

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, MRS. USSACH, MS. POLLOCK, ATTY. CLARK, DR. FLETCHER, DR. FINNERTY
ABSENT: 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. Eddie Johnson, representing CLEAN informed the Committee that he made a request to Mrs. Ussach to discuss supporting the Superintendent's Roundtable.
2. Jennifer Clune, teacher at Gomes School expressed her appreciation to the Committee for the significant improvements made at Gomes.
3. Shelly Buckley, parent/PTO at Winslow School expressed her concerns at the Winslow School.
4. Lee Blake, NBEF Board Member – announced mini-grant applications available to ten area teachers in the amount of \$350 each.
5. Evangelos "Gillie" Safioleas expressed his concern about the lack of a public restroom at the McCoy Field. He recommended that the Committee look into renting a "port-a-potty" until the construction at the Walsh Field is completed.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to receive and place on file the July 25, 2011 – Curriculum Subcommittee Minutes.

Relative to the Financial Report, Mrs. Brown indicated to the Committee that she will provide them with monthly updates due to the 19% cutbacks made to the FY12 budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve and place on file the Financial Report. (Supporting document labeled "5A")

Relative to the Personnel Report, Ms. Costa informed the Committee that 19 positions had been reinstated to reduce class size.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take the items listed under section 6 out of order and altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from Reverend David Lima/Inter-Church Council of Greater N.B., for permission to use the Keith Middle School Auditorium and Community Room on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 from 6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M., for a presentation and service, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled "6A1")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Michael Nunes/National Association of Letter Carriers, and Kevin Verville/ International Association of Firefighters, for permission to use the Paul Walsh Field on Sunday, September 25, 2011 from 12:00 P.M.-3:00 P.M., for the annual charity softball game (Muscular Dystrophy Association), with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled "6A2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Suzanne Condon/Assoc. Commissioner – Mass. Dept. of Public Health, for permission to use the Keith Middle

School Community Room on Tuesday, September 27, 2011 from 6:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M., for a public meeting, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled "6A3")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Jane Taylor/St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, for permission to use the Lincoln School parking lot on Friday, September 23, 2011 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. for the anticipated parking overflow due to the installation of the 12th Rector event. (Supporting document labeled "6A4")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve a request from Salina Gifford/NB Whalers AYF Cheerleaders, for permission to use the Roosevelt Middle School gym only on September 19, 2011 through December 22, 2011 (Mondays through Fridays) from 6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M., for practices, with a waiver of all fees. (Supporting document labeled "6A5")

A brief discussion took place regarding the waiver of rental and custodial fees. Dr. Finnerty requested that Mrs. Brown provide the Committee with a report of the fees waived for this fiscal year thus far.

Ms. Jeanne Costa presented a book written by Manuel E. Costa, Sr., "The Making of the Cape Verdean", to the Committee. She requested to donate one copy to each middle school and New Bedford High School in memory of her father.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the request from Ms. Jeanne Costa to donate a copy of "The Making of the Cape Verdean" to each middle school and New Bedford High School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to take requests for acceptance of donations altogether.

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

- 1) Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden Mc-Fadden, for permission to accept a donation of assorted school supplies from the Rev. Norman Noriega at the Full Gospel Christian Church. (Supporting document labeled "6C1")
- 2) Debra Letendre/Principal/Swift, for permission to accept a donation of \$168.20 from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation as a result of the students' participation in the "Kids Walk to Cure Diabetes" event. (Supporting document labeled "6C2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take all requests for transfer of funds altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the following requests for transfer of funds.

- 1) Lina DeJesus/Principal/Rodman School: \$1,000 from Acct. 4001-2455-11-125-00-5027 (Instructional Software) to 4001-2420-11-125-00-8002 (School Equipment) (Supporting document labeled "6F1")
- 2) Robert Tetreault/Information Tech. Director.: \$140 from Acct. 4001-4450-5027-00-000-00 (Tech. Maintenance) to 4001-4400-4006-00-000-00 (Computer Climate Control) (Supporting document labeled "6F2")
- 3) Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt Middle School: \$1,500 from Acct. 4001-2410-21-415-00-5030 (Textbooks) to 4001-4230-21-415-00-4049 (Maintenance of Equipment) (Supporting document labeled "6F3")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take up items 6D & 6E together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at the Gomes School and in the Payroll Office at the Paul Rodrigues Administration Bldg.

A motion was made by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to declare the Naval Reserve Center as surplus and transfer the property to the City of New Bedford so that the City of New Bedford can transfer the property over to the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth for the expansion of the School for Marine Sciences and Technology (SMAST). Dr. Francis informed the Committee that she met with Chancellor McCormack recently regarding using the space for classrooms for the STEM project and post-secondary students can also use it at night.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 - Absent

As part of the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Francis updated the Committee on the opening of school, personnel matters, and the revised Theory of Action. She also informed the Committee that the draft of the District’s Turnaround Plan had been submitted to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education on September 7, 2011 and that we are awaiting response. In addition, the Where are YOU Headed? campaign continues throughout the District. Dr. Francis also presented a new initiative with Bristol Community College (BCC), the Middle College Program, and introduced Ms. Theresa Romanovitch, Dean of Bristol Community College – New Bedford Campus and Vice President, Mr. Steven Ozug.

Ms. Romanovitch and Mr. Ozug explained the program to the Committee. They proposed that this program would be open to underperforming/at-risk youth between the ages of 16-21 who have dropped out of high school or for those over 22 years of age who want to go back to school at night but have financial hardship. Students could enroll in this program at BCC to earn up to 30 academic credits, receive their high school diploma and work experience credit. If approved, private partners would fund the program in the first year, cost-sharing with New Bedford Public Schools in the second year with Chapter 70 funds and sustain the same in the third year. Ms. Pollock asked if transportation, day care and counseling services would be made available to these students. Dr. Finnerty inquired about students with disabilities and a MCAS center. Ms. Romanovitch informed the members that these were issues that she was already looking in to.

Dr. Fletcher made a motion that was seconded by Mrs. Pollock and Mrs. Ussach, to accept the Middle College Program being proposed by Bristol Community College.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 - Absent

Mayor Lang indicated that lawyers would be drafting up the Memorandum of Understanding.

At this time, Mrs. Brown updated the Committee on that status of the Gomes School clean up. Ms. Marianne DeSousa, Department of Health, also spoke of the clean up and her recent “walk-thru” at Gomes School. Both indicated that the status has improved and that rugs had been removed, vents cleaned, and doors had been sealed. Attorney Clark spoke of a policy that had been established back in 2009 to remove all existing rugs throughout the schools. Rugs were not to be allowed in schools any longer.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to take the Student Representative’s report out of order.

Student Representative Braga updated the Committee on the events that took place and those that are scheduled to take place at New Bedford High School.

Several members gave their reports at this time.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to support the Superintendent's Roundtable Committee which meets quarterly to disseminate information to members of the community. Mayor Lang indicated that a student representative should be added to this group.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to have the transportation routes and billing audited.

A motion was made by Dr. Finnerty to add a temporary handicapped accessible portable restroom at the McCoy Field. After a brief discussion and explanation by Mayor Lang that the field is still under construction and is not officially open to the public, Dr. Finnerty withdrew his motion from the table.

Dr. Finnerty made a motion and Mrs. Ussach seconded it, to remove the request for approval of transfer of funds from the agendas. He indicated that the building principals should be able to make these decisions independently once the budget has been approved by the School Committee.

After a lengthy discussion regarding this motion, the Committee, by majority vote, ruled to eliminate "the requesting of" approval of transfer of funds from future agendas. Future transfer of funds will be included in the Business Manager's (Financial Report) section of the agenda. Attorney Clark voted against the motion.

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

- NBEA Negotiations update
- Personnel matter regarding reorganization

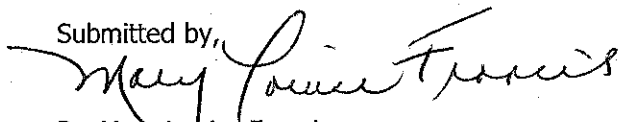
The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 - Absent

At 10:30 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