

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

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

ABSENT: DR. FRANCIS

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. LARKIN, MRS. DALY, DR. CARRIGO, MS. COSTA, MRS. BROWN, MRS. MOURAO

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Dr. Fletcher presented plaques to Mayor Lang and Chairperson Ussach.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take all agenda items out of order.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Mrs. Pollock, to receive and place on file the following minutes:

- September 26, 2011 - Curriculum Subcommittee meeting
- September 29, 2011 *and* November 21, 2011 – Policy Subcommittee meetings
- October 17, 2011 – Finance Subcommittee meeting
- November 1, 2011 – Transportation Subcommittee meeting

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to approve a request from David Burek/Resource Development Specialist, on behalf of the Department of Youth Services, for permission to use the Carney Academy gymnasium on Friday, January 20, 2012 from 2:00 – 5:00 P.M., for a DYS basketball game, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A2)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Lauren Houle/Community Executive/American Cancer Society/New Bedford Relay for Life, for permission to use the Paul Walsh Athletic Field from 7:00 A.M. on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to 12:00 P.M. on June 23, 2012 and several hours for set up on the evening of June 21, 2012, for the annual Relay for Life event, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A1)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Renee Dufour/Director/City of N.B. – Parks, Recreation and Beaches, for permission to use the pool at New Bedford High School on March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, and 15, 2012 from 12:30 P.M.-3:30 P.M., for a lifeguard course for the south coast community, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled 6A3)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to accept the following donations:

- Derek Medeiros/Principal/Hathaway – Wii game console with remote controls from Ms. Jessica Wengenroth for use by students with fine motor disabilities and/or as an incentive. (Supporting document labeled 6E1)
- Simone Bourgeois/Sea Lab – \$5,000 grant award from the New Bedford Day Nursery Foundation to be used for summer Sea Lab scholarships. (Supporting document labeled 6E2)

- Karen Treadup/Principal/Carney Academy - \$500 mini-grant from the GNB Allies for Health and Wellness to fund an after school sports club and toys from "Toys for Tots" to be distributed to various Carney students. (Supporting document labeled 6E3)

Dr. Finnerty made a motion and seconded by Atty. Clark, to name the new fieldhouse at the Andrea McCoy Field Complex as the Joaquim "Jack" Nobrega Fieldhouse.

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

Public Comment was as follows:

1. Kenny Chan, Senior at New Bedford High School, expressed his support for the small, autonomous schools.
2. Tammy Rivet with her son, Jacob Rivet – Jacob expressed his support for the small, autonomous schools.
3. Sue Sylvia, parent & grandparent of NBPS children, expressed her support for the small, autonomous schools.

Candie Desjardins of the Naval Underwater Warfare Center announced that Mr. Parker's Integrated Technology class at New Bedford High School competed in the Sea Perch Competition on December 10, 2011. Mr. Parker and his students showed off their ROV, the "Whale", to the Committee. They received first place overall and first place in the ring competition as well.

In Dr. Francis' absence, Dr. Fletcher informed the Committee that the Superintendent is recommending the development of the Innovation Schools Prospectus. Dr. Fletcher made a motion, with a second by Atty. Clark, to adopt the recommendations presented in the report from the New Bedford small, autonomous working group. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this report. Dr. Finnerty expressed his feelings with regards to charter schools and is recommending moving forward with this groups' request. Mayor Lang indicated that the recommendations need to be reviewed by the new School Committee members. Dr. Fletcher suggested that the Committee should not make any moves without the Superintendent present.

Mayor Lang asked for a roll call vote on the following:

To begin developing the Prospectus for the small, autonomous schools and move forward with the RFP process:

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes	Atty. Clark – Yes
Mrs. Ussach – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty - No
Ms. Pollock - No	

5 – Yeas      2 – Nays      0 – Absent

Ms. Pollock made a motion and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to recommend the following time table as listed on page 9 of the small, autonomous schools working group report:

<i>Selection of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort of Two Schools:</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<i>February 1, 2012</i>	<i>NBPS Innovation Schools Request for Proposals is released</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Three Innovation Schools information sessions are conducted around the city for prospective design teams</i>
<i>March 15</i>	<i>Letters of intent are due to NBPS from prospective design teams</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Assistance given to prospective design teams in formulating their ideas into a Prospectus</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Prospectus are due to NBPS</i>
<i>June 15</i>	<i>The Superintendent, School Committee Chairperson, and New Bedford Educators Association President or designees must convene and vote to approve or reject each Prospectus (by two-thirds vote)</i>
<i>July-November 15</i>	<i>Assistance provided to design teams with an approved Prospectus to develop their full Innovation Schools Plan</i>
<i>November 15</i>	<i>All Innovation Schools Plans for September 2013 launch are due to NBPS</i>
<i>December 15</i>	<i>School Committee determines by majority vote on whether to approve submitted Innovation School Plans</i>
<i>January–August 2013</i>	<i>Approved Innovation Schools plan for launch in September 2013</i>

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from the Fine Arts Director, Kerri Quinlan-Zhou, to hold an "Auditorium Commemorative Plaques Fundraiser" to raise money to purchase new equipment for the auditorium at the high school.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the request from Mayor Lang to transfer the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School from the City of New Bedford to New Bedford Public Schools.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to receive and place on file a request from the City Council to look into establishing an ad-hoc committee made up of the City Council President, the Superintendent, the Mayor (Chairman of School Committee), for the purpose of addressing the issues on drop-out prevention and academic progress.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Financial Report.

Cheryl Costa, Human Resources Manager, informed the Committee that a new Director of English Language Arts has been hired as well as the Graduation Coaches and all will start on January 3, 2012. The Director of Mathematics and Curriculum Administrator positions are still vacant and will be reposted in January 2012.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to take item 5E out of order.

Student Representative Braga gave his report and was excused from the meeting.

Mayor Lang announced that Superintendent Francis had requested a special meeting of the School Committee. It is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at Keith Middle School. Due to some holiday traveling conflicts amongst the members, the meeting is scheduled for 3:00 P.M. The District Turnaround Plan will be discussed and a presentation on the New Bedford small, autonomous schools working group will follow.

Several School Committee members gave their reports.

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

- Non-union contract

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes

Mrs. Ussach – Yes

Mr. Nobrega – Yes

Ms. Pollock - Yes

Atty. Clark – Yes

Dr. Fletcher – Yes

Dr. Finnerty - Yes

7 – Yeas

0 – Nays

0 - Absent

At 9:59 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Heather D. Larkin  
Acting Superintendent,  
Acting Secretary/School Committee

HDL/csm