



**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
~MINUTES~**

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

**ABSENT:** MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO

**IN ATTENDANCE:** MR. ANDERSON, MS. TREADUP, MS. BETTENCOURT, MS. EMSLEY, MR. O’LEARY, MR. MOTTA, MS. WALMSLEY, MS. FERREIRA (Recording Secretary)

The School Committee Student Representative, Amanda Braga, was present.

At this time, Mr. Joshua Amaral nominated Bruce Oliveira to serve as the Vice Chairperson for 2019. It was seconded by Colleen Dawicki. No other nominations were made.

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas      0 – Nays      1– Absent

Approval of Minutes:

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by John Oliveira and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, to accept the School Committee meeting minutes as follows: (Supporting document labeled “3”)

Facilities Sub Committee- March 9, 2017 and April 5, 2017  
Regular Meeting - December 10, 2018

No one signed up to address the Committee during Public Comment.

Amanda Braga, Student Representative, gave her report.

Superintendent’s Report (Mr. Anderson):

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) held a meeting to discuss the challenges that our community is facing concerning child abuse and human trafficking. Michelle Loranger, CAC Executive Director, offered to come to New Bedford Public Schools to train staff on how to be proactive and recognize potential warning signs.

An Access and Equity Forum has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at Keith Middle School Auditorium. Mr. Anderson stated that the purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of the education formula and encourage the legislators to work together to refine the formula.

Mr. Anderson reported that there was an initial meeting to discuss the creation of the Wellness Committee. He stated that there is a growing number of children that come to school with health-related problems or engage in negative health behaviors that hinder their ability to learn. He mentioned the importance to providing alternatives to help students be ready to learn.

John Oliveira asked about current efforts to implement Wellness. Mr. Anderson responded that there are processes already in existence, such as afterschool programs. However, the district would like to bring more opportunities to more students, further encouraging more active lifestyles and bringing these programs to all district schools.

Mr. Anderson stated that this is the first year districts are mandated to have an English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC) which allows parents to learn more about the opportunities for English Language Learners (ELL) students. New Bedford Public Schools is already working with the families and Gomes Elementary School recently held their first meeting.

Business Office Report (Mr. O'Leary): (Supporting documents – 7A)

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the financial reports with the Committee. He stated that the Function Code Report shows a FY19 budget of \$137,830,000 with a 48% encumbered as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. He explained that cost centers are being monitored to ensure all contracts and purchases are executed properly.

Christopher Cotter questioned the long-term substitute line being at 100% encumbered. It was explained that the line balances with the short-term substitute line, but the district will consider better budgeting for next fiscal year. Ms. Emsley explained that there is a trend for more maternity leave which requires more long term substitutes than usual.

To a question by John Oliveira, Ms. Emsley said that a long term substitute is in a classroom for 90 days and their pay rate increases by \$5/day after a person has been in the same classroom for more than 30 days.

The General Expense Report was at 90% encumbered. The district is encouraging cost centers to reach at least a 60% threshold, which most have already done. Mr. O'Leary added that the expending is on target and there has been an improvement when compared with last year.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the revolving funds. He was pleased that the Circuit Breaker account is stable. He also mentioned that his department will be monitoring the Continuing Education deficit.

The Salary Spenddown report shows a current balance of \$103,847,448. Mr. O'Leary pointed out that the salary deficit is now at \$170K and his department will begin to forecast a trending surplus that will allow the Committee to consider transferring these funds.

Mr. O'Leary reviewed the transfer requests. The report was also reviewed and approved by the Finance Sub Committee.

On a motion by John Oliveira, and seconded by Joshua Amaral, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to approve the transfers request as presented. (Transfer request attached).

The FY19 Grant Report was reviewed. Mr. O'Leary said that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grant of \$3.7M will be added to the February report.

## MSBA Updates

- The district will be working with the City's Chief Financial Officer to submit bond request for the Parker roof, Trinity accelerated boiler repair, and the Brooks project.

Mr. O'Leary updated the Committee on the High School facilities project. Improvements for the auditorium are expected to be completed by mid-March. Mr. O'Leary explained that the pool and locker rooms repairs are potential projects to consider using surplus funds.

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to accept the Business Office report.

## Personnel Report (Ms. Emsley) (Supporting document labeled "7B")

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. She reported that there were 18 appointments, 12 retirements, 7 resignations, and 3 transfers since the last personnel report in December. She also shared that there were 6 substitutes. A position vacancy report as of 1/7/2019 was provided to the Committee.

Ms. Emsley informed that building bid/transfers process is currently underway. The lists are posted in each school building and the deadline is January 10<sup>th</sup>. The District Bid process will be released to staff via email the first week of February 2019.

Christopher Cotter asked about the additional security position at Normandin Middle School. Ms. Emsley explained that the school requested this position and has been well received by the staff given that Normandin has a large student population.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

## School Committee Reports

Christopher Cotter reported that he also had an opportunity to attend the Children's Advocacy Center meeting with Mr. Anderson. He shared what he learned and highlighted the importance of educating staff on child abuse topics, specifically on the need for proactive care and knowing when to report suspected abuse. He stated that we need to ensure that our students are getting the best possible help that they need.

Mr. Anderson commented that we should remain on alert and not ignore the signs for child abuse. He revealed that in Bristol County, there were 23 child trafficking cases for FY2018 and 35 cases this year.

Christopher Cotter brought up a parent concern with regard to assigning projects during vacation break.

John Oliveira shared his concern that the district should teach children personal responsibility and hold parents responsible for their student. The focus should not only be MCAS.

## New Business

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Joshua Amaral, and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, to approve a recommended list of surplus property located at New Bedford High School, DeValles Elementary School and Congdon Elementary School

Joshua Amaral asked the Committee to support a resolution calling for the full funding for our public schools. He read the resolution as follows:

**WHEREAS**, free public schools available to all students without exception are foundational to our democracy and are required by the state constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, all of our students, no matter where they live, deserve high-quality public schools that teach the whole child and provide them with a rich school experience that addresses their academic, social and emotional needs;

**WHEREAS**, the state's foundation budget formula, which determines state aid to each district, has been woefully out of date for years, thereby underfunding our districts by more than \$1 billion a year for essential educational services; and

**WHEREAS**, an updated foundation budget formula would bring New Bedford Public Schools nearly 40 million dollars in additional state aid each year, allowing our schools to move closer to providing all students with the education to which they are entitled as residents of the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature failed to pass any foundation budget legislation in the last session, leaving districts, educators and students without the funds necessary to support the schools our students deserve in every district in the state;

**THEREFORE**, be it resolved that the New Bedford School Committee urges the Legislature to approve and fully fund a new foundation budget formula by May 1, 2019.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by John Oliveira, to adopt a resolution put forward by the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) in support of full funding for our public schools. (Supporting documents- 8B)

Bruce Oliveira stated that the Finance Sub Committee reviewed and supported the request to increase the substitute teacher pay at Jacobs Elementary School in order to pair the compensation with other extended day schools. The new proposed rate per day is \$94.00 for Non-Certified Substitutes and \$99.00 for Certified Substitutes.

On a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to increase the substitute teacher pay rate at Irwin M. Jacobs Elementary School to reflect the extended day in place (from the Finance Sub Committee). Supporting document labeled "8C".

At 6:52 P.M., on a motion by Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Christopher Cotter, the Committee voted to adjourn the Regular Meeting and enter to Executive Session for the following purpose:

To discuss updates with respect to negotiations with union personnel (OML purpose #3):

-New Bedford Educators Association Unit A

The roll call vote was as follow:

John Oliveira – Yes

Christopher Cotter – Yes

Jack Livramento – Absent

Bruce Oliveira - Yes

Joshua Amaral– Yes

Colleen Dawicki - Yes

Mayor Mitchell – Yes

6 – Yeas

0 – Nays

1– Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adlybeiry Ferreira  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Thomas Anderson  
Superintendent, Secretary/School Committee

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**  
**12/31/2018**

FOR APPROVAL FROM		TO							
Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason
S5053450	3520	540005	Other Student Activities HS Music Supplies	S5053480	2420	6E+05	NBHS Music Equipment	2,926.12	Purchase of mixer and cart
S1259540	4230	520004	Rodman Maint of Equipment	S1258480	2210	6E+05	Rodman Office Equipment	336.79	Printer replacement
S1248450	2210	540005	Renaissance Office Supplies	S1243080	2400	6E+05	Renaissance Textbooks	2,000.00	textbook order
S5155740	2358	520004	Whaling City Prof Dev Services	S5158450	2210	5E+05	Whaling City Principal Supplies	3,000.00	PD offered at no cost this year from NE Basecamp. Funds needed to purchase PBIS Implementatin supplies
S4053080	2410	580008	Keith Textbooks	S4058442	5300	5E+05	Keith Lease of Equipment	1,000.00	New copier lease
S2068440	2110	520004	SPED Director Contracted Services	S2065760	3258	5E+05	DW SPED Professional Development Other Exps	2,000.00	Registration for Sped teachers and facilitators to attend prof dev workshop
S0509550	2430	540005	DeValles Classroom supplies	S0505480	2451	6E+05	DeValles Classroom Instr Equipment	780.60	Chromebooks
S0759580	2420	580008	Hathaway Instructional Equipment	S0755450	2455	5E+05	Hathaway Instructional Software	3,164.00	Lexia renewal
S0759550	2430	540005	Hathaway Classroom Supplies	S0755450	2455	5E+05	Hathaway Instructional Software	336.00	Lexia renewal
S0755480	2451	580008	Hathaway Classroom Tech Instructional Equip	S0755740	2358	5E+05	Hathaway Prof Dev Contr Services	800.00	Staff Prof Development MCAS
S1158480	2420	580008	Parker Instructional Equipment	S1159540	4230	5E+05	Parker Maintenance of Equipment	100.00	Repair of 2-way radios
S6153150	2410	540005	Sea Lab Workbooks	S6159541	2440	5E+05	Sea Lab Other Instructional Services	5,000.00	Mystic Aquarium Instructional Services
<b>INFORMATIONAL:</b>									
Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason