

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK, DR. FLETCHER

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. COSTA,
MRS. MOURAO (Recording secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

- Carol Strupczewski – informed the public of the next PIP meeting taking place on April 12, 2011 at Keith Middle School. She is concerned about the levels of contamination at New Bedford High School, Keith Middle School and the athletic fields.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take up altogether the three items listed in section four.

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

- March 7, 2011 - Facilities, Maintenance & School Building Subcommittee Minutes
- March 14, 2011 – Finance Subcommittee Minutes
- March 14, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock to take Item O out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve the Local 641, AFSCME collective bargaining agreement for the term of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2013. At this time, members of the Committee and Local 641 signed the agreement.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock to take Item F out of order.

Mr. Jim Stevens, CEO and founder of GiftstoGive gave a brief overview of the purpose and mission of GiftstoGive. He asked the Committee for their continued support and partnership on a service program with New Bedford High School students.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2- Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty with a second by Mrs. Ussach to take item 6A out of order.

At this time Ms. Dixon and Ms. Pinho, teachers at Roosevelt Middle School, and Mr. Drake, teacher and Roosevelt Goes Green Club advisor, spoke of the club’s mission and introduced several student members. The students spoke about the importance of recycling and presented their video to the Committee.

Marissa Perez-Dormitzer talked about the continued efforts with the Recycling Program taking place in the schools. The winner for this month was the Hayden-McFadden School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to take item 6G out of order.

Mr. Ronald Labelle, Commissioner for the City of New Bedford, informed the Committee of the energy grant that the City has received. He requested that the Committee allow installation of PV cells to the newer school buildings (Normandin, Keith, Lincoln, Sea Lab, Gomes and NBHS) to begin this summer at no cost to the school department.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve installation of PV cells on the newer buildings.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take items listed under 6B altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Tom Tarpey/Basketball Coach/New Bedford High School, for permission to use the boys and girls gyms, Blue House cafeteria, and room E-118 at NBHS from Monday, June 27, 2011 through Friday, July 1, 2011 from 9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M., for the 29th Annual New Bedford Basketball Camp, with a waiver of the rental fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B1")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Richard Carter/Director/NorthStar Learning Ctr., for permission to use the NBHS Auditorium on June 10, 2011 from 2:00-11:00 P.M., for the annual Achieving Respect Together (A.R.T.) spring performance, with a waiver of rental and custodial fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Marcus Willis & Marques Houtman/Alumni/NBHS, for permission to use the gym at Keith Middle School on Monday, April 18, 2011 from 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., to hold a free basketball tournament for New Bedford elementary-aged students, as part of the *Where Are YOU Headed?* Initiative, with a waiver of the rental and custodial fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B3")

Mr. Oliveira gave a brief overview regarding the financial report. The annual classroom supply order is currently underway. Transportation/fuel costs and psychological services continue to exceed the budget. Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee that he will close out the budget by June 30, 2011.

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

Ms. Costa informed the Committee that the postings for Assistant Superintendent/Assistant to the Superintendent as well as the Business Manager had been distributed last week. The postings for Assistant Superintendent – Accountability and School Improvement and the Curriculum Instruction Administrator had gone out today.

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

At this time, Superintendent Francis gave her report. Dr. Francis highlighted the Quality Full Day Kindergarten program, the Keith Middle School Walk Through report submitted by Marina Brock, fiscal year 2012 and the Level 4 school – Parker School – parent info session night that took place the other evening.

Several Committee members gave their reports.

Dr. Finnerty urged parents to check their child's backpack before they leave the house for school.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and Mrs. Ussach to take up items 6N and 6K out of order and together.

Revenues for FY08-FY12 were distributed. Mr. Oliveira explained the list to the Committee. 8.7 million dollars is out of balance. Further discussion to follow at future meetings.

Dr. Francis and Mr. Oliveira spoke about the potential redistricting for the next school year. Mr. Oliveira suggested going back to how it was six years ago. Students who live on the southern end of Coggeshall Street would attend Keith Middle School and those who live on the northern end would go to Normandin Middle School. Transportation would be provided for those who live at the 1.8 mile mark. There are currently 45 students who live in this area. Mayor Lang asked Dr. Francis to present a proposal in the near future.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take items 6L, 6M and 7 out of order.

Mrs. Ussach addressed the Committee about the current traffic problems surrounding Lincoln School at drop off and pick up times. She, with the support of Councilor Martins, is requesting to change the traffic flow of Glennon Street to run East to West and Belleville Road to run West to East from at least Ashley Boulevard to Church Street. Dr. Francis and Mr. Oliveira concurred with Mrs. Ussach that this would alleviate the current traffic build up on these streets. Mayor Lang asked Dr. Francis to make the request to the Traffic Commission in writing.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2- Absent

Dr. Francis proposed the extension of this school year to all schools due to inclement weather and/or other emergencies. The last days for schools are as follows: Hayden-McFadden-June 27, 2011; Keith Middle School-June 29, 2011; all other elementary schools and middle schools, New Bedford High School, Whaling City, Trinity Day and PTP – June 24, 2011. Dr. Francis informed the Committee that adding days to the end of the year seemed best as making up time on Saturdays (as had been done in the past) was problematic due to personnel costs, athletics, and many other complaints.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve the extension of the school year as listed.

Dr. Francis addressed the Committee on the potential school closings. She distributed a spreadsheet detailing the current expenses/costs incurred at the Dunbar, Kempton and Rodman Schools. She indicated that out of these three schools, Dunbar could be considered a priority for closure due to the age and condition of the building as well as the proximity of two other schools that can absorb students. Mayor Lang expressed interest in School Choice to open our doors to students in other districts. The Committee will vote on School Choice at the next meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to take up the following items listed under 6C altogether:

1. Tammy Morgan/Principal/Pulaski School, permission for Fred Pearson to take ten students and one chaperone on a field trip to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I., on April 13, 2011 from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the school fund. (Supporting document labeled "6C1")

2. Cynthia Loomer/Teacher/Gomes School, for permission to take 14 students and 2 chaperones on a field trip to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. on April 13, 2011 (sharing bus w/ Pulaski) from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the school fund. (Supporting document labeled "6C2")

3. Diane Robinson/Teacher/NBHS, for permission to take 38 students and three chaperones on a field trip to the Museum of Natural History in Providence, R.I. on April 14, 2011 from 8:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C3")

4. Cynthia Trinidad/Principal/DeValles, permission for Robin Operach and Joyce Sioch, grade four teachers, to take 35 students and four chaperones to Dinosaur State Park in Rocky Hill, C.T. on May 26, 2011 from 8:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C4")

5. Margaret Wright/Teacher/Normandin, for permission to take 10 students and two chaperones on a field trip to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. on April 14, 2011 from 7:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C5")

The following time-sensitive request was approved administratively:

LTC Kevin McGovern/JROTC Instructor/NBHS, for permission to take two students and one chaperone to visit Providence College in Providence, R.I. on March 29, 2011 with all expenses paid by the National Guard. (Supporting document labeled "6C-Adm.")

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to take up the following items listed under 6D altogether:

1. Marcia Letourneau/Teacher/NBHS, for permission to attend the A.P. Statistics Reading Conference in Daytona Beach, FL from June 11-19, 2011, to receive training in consistent application of scoring standards for the AP Statistics, at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6D1")

2. Barbara Kaplan/Counselor/NBHS, for permission to attend the National Educational Alliance for Borderline Personality Disorder Conference in New Haven, CT on April 14 and 15, 2011, to receive training on current research-supported treatment options, at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6D2")

3. Kyle Riley/Principal/Trinity Day, for permission to attend the Annual National Special Education Conference in Los Angeles, CA from May 10-15, 2011, for systemic implementation of multi-tier academic and behavioral supports, with registration and travel paid for by the Urban Collaborative Membership and incidentals to be paid for by Project Results. (Supporting document labeled "6D3")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock to take up the following items listed under 6E altogether:

1. Jamie Camacho/Principal/Gomes – 75 books from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society for the school library and books for each first grader from GiftstoGive.

2. Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt - \$2,400 from the Fuel Up to Play 60 Grant sponsored by the New England Dairy & Food Council for the school fund.

3. Bart Lush/Principal/Hathaway – three laptops purchased by the Hathaway PTO to be used in classrooms to accompany the SMART™ boards and \$1,500 from the G.N.B. Health & Human Services Coalition, Inc. (also known as GNB C.O.A.S.T.) for the school fund.

4. Andrew Kulak/Headmaster/NBHS – two notebook computers from Raimundo Delgado and his affiliation with worldpeacejournal.com to be given to students who do not have a computer at home.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at the Parenting Teens Program. (Roosevelt Middle School was stricken from the request due to an editing error.)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to remove from the table the first reading of the New Bedford Public Schools Policy JK – Student Discipline. A second reading will take place at the next meeting.

At this time, Mr. Kyle Riley, Principal/Trinity Day Academy, explained to the Committee adjusting the Friday schedule due to need for case management time.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to approve the Friday Schedule change at Trinity Day Academy.

Dr. Francis addressed the Committee on projections of class size based on data for the 2011-2012 school year. Thus, the need for eliminating and establishing some grades at the schools specified below. Dr. Francis informed the Committee that adjustments will be made and this is only a starting point. Mayor Lang requested that Dr. Francis provide the Committee with class sizes at the next meeting.

SCHOOL	ELIMINATE	ESTABLISH
Ashley	Grade 4	Grade 2
Brooks	Grade 1	Grade 5
		Grade 2
Campbell	Grade 3	Grade 4
Congdon	Grade 5	
DeValles	Grade 2	Grade 3
	Grade 1	
Gomes		Grade 5
Hathaway	Grade 4	Grade 3
Lincoln		Grade 5
		Grade 2
Rodman	Grade 1	

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the elimination/establishment of the classes listed above for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mayor Lang asked that a new item be added to the agenda labeled "New Business – General" from now on.

As a "New Business" item, Dr. Finnerty discussed improving our statistics on drop-out rates, graduation rates and attendance rates. He requested a motion to solicit the opinion of our students (at least at the high school and middle school grade levels) by ways of student surveys, interviews conducted at the NBHS TV Studio, and student education reform groups to provide feedback to the Committee on how to improve statistics. Student Justin Braga volunteered to head an education reform committee at New Bedford High School. Dr. Francis mentioned the partnership with K-12 Insight to will help with survey data.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to solicit the opinion of students across the District to improve achievement.

At this time, Mayor Lang spoke to the Committee about the Beardsworth-Gonsalves sign above the door to the gym at NBHS. He requested that the school department pick up the costs associated with this sign and use the money raised by Mr. Safioleas towards scholarships instead. Mayor Lang asked Dr. Francis and Mr. Oliveira to pick out the best sign from the quotes that Mr. Safioleas provided. Mr. Oliveira informed the Committee that no funds had been put aside for this project. Ms. Pollock expressed interest in getting this sign purchased and in place as soon as possible.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to purchase and install the Beardsworth-Gonsalves sign above the door to the NBHS gym entrance.

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

- Non-Union Contact
- Litigation Matters
- Security

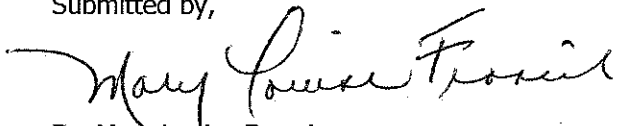
The roll call vote was as follows:

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

5 – Yeas 0 – Nays 2 - Absent

At 9:30 P.M., on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm