



November 8, 2021
In-Person
Keith Middle School
6:00 P.M.
Pages 4

REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, MA
Monday, November 8, 2021
6:00 P.M.

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

ABSENT: MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. ADLYBEIRY FERREIRA, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ARTHUR MOTTA, MS. JENNIFER CARLING, MR. MATTHEW KRAVITZ

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

The Committee voted, on a motion by Mr. Jack Livramento seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter, to accept the following School Committee meeting minutes:

- Regular Meeting: September 20, 2021 and October 18, 2021

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

4. *PUBLIC COMMENT*

No members of the community signed up for Public Comment.

5. *STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT*

Student Representative, Ms. Sydni Colson gave the Committee New Bedford High School (NBHS) updates. The following are a few:

- The Student Advisory Council (SAC) met with the NBHS Principal to discuss the project advances with regard to the sanitary product initiative. The project is now in place and there are sanitary products in all girls bathrooms.
- The SAC held an advisory lesson to specific grades to let them know about their roles and be the voice of the students.

6. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT*

General Update:

Superintendent Thomas Anderson began his report going over some general health information reminders. Mr. Anderson shared that the district is working with the New Bedford Health Department to coordinate vaccination clinics to the parents that took the survey and are interested to have the pediatric vaccination for their children ages 5-11. There were 333 responses with 47% showing interest. He went on to report that the Test&Stay program has been helpful in keeping the students and staff at school.

Mr. Christopher Cotter was concerned that the program seemed to have brought additional burden on our staff, particularly Nurses. Mr. Anderson explained that the Department of Education is providing more support and resources this year as well as an outside organization who is assisting with this work. Ms. Heather Emsley recognized that the different protocols, such as contact tracing, has brought more work; however, the district was able to add more Health Representatives to assist with the load, as well as hiring more Nurses.

Mayor Mitchell requested that the School Committee be provided with quantification of the benefits for the Test&Stay program.

Student Services:

At this time, Jennifer Ferland, Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives & Partnership, and Nicole Ferreira, Wraparound Manager addressed the Committee. They gave an overview of the services and supports that is available in the district for the families and students. Examples of services included providing case management for at risk students, Family Institute for Students Success (FISS) program, family engagement events, social emotional assistance, workshops, helping families fill out Financial Aid forms for college application etc. The district has also partnered with over 200 organizations to collaborate on this work.

Strategic Data Processes:

Ms. Karen Treadup, Deputy Superintendent, explained the process of the data meetings NBPS has been conducting to support the schools such as the STAT meetings (district based), and Achievement Steering Committee meetings (school based). Mr. Anderson stated that these meetings are not meant to monitor the schools, but for the schools to receive direct support from central office.

Several members of the Committee were pleased that the district is taking a supportive approach which encourage staff to bring concerns and seek assistance.

Mayor Mitchell requested for a one-page summary that captures what the schools are reporting.

7. OTHER REPORTS

- A. Finance & Operations - Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Mr. Andrew O'Leary gave an update on the Capital Projects and reviewed the following reports: General Expenses, Function Code, Transfers, Health Insurance, Grants and Salary Spenddown.

Mr. O'Leary also reported that the district anticipates a decent Chapter 70 funds as the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will use a more accurate data to detect the low income students, which determines the funding formula.

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

- B. Personnel Report – Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services (HCS), shared that there were 45 appointments with 10 from Unit A, 6 from AFSCME, 2 from NBSSU, 15 non-union and 12 paraprofessionals. There were 7 retirements with 1 from Unit B, 3 from Unit A, 1 from AFSCME and 1 non-union. There were 13 resignations with 2 from Unit A, 2 non-union, 2 AFSCME and 7 paraprofessionals. There were 21 transfers with 1 from Unit A, 19 paraprofessionals. And 1 from AFSCME.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to place the Personnel report on file as presented.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Absent	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

- C. School Committee Report:

Mr. Bruce Oliveira commended the editorial written by Ricardo Rosa and Cynthia Roy regarding the new charter school. Mr. Jack Livramento highlighted a few takeaways from attending the MASS conference. Christopher Cotter congratulated the athletes and the High School band. Colleen Dawicki commended the

United Interfaith Action for putting together a well organized forum and Andrew O’Leary for his contribution to the Education Week magazine.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion regarding staff testing and vaccinations

Mr. Anderson stated that the district has been granted authority to entered negotiations with the different bargaining unions and was looking to seek feedback from the Committee to move with next steps. Ms. Emsley asked the Committee if they would like to engage in a conversation to create a policy regarding declaring vaccination status or testing which would help inform the bargaining with the unions.

Mr. Jack Livramento pointed out the importance for the district to be aware of the vaccination percentage so that individuals can decide how they interact with others.

Mr. Christopher Cotter shared his concerns on how the sequence of events unfolded that lead to entering negotiations with the union and the creation of a policy as well as concerns with enforcing staff vaccination.

No decision was made regarding the creation of a policy at this time.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Jack Livramento to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session, not to return to open session, for the following purpose(s):

A. Per MGL 30A & 21(a) 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and negotiations with union personnel:

- New Bedford Educator’s Association – Unit A
- New Bedford Educator’s Association – Unit B
- New Bedford Educator’s Association – Unit A Hayden McFadden Elementary School
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
- New Bedford Support Specialist Union (NBSSU)
- Federation of Paraprofessionals

The roll call was as follows:

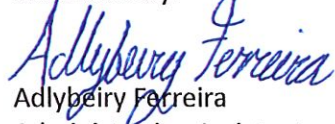
Mr. John Oliveira – Absent
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes

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

10. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Submitted by:


Adlybeiry Ferreira

Administrative Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee
Substitute for Marjorie Fernandes

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee