



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford High School: Monday, September 14, 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, MS. SANDRA FORD, MS. WANDA NUNES,

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 on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to accept the following School Committee meeting minutes (*supporting documents #3*).

- Regular Meeting Minutes: June 15, 2020 motion

The Vote was as follows:

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

4. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

- A. Superintendent Thomas Anderson started his report by reviewing the New Bedford Public School (NBPS) guiding principles (safety, well-being, access, equity, maintaining connections) and informed the committee that 95% of NBPS students will participate in remote learning for the opening of phase two. The Superintendent shared metrics that would also be considered in the opening phases and stated multiple weeks of data would be used in decision making around Covid-19 positivity rates in the city. School Committee member, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked to clarify if the state of Massachusetts and the City of New Bedford would be making the decision with the district if schools need to be closed and member, Mr. John Oliveira wanted clarification on who would make the final decision. Superintendent Anderson and the chairman, Mayor Jon Mitchell stated that the district will make

the final decision on any school closings and consider the recommendations of the state and Department of Health. Member, Colleen Dawicki had several questions surrounding the City of New Bedford falling into the red category. Mayor Mitchell and Superintendent Anderson answered her questions accordingly and proceeded forward with the meeting.

Superintendent Anderson gave an overview of the NBPS Reopening plan target dates and options for reopening. He stated that the Distance Learning Academy would occur daily during regular school hours with synchronous learning and asynchronous learning being available. He shared that systems for tracking attendance and participation would be in place and learning would be aligned to state standards with standard based grading for elementary schools and letter grades for secondary levels. He added that staff would communicate regularly and interpretation and translation services will be available.

School visits, sanitizing information and photos was shared with the committee to show preparations being done within the schools. Superintendent Anderson shared some of the challenges in getting certain schools prepared for the students and families in order to make sure staff are safe as well. He went on to give student numbers in the cohorts and asked Deputy Superintendent, Karen Treadup to share more information in regards to students who want to return to a cohort right away. Ms. Treadup reviewed the processes that are taking place and what teachers are doing in preparation for the opening of school. She explained how distance learning classrooms are being set up and assured the committee that distance learning classrooms are fully staffed. She shared how attendance, grading, curriculum standards and platforms are the same for distance and in person learning. Member, Christopher Cotter asked, "What is the approximate number of distance learners that teachers will be responsible for?" Ms. Treadup answered, Unit A contracts state classes should be at 30 students or less.

Superintendent Anderson reviewed the NBPS webpage and shared what information exists for parents on the page. He then reviewed the following reminders:

- NBPS will be consistent with handwashing, sanitizing and bathroom usage
- Face masks will be worn and specialized items will be available with nurses
- Pre-K through Grade 1 required to wear masks if riding buses
- Limited sharing among students
- Flu clinics are being offered for staff, students and families

Mayor Mitchell encouraged everyone to get their flu shots to help reduce the flu and be able to differentiate between having the flu and/or having Covid-19.

Health procedures shared with the committee were as follows:

- Families must conduct a daily symptom check including temperature checks prior to leaving for school
- Potential symptoms included: fever 100 or greater, sore throat, headache, and shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, pain, nasal congestion, runny nose and/or nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain.

Visitor protocols shared with the committee were as follows:

- Visitors who can enter schools after cleared screening: NBPS staff, maintenance vendors, SPED providers, emergency mental health providers, Medical/Fire/Police and parents by appointment.
- All visitors must complete a screening form
- Appointments must be made prior to entrance to schools

- Potential symptoms included: fever 100 or greater, sore throat, headache, and shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, muscle aches, pain, nasal congestion, runny nose and/or nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/abdominal pain.

The Superintendent completed the health procedure information by sharing contact tracing information. He told the committee that Professional Software for Nurses (PSNI) an electronic health record documentation is being used. The program captures the following Covid-19 concerns:

- o Covid-19 + case Department of Health report
- o Covid-19 + tracing summary
- o Covid-19 staff exposure
- o Covid-19 student exposure
- o Covid-19 student screening only
- o Covid-19 student suspected

The Superintendent included that the Nurse leader and four staff members receive Health Trend Alerts daily if anyone is dismissed for the above reasons. He concluded his report with health resources and research for viewing.

Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations gave a facilities update and shared the BALA Engineering inspection reports performed at the schools. He shared best practices, controls, intermediate steps and long term steps that can be taken to improve ventilation within the schools, such as: placement of fans, rooms not to use, moving furniture, initial filter to replace, portable air units can be used in classrooms, ionization that can be used in ductwork to kill any airborne viruses. Mr. O'Leary added that a building committee will be launched to review what needs or can/cannot be purchased to help with the air flow.

Upon completion of the report, member, Mr. Bruce Oliveira hared how impressed he is with preparations and thoughts of what's being done. He asked when an area is unusable is the principal notified and told when they can use the area. Mr. O'Leary shared that facilities, the principal, and a union representative walked through with BALA during these inspections and all questions are transparent. The Superintendent did let the committee know that once the inspections are complete the reports will be available on the NBPS website for viewing.

Superintendent Anderson made a final note that the NBPS School Resource Officer (SRO) program will be reviewed. He shared that sessions will be set up with students, staff, and the community to see what their thoughts are surrounding the NBPS SRO program and he will update the committee as the process moves along.

5. 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 shared with the committee that healthcare was approved on the city side and he is monitoring healthcare and if trends continue there will be healthcare savings. He shared to date 11% of the \$159,000,000 budget has been expended and this is normal for this time of year. He reminded the committee that school supplies were stocked up on at the end of the fiscal year so there is nothing to report at this time and the projected strategies are working. Mr. O'Leary went on to review the Salary and Transfer reports. School Committee member, Mr. Bruce Oliveira stated that the Finance Sub-Committee recommended the transfers be approved as presented to the full School Committee.

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

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

Mr. O’Leary concluded with the Grants report and stated he will be monitoring the CARES Act funding received March/April 2020. He shared that the funding is good until 2022 so funds in the Covid-19 Relief Act will be used first due to expiration the end of December 2020.

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

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

B. Personnel Report: Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services, shared that there were 62 appointments with 25 from Unit A, 1 from Unit B, 28 non-union, 1 from AFSCME, 6 paraprofessionals. Ms. Emsley stated a total of six retirements with 4 from Unit A, 5 from AFSCME and 4 paraprofessionals. She went on to add 24 resignations with 4 from Unit A, 7 non-union, 3 AFSCME and 10 paraprofessionals. There were also two positions rescinded, 1 non-union and 1 paraprofessional. Ms. Emsley concluded that there were a total of 6 transfers which consisted of 2 paraprofessional, 1 non-union and 3 AFSCME.

Committee member, Mr. Jack Livramento asked for an update on the hiring of persons of color and what is being done to attract individuals. Ms. Emsley shared that a Diversity, Recruitment and Retention Committee has continued working on hiring diverse candidates and has been work with the Department of Education. She gave a brief overview of the shortage on diverse educators in the country and informed Mr. Livramento and the committee of the processes that NBPS is taking to attract diverse candidates. Ms. Emsley added that the New Bedford High School, Future Educator’s Club has been revived and NBPS has a partnership with JET Program for those aspiring to be educators.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Colleen Dawicki to accept the Personnel Report and place it on file.

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

Superintendent Anderson requested from the School Committee if the agenda can be taken out of order to review item 6B on the agenda.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to take the meeting agenda out of order.

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	7-Yeas, 0-Nays

- 6B. Superintendent Anderson and Ms. Emsley gave a brief overview of the Headmaster and Assistant Headmaster position titles at New Bedford High School and stated the reasoning for change. Superintendent Anderson shared how in the current time the position titles need to be changed/revised and will allow for room to grow with this position and can be used across the district, not just subjected to the high school.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to approve the position title name change.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – No	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 2-Nays

- C. School Committee Report: Mr. John Oliveira shared that he feels the Committee need to allow for public participation in the meetings seeing how staff and students are back in classes. Mr. Oliveira feels it is a disservice to the public if the meetings continue to be closed. Mr. Jack Livramento wanted the public to know that committee members, the Mayor and Superintendent, as well as staff have been visiting the schools to make sure they are in tip top condition for opening. Mr. Bruce Oliveira added that he visited 12 schools and thanked the NBPS team for all they are doing. Ms. Colleen Dawicki reported that she has been participating in groups surrounding racial equity and hopes to soon offer a racial and equity training for School Committee's. Mr. Christopher Cotter and the Mayor added that safety of our children is the main concern and understand that it is difficult for all, parents, teachers, staff, administrator's and sends their gratitude for the efforts of the NBPS staff.

6. NEW BUSINE

- A. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve a recommended list of surplus property located at: New Bedford High School and Casimir Pulaski Elementary School

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	7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

- B. See Above

- C. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the revisions to the 2020-2021 School Calendar for the Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School.

The vote was as follows:

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

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

- D. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to re-table the Transportation/Busing policy – Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 68 (8/10/20 meeting) to the October 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

- E. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to waive the second reading of the EBC-S Policy on Covid-19 Related Issues.

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

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Mr. Christopher Cotter and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to pass to the second reading of the EBCFA Face Covering policy.

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

- F. The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to approve to upend the IJNDD Policy on Social Networking Sites to the Personnel section of the policy manual.

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

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the second and final reading of the following policies severing JJA Student Organizations, BBAA School Committee Member Authority and JICH Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited:

To adopt:

- FILE: IHBHE Remote Learning
- FILE: JBB Educational Equity
- FILE: JCA Assignment of Students to Schools
- FILE: JIH Searches and Interrogations

To remove:

- FILE: IHA Basic Instructional Program
- FILE: JLA Student Insurance Program
- FILE: JP Student Gifts and Solicitations

To revise:

- FILE: IHBEA English Learners
- FILE: IJNDD Policy on Social Networking Sites
- FILE: JJA Student Organizations
- FILE: JRA Student Records
- FILE: JRD Student Photographs
- FILE: BBAA School Committee Member Authority
- FILE: FILE: JC Attendance Areas
- FILE: JICFA Prohibition of Hazing
- FILE: JICH Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited
- FILE: JII Student Complaints and Grievances
- FILE: JJH-R Student Overnight Travel Regulations
- FILE: JLCB Immunization of Students
- FILE: JLCC Communicable Diseases
- FILE: IHB Special Instructional Programs and Accommodations
- FILE: JB Equal Educational Opportunities
- FILE: JEB Entrance Age
- FILE: JF School Admissions
- FILE: JFABD Homeless Students Enrollment Rights and Services
- FILE: JFABE Educational Policy for Military Connected Students
- FILE: JFABF Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care
- FILE: IC/ICA School Year/School Calendar
- FILE: ID School Day
- FILE: IE Organization of Instruction
- FILE: IGB Support Services Programs
- FILE: IHAM Health Education
- FILE: ACAB Sexual Harassment
- FILE: ACA Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
- FILE: BEDH Public Comment at School Committee Meetings

The School Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the second and final reading of policy JJA Student Organizations.

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	7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

The School Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the second and final reading of policy BBAA School Committee Member 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	7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

The School Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the second and final reading of policy JICH Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use by Students Prohibited.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No
Mr. Christopher Cotter – No
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mayor Mitchell – Yes
5-Yeas, 2-Nays, 0-Absent

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

8. ADJOURN

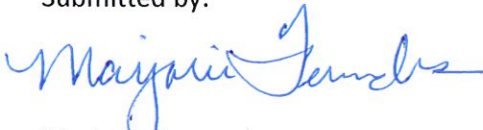
The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to adjourn the School Committee meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM.

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, 1-Absent

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee