

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

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, MRS. USSACH, MS. POLLOCK, ATTY. CLARK, DR. FLETCHER, DR. FINNERTY, MR. NOBREGA

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MRS. DALY, DR. CARRIGO, MS. COSTA, MRS. BROWN, MRS. MOURAO (Recording Secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

1. Jennifer Clune, teacher at Gomes School, expressed her concern to the Committee as to the progress at Gomes School.
2. Evangelos "Gillie" Safioleas expressed his concern that he has not received the information he requested as to School Committee – Process & Procedures.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take up altogether the items listed in section 4.

Ms. Pollock indicated that the minutes of the August 16, 2011 Transportation Subcommittee meeting is missing the information regarding the potential \$200,000 shortfall for Fiscal Year 2012. Mrs. Brown will amend the minutes.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve and place on file the following minutes:

- August 15, 2011 – Regular School Committee meeting
- August 16, 2011 – Transportation Subcommittee meeting (Amended as per Ms. Pollock's suggestion)
- September 12, 2011 – Regular School Committee meeting

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take the item 6A2 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Brian Rose/Program Manager/District Attorney's Office, for permission to use the New Bedford High School gym on Saturday, October 22, 2011 from 1:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M., for the D.A.'s Free Basketball Clinic for New Bedford youth, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A2)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take up the remaining items in section 6A altogether (6A1, 3, 4, and 5).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve and place on file the following requests:

- Antone "Toi" Fortes/Director/Tonka's Tumblers, for permission to use the Carney Academy gym on Thursdays only from October 20, 2011 through May 2012 from 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M., for gymnastic classes for inner city children of the Greater New Bedford community, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A1)
- Jorge Faria/ABC Youth Soccer, for permission to use the Roosevelt Middle School gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 2011 through April 2012 from 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M., for soccer practices for New Bedford youth, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A3)

- Marianne DeSouza/City of New Bedford – Director of Public Health, for permission to use the Keith Middle School Community Room along with the School Committee’s communication sound system on Thursday, October 20, 2011 from 6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M., for the Board of Health Tobacco Control Regulation Amendment Hearing, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A4)
- Craig Dutra/Community Foundation of SE Mass., for permission to use the Keith Middle School Auditorium on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 from 6:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M., for the School Committee Debate sponsored by the New Bedford Education Roundtable, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A5)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to place on file the following requests that have been approved administratively:

- Renee Dufour/Chair/City of New Bedford – Parks & Recreation, for permission to use the Gomes School gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 8, 2011 through April 26, 2012 from 4:45 P.M.-7:45 P.M., for a recreational gymnastics program, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A6)
- Robert Horta/Asst. Supt.-H.R./Bristol County Sheriff’s Office, for permission to use the Keith Middle School auditorium and cafeteria on Thursday, September 29, 2011 from 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. for a graduation ceremony, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A7)
- Neal Weiss/Whaling City Kids Wrestling Team, for permission to use the New Bedford High School wrestling room on Tuesday evenings, October 11, 18, November 8, 15, 22, 29, December 6, 2011 and January 3, 10, 31, February 14, 21, 28, March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10, 24, May 1, 8, 15, 22, 2012 from 5:15 P.M.-6:30 P.M. for the wrestling program servicing New Bedford’s youth, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A8)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to approve and place on file the additional requests for field/building usage (see addendum):

- Bunny Conceicao/N.B. Bears Pop Warner Football & Spirit Association, for permission to use the Keith Middle School gym on September 27-29, October 4-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27, November 1-3, 8-10, 2011 from 5:45 P.M.-7:45 P.M., for cheerleading practice, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A9)
- Jaime DiPaola/Local 851 – AFSCME, for permission to use the Keith Middle School auditorium on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 from 4:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M., for contract ratification, with a waiver of the rental fee only. (Supporting document labeled 6A10)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take up all matters listed under section 6 at this time.

Ms. Catherine Cooper, Executive Director of Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC), explained the state’s findings on the recent audit that was conducted at SMEC approximately six months ago.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to table the first reading of the New Bedford Public Schools Policy – IIBI – District Wellness Policy.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to table the first reading of the New Bedford Public Schools Policy – IIBH – Internet Safety and Technology Acceptable Use Policy.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to table the first reading of the New Bedford Public Schools Policy – JHFF – Student Bullying Prevention Policy.

Chairman Robert Bromley and Secretary Christopher Gomes of the Veterans' Advisory Board addressed the Committee on the importance of the New Bedford Public Schools adopting the Pledge of Allegiance policy.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to table the first reading of the New Bedford Public Schools Policy – INDA – Pledge of Allegiance.

Relative to the Financial Report, Mrs. Brown updated the Committee on the FY12 budget and specifically, the 19% cutbacks made to the General Expense line.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve and place on file the Financial Report. (Supporting document labeled "5A")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve and place on file the Schedule of Bills. (Supporting document labeled "5B")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report. (Supporting document labeled "5C")

As part of the Superintendent's report, Dr. Francis updated the Committee on the "*Where Are YOU Headed?*" Campaign. Specifically, the *Capturing the American Dream through Education* Rally that took place today on the steps of the Paul Rodriguez Administration Building.

Dr. Francis introduced Marlena Johnson, Miss New Bedford 2012, who spoke of her recent accomplishment and how her focus will be to help New Bedford Public Schools with dropout prevention.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take item 5F out of order.

Student Representative, Justin Braga, gave his report and was granted permission to leave the meeting early.

Dr. Francis continued with her report by introducing Steven Barker, Headmaster at Friends Academy, and Katherine Gaudet, Director of the Sally Borden School at Friends Academy. Ms. Gaudet announced the collaboration with the *Center for Education Innovation* at Friends Academy with the Hayden-McFadden Elementary School. She explained that this program was created by a grant from the Merck family which provides funds to work with the Hayden-McFadden School to give teachers online courses through WIDE World and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. A laptop will be given to each teacher which they will use to explore technology, take the course and develop curricula. This will give teachers hands-on lessons in different technologies and programs that can be integrated into their practice. It will also provide mentoring for up to a year. Overall, the program is expected to help students to be more engaged in the classroom, shift the culture of the classroom from teacher-centered to student-centered, develop the 21<sup>st</sup> century tools such as critical thinking, problem solving and other higher order thinking skills. It will also help create a new model of urban education that can be exported to other school systems.

Ms. Gaudet will also heed the task of raising six million dollars by September 2012 so that the *Center for Education Innovation* can bring this program to all twenty-two schools in New Bedford.

Marianne DeSouza, City of New Bedford – Health Department, with Dr. Pauline Hamel announced that the School Health & Wellness Manuals are ready and will be distributed to all Principals.

Helder Angelo, Director of School Support, gave an overview of the latest district MCAS scores. There was a brief discussion regarding the DESE scoring error on the math test. This error affected 31 of our students. 19 of the students went from "Needs Improvement" to Proficient" and 12 students went from "Proficient" to "Advanced" on their MCAS scores.

Jane Daly, Assistant Superintendent of Accountability & School Improvement, updated the Committee with the "Plans for Improvement" for the 2011-2012 school year.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up items in section 6G altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve the following requests for out-of-state field trips:

- 1) Ellen Moreau/Teacher/Winslow, for permission to take 54 students and four chaperones on a field trip to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I. on October 25, 2011 from 9:00 A.M.-1:45 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the local field trip account. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G1)
- 2) Cathy Carlisle/Teacher/Pulaski, for permission to take 105 students and five chaperones on a field trip to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I. on May 22, 2012 from 9:15 A.M.-2:00 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the local field trip account. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G2)
- 3) Patricia Riley/Teacher/Normandin, for permission to take 85 students and six chaperones on a field trip to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I. on October 21, 2011 (rain date: October 28, 2011) from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G3)
- 4) Lauren Aubertine/Teacher/Normandin, for permission to take 89 students and seven chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I. on October 26, 2011 from 8:15 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G4)
- 5) Michelle Campos/Teacher/Normandin, for permission to take 92 students and eight chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I. on October 19, 2011 (rain date: October 24, 2011) from 8:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G5)
- 6) Patricia Gifford & Kristen Aber/Teachers/NBHS, for permission to take 59 students and four chaperones to Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, C.T. on October 24, 2011 from 7:40 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. Recommend approval. (Supporting document labeled 6G6)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to place on file the following out-of-state field trip requests that have been administratively approved:

- *Carolyn Dubois/Teacher/Pacheco, for permission to take 87 students and five chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, R.I., on October 17, 2011 from 8:30 A.M.-2:15 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled 6G7)*
- *Diane Robinson/Teacher/NBHS, for permission to take 35 students and three chaperones to Roger Williams Park and Museum of Natural History in Providence, R.I. on October 17, 2011 from 8:30 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled 6G8)*

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve the following out-of-state conference:

- Margo Moore/Teacher/Keith, for permission to attend the New Hampshire Council for Social Studies Annual Conference on Thursday, October 27, 2011 in Manchester, N.H., to participate in a presentation, at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled 6H1)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to place on file the following out-of-state conference that was administratively approved:

- Michelle Pound/Teacher/Roosevelt, for permission to attend the Northeast Regional Noyce Conference on October 14-October 15, 2011 in Philadelphia, P.A., to attend workshops for first-year math teachers, at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled 6H2)

Mayor Lang suggested listing the donation information on the videotape footage of future School Committee meetings.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and Mrs. Ussach to approve the new format of the donation information on future videotape footage.

Mayor Lang informed the Committee that there will be a Special Meeting of the School Committee on October 24, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. at Keith Middle School for a presentation by Dr. Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater State University.

A motion was made by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of:

- NBEA Negotiations update
- Local 641 Negotiations update
- Paul Walsh Field Lease Agreement

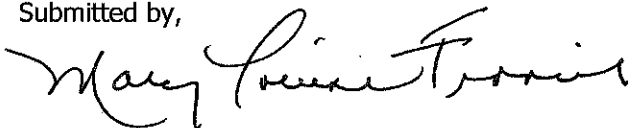
The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes	Atty. Clark – Yes
Mrs. Ussach – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty - Yes
Ms. Pollock - Yes	

7 – Yeas      0 – Nays      0 - Absent

At 10:15 P.M., on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis  
Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm