



# *Appointments and Briefings*

March 10, 2015 – 7:04 PM – **Minutes**  
Chambers of the City Council, Room 214

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS & BRIEFINGS**  
**DATE: MARCH 10, 2015**  
**TIME: 7:04 P.M.**  
**PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS DAVID ALVES, CHAIRMAN; DEBORA COELHO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; HENRY BOUSQUET; NAOMI CARNEY (7:14); BRIAN GOMES; JOSEPH LOPES; STEVEN MARTRINS; LINDA MORAD; JAMES OLIVEIRS; DANA REBEIRO; KERRY WINTERSON**

**ABSENT: NO ONE**

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Councillor Alves called the Appointments & Briefings Committee meeting to order and took attendance. The Clerk announced that Councillor Carney called to say she would be a few minutes late.

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Councillor Alves announced the start of Citizens Input Time not to exceed the first half hour of the Appointments & Briefings Meeting. The first person to speak:

1b. School Committeeman Joshua Amaral speaking about Pulaski School's exit and entry ways.

1d. Carol Strupezewski, 1075 Braley Road, New Bedford, speaking on Pulaski School's exit and entry ways and possible Police details for the school.

The Clerk announced phone calls the Clerk of Committee's Office received from the people who were unable to attend this meeting, they were as follows:

1c. Marlene Pollock, School Committeewoman called the Clerk of Committee's Office to say she could not attend the meeting.

Dr. Barry Rabinovitch, Interim Business Manager for the School Department, who was invited on several items called to say he was unable to attend but was sending Andrew O'Leary, who will speak on MSBA loans only.

Bruce Oliveira, School Committee Chairman, who was invited on several items, called to say he was unable to attend the meeting.

Tremblay Bus Company called to say there would not be anyone attending the meeting.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Oliveira, Lopes, Council President Gomes, Councillors Martins, Winterson, Alves, Bousquet, Carney and Rebeiro, requesting, that the City Administration conduct a feasibility study to develop a second entrance and exit to the Pulaski School, this is the only elementary school in New Bedford hosting over 700 students from across the City and the immediate area lacks a second means of access/egress and in the case of an emergency, having only one means of entrance and exiting the property could prove disastrous (Ref'd 02/12/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Martins and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (2)

Councillor Carney spoke on the need to improve and explore the egress and ingress of the parking and driving situation at the Pulaski School.

Councillor Gomes spoke in support of the motion to explore the improvements on the egress and egress at the Pulaski School. He voiced his discontent that no one from the School Department was in attendance to hear the issue.

Councillor Oliveira asked that Jill Maclean, the City Planner, provide the Committee with her insight as it pertains to the motion before them.

Ms. Maclean informed the Committee that the State was assessing the problem and was attempting to put a plantain force that would alleviate the traffic issue as it related to Pulaski School. She informed the Committee that there are many concerns such as wetland issues, steep grade changes; but that she was to review with Ron Labelle, DPI Commissioner. She also said that the MASS DOT had surveyed the property and she provided a copy of the MASS DOT survey. This survey was received and placed on file on a motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho.

The Chair recognized Ms. Tammy Morgan, Principal of Pulaski School. She has been the Principal at the school for four years. She is willing to work with the City and the School Department on possible solutions that many address the ingress and egress situation at the school. It's our hope to find a resolution but she does understand that it is the nature of the way the school is situated that is affecting the traffic pattern.

Councillor Bousquet thanked Ms. Maclean for thinking outside the box for a possible solution as it relates to the traffic situation.

Councillor Alves informed the body that he has filed for sidewalks to be placed in front of the school.

Councillor Martins commented that the Mayor returned the original motion unsigned. This is a public safety issue and the Mayor should take a deep look at this issue.

Councillor Oliveira made a motion to amend the original motion as follows: to insert after the words “exit to the Pulaski School” the words, “and to consider any and all other alternatives to ameliorate the safety issue” and after the words “prove disastrous”, add “as these issues apply to all schools in New Bedford and they should all be considered.” This motion was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

The amended motion reads as follows:

Written Motion, Councillors Oliveira, Lopes, Council President Gomes, Councillors Martins, Winterson, Alves, Bousquet, Carney and Rebeiro, requesting that the City Administration conducts a feasibility study to develop a second entrance and exit to the Pulaski School, and to consider any and all other alternatives to ameliorate the safety issue, this is the only elementary school in New Bedford hosting over 700 students from across the City and the immediate area lacks a second means of access/egress and in the case of an emergency, having only one means of entrance and exiting the property could prove disastrous as these issues apply to all schools in New Bedford and they should all be considered.

On motion by Councillor Oliveira and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To refer the amended motion to the Mayor and School Committee. This motion passed on a voice vote.

On a Related Motion by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED; That the Committee on Appointments & Briefings refer to the School Committee that the School Department conduct and pay for a study to develop a second entrance and exit to the Pulaski School and further that all Elementary, Middle and High Schools throughout the City be studied to determine traffic flows and safety of all our schools, and further to have the study funded through the 2016 School Department Budget and/or MSBA. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho, Winterson, Council President Lopes, Councillors Morad and Carney, requesting, a clarification from the New Bedford School Department regarding the scheduling of school bus service for the City of New Bedford, what has transpired this school semester which has resulted in hundreds of children from all areas of the City left without any means of transportation to and from school; and further, why parents are not given any advance notification of these changes which have left many with no alternative but to hire a taxi, which they cannot afford, to bring their children to school, this places additional stress on students even before classes begin; and further, parents would like this matter resolved without delay, considering Daylight Savings Times will soon come to an end, there is also a safety factor and weather factor to consider (Ref'd 09/11/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Carney. (3)

Councillor Coelho noted that no one from the School Committee was present.

The Chair recognized Tamika Nobre, 641 Brock Avenue, on behalf of Whaling city Transit. She spoke on their guidelines in not leaving any child behind that needs transportation to or from school.

The Chair recognized Gloria Pasteris, 20 York Street, on behalf of Whaling City Transit. She also spoke on their guidelines and not leaving any child behind that needs transportation to or from school.

Councillor Winterson spoke on the need for planning process for buses. It needs to be straightened out and addressed by the School Department and the Superintendent. At the beginning of the school year bus transportation was a mess. He believes it is up to the Superintendent and the School Committee to address the issue properly.

Councillor Morad voiced her concern that no one else here at the meeting this evening was here representing the School Department. The only representatives from the School Department who show up are the ones who want money. That is the only time they show up. There is no one here this evening from the School Department that can address the safety of our children. This is a real concern and she is tired of only seeing the School Committee or representatives from the School Department when they want money as opposed to addressing real issues that affect the children attending our schools.

Councillor Coelho expressed concerns of the School Department is not paying enough attention to this issue.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Oliveira, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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At this time a motion was made by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes for a recess, the Committee recessed at 8 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Council President Lopes, Councillors Winterson, Morad, Bousquet, Alves, Gomes, Carney and Coelho, requesting, that a representative from each of the bus companies (Whaling City Transit, Reliable Bus Lines, Inc., and Tremblay Bus Company) who were awarded a bussing contract by the Members of the New Bedford School Committee for the 2014/2015 School Year, be invited to attend and speak at a Committee on Appointments and Briefings meeting to discuss the concerns that the members of the New Bedford City Council have, as it relates to the bussing routes that they were provided for the 2014/2015 School Year. (Ref'd 10/14/14) (3a)

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Winterson, Council President Lopes and Councillor Alves requesting, that the School Department inform the City Council as to what is the “student to teacher ratio” throughout the New Bedford School system on all levels Citywide, but specifically, the Betsy B. Winslow School, the Ellen R. Hathaway School and the Elizabeth Carter Brooks School, to include the number of out of district students, and also what is the student population in all public schools across New Bedford; and further, that the School Administration provide the Council with what they anticipate what is the School Department’s five-year projection plan; and further, requesting “ a response in writing” no later than thirty (30) days; and further, that said response include the number of student per school that English is their second language. (Ref’d 09/11/14) (4)

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Oliveira, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with Dr. Michael J. Langworthy and a representative from the Mayor’s office, representatives from the School Committee, a representative from the University of Massachusetts/Dartmouth and a representative from SeaLab, for the purposes of discussing a possible venture project of education and research with Dr. Langworthy and the Mars Project upon his research vessel (03/27/14, 09/16/14 – table for 90 days and bring both parties back to check progress on project) was removed from the table by Councillor Morad and seconded by Councillor Lopes. (5)

A memo was read into the record from Christina Connelly from the Mayor’s Office explaining her absence from the meeting this evening. This memo was received and placed on file by Councillor Bousquet and seconded by Councillor Gomes.

Mrs. Simone Bourgeois 57 Grandville Avenue, Fairhaven, MA, was recognized to speak on behalf of the motion. She said she will be more than happy to have her students participate on the research adventure between SeaLab and Dr. Langworthy.

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for sixty (60) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Coelho and Martins requesting, on behalf of concerned Citizens, that the City Council be informed of the current status of the Phillips Avenue School and what the future plans are for this abandoned property. (Ref’d 09/23/14) (6a)

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Councillor Gomes, the Committee VOTED: To take “No Further Action” on this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Lopes, requesting, that the Committee on Appointments and Briefings meet with members from Turowski 2 Architecture and Daedalus Projects, Inc., to discuss the progress being made on the MSBA Preliminary Design Program Submission for the “New” Hannigan School project (Ref’d 01/22/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Coelho. (6)

Mr. Richard Marx from the New Bedford School Department representing the MSBA Department along with Mr. Andrew O’Leary of the School Department was present for the presentation by members from Turowski 2 Architecture.

A presentation was made by Peter and Libby Turowski, 331 Wareham Road, Marion, MA, the Architects retained to design the new Hannigan School. They gave an overview of the Hannigan project including the different areas that were considered to erect the school in the area that was finally determined to be most suitable for the Hannigan School. The approved design will have the new Hannigan School being built where the existing Hannigan School is currently.

The cost to build the schools estimated at \$41,300,000. 80% of this is eligible to be reimbursed by MSBA. The city’s share will be \$16 million.

Mr. Marx explained that the School Department was not looking for any money at this time, but would be back to the City Council for financial approval this fall. Mr. Marx also explained that the \$41 million figure also included the purchase of four properties those properties have been assessed with the value of \$1 million. They included Cumberland Farms, a restaurant, and two residential homes. He admitted it would not be an easy process and that there is a possibility that they may be looking at eminent domain to take the four parcels; but they have been advised that it would be more beneficial to be able to negotiate a price to acquire the properties rather than taken by eminent domain.

Councillors Morad, Carney and Gomes asked various questions on the proposed school regarding financing.

Ari Sky, CFO for the City explained that the city had a long way to go before it came to the City Council for approval of funding for the new school. He is of the opinion that the figure can be lowered without shortchanging the project or shortchanging the students that would attend this school; he feels it can be lowered.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Councillor Winterson, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Gomes, requesting, ONCE AGAIN, that the School Department consider implementation of school uniforms throughout the New Bedford School System; and further, requesting that members of the School Committee appear before the Committee on Appointments and Briefings for the purpose of discussing the implementation of the school uniforms and to also discuss security measures proposed by the City Council, such as an emergency silent alarm

system and what, if any security measures have been put in place throughout the New Bedford Schools.  
(Ref'd 10/24/13, 09/16/14 - tabled) (7)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Coelho, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter at this time. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Bousquet made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Martins.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Clerk of Committees