPS should be the draw. He included that reviewing populations of students affected and what leads them to leave NBPS.

Superintendent Anderson went on to goal five: reducing chronic absenteeism. Shared the target to decrease the percentage of students with 18+ absences from 20.2% to 12.7% by 2021-2022. The key actions taken will review attendance information, identify students missing days, survey reasons why, proactive with families and increasing notifications/follow-ups. He went on to goal six: Advanced Placement (AP) scores increasing. Creating and overseeing plan that will gear students to participate in AP classes, including mock testing.

Goal seven, increasing SAT scores. SAT scores would follow the same type of steps that NBPS takes with AP testing. The SAT goal would include prep sessions for students. The SAT target goal is NBPS 957 (baseline) to 991 to 1025 to 1059 in 2022.

Superintendent Anderson shared three project-based goals. First, a magnet program at the high school. Current discussions are going on regarding magnet programs, expanding them and establishing the Honors program as a magnet. Timeframe for project: August 2020 to June 2021. Second, establish capital maintenance plan, Develop/monitor, hire staff, review and revise expectations. Timeline for project: August 2020 to June 2021. Third, athletics action plan to include finalizing the strategic plan, establishing benchmarks, communicating program expansion and community outreach. Member, Mr. Cristopher Cotter asked if the plan includes Fine Arts programming and if he can receive a copy of assessments previously done for athletics and fine arts. The Superintendent said no and that he would forward assessment copies.

After completing review of the 2020-2021 goals, the Superintendent gave his monthly update report. He began reviewing enrollment and attendance statistics. He shared attendance percentages for Cohort A, B, C, and D for the elementary, middle and high schools. The Superintendent stated attendance protocols, including students present at school, virtually present, absent at school and virtually absent. Member, Ms. Colleen Dawicki, asked how many students have not logged on. As of date, only 10 students have not participated. The Superintendent shared individual schools and the wraparound department have reached out to resolve attendance issues.

The Superintendent included staff attendance and showed a slide reflecting staff attendance rate increases for August, September, October and November of 2019-2020 compared to 2020-2021. Member, Bruce Oliveira asked if these attendance numbers included Covid-19 related absences. The Superintendent assured him it did not.

The Mayor asked about staff and flu shots. The Superintendent stated mandating staff is not possible, but they are encouraged to get a flu shot. The Mayor then asked if there is a way to track staff who received the flu shot. Mr. Cotter stated staff getting a flu shot is an employee's personal business. The Superintendent reviewed a list of upcoming flu clinics at a variety of schools.

The DESE is providing Abbott BinaxNOW testing in schools and Superintendent Anderson spoke of phase one and the protocols for testing in schools.

The Superintendent's updates: shared where community can locate and review NBPS information, James B. Congdon Elementary recognized as a National Blue Ribbon school. Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Karen Treadup, highlighted what's happening in the classroom. She shared phonics, math, science, read-a-louds and data wall information. She stated online learning and in-person learning are going on in a different way.

The Superintendent shared engagement data going for internet access: 658 families connected, 273 on Comcast Essentials and 385 on 1Million Project. There are 1,560 hotspots and 227 Comcast Essential codes still available. He added families can call a new technology support line at 508.997.4518 for any help needed and included the line has fielded 952 calls from March to November. The Superintendent shared district virtual educational opportunities for 2020-2021 and Family Institute for Student Success in-person computer classes. He reported discussions surrounding the NBPS School Resource Officer program. The Superintendent shared they took place with students, staff and the community, what next steps would be taken, and November 17 would be a share out with stakeholders.

Closing the report, he provided the committee Human Capital Services statistical data on employee attendance and demographics: gender, race/ethnicity, and education prep enrollment.

## 5. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Finance & Operations – Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations reviewed the Function Code, Transfer and Operational Reports with the committee.

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

- B. Personnel Report – Mr. Andrew O’Leary, Assistant Superintendent, Finance and Operations, shared 64 appointments: 16 from Unit A, 20 from AFSCME, 12 paraprofessionals and 16 non-union, as well as, 4 Unit A retirements and 1 from AFSCME. Mr. O’Leary added 16 resignations with 4 from Unit A, 1 from Unit B, 3 non-union, 1 AFSCME and 7 paraprofessionals. He concluded seven transfers with 3 from Unit A, 1 non-union and 3 AFSCME.

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

- C. School Committee Report – Members, Mr. Bruce Oliveira, Mr. Christopher Cotter, Mr. Jack Livramento and the Mayor thanked all staff and wished everyone a happy, healthy and safe holiday

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to approve the establishment of a Revolving Fund for Textbooks and other fees in accordance with provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 and Chapter 71, Section 71E as presented to the School Committee meeting.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

- b. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to approve the 2021 School Committee Sub-Committee meeting schedule as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	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, 0-Nays, 1-Absent</i>

10. ADJOURN

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. BO and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to adjourn the School Committee meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

The roll call 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-Years, 0-Nays, 1-Absent*

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes  
Senior Executive Assistant  
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent  
Secretary, School Committee