

<b>REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES</b>
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PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MS. POLLOCK, DR. FINNERTY, MR. NOBREGA, DR. FLETCHER,  
MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. SHEA, DR. LARKIN, MRS. DALY, DR. CARRIGO, MS. COSTA, MR. HASKELL  
MRS. DUNAWAY

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was absent.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to receive and place on file the following minutes:

- Regular Meeting – January 14, 2013

Supporting document 3

Barry Haskell, Interim Business Manager, gave the following update:

- Suggested site based budgeting where principals will be given responsibility for their budget
- Site based budgeting will be developed around teaching and learning
- This will bring a change in culture – set to start in FY 15
- Practices are being evaluated in Payroll, Human Resources and Business Operations
- Common practices are not innovative. They are already practiced in other communities.
- Hoping to set the stage for new Administrative Team.

To a questioned posed by Dr. Finnerty, Mr. Haskell responded that there is a new DESE rubric for Business Managers where budget decisions are based on student needs. Salaries and wages currently account for 75% - 80% of the budget. The School Department is a labor intensive organization where more personnel are needed, not less.

Supporting document 4A

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to receive and place on file the Business Office reports.

Ms. Costa gave an update to the Committee explaining the positions listed on the Personnel Report. At the current time, there are three principals retiring or resigning and 13 other notices of retirements/resignations have been received.

Postings for Administrators will go out shortly. The new Superintendent will be given the opportunity to be involved in the hiring process.

Supporting document 4B

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

## Superintendent's Report....

Mr. Shea informed the Committee that several committees were formed to look into ideas to improve education as follows:

- Change the present block scheduling at the high school to a more traditional seven period schedule
- Re-visit the present freshman academy
- Expand the arts education program
- Consider a Bridge Program with eighth grade students that are performing below grade level
- Address the needs of the family welcome center
- Expand the student learning time at the level four schools

Mr. Shea reviewed each proposal and said he was hopeful that they would be implemented in the near future.

Regarding block scheduling, Dr. Finnerty stated that the proposals do not need a vote by the School Committee. The decision is made by the administration out of respect to the staff that worked so hard to plan and prepare.

In addition to Mr. Shea, Christopher Costa, Asst. Headmaster at New Bedford High School, stated that there should not be a program tailored to freshman any longer, but rather, use the positive pieces of the current Freshman Academy for all grades. The freshman schedule will not be so restrictive in the future.

A discussion took place surrounding the implementation of appropriate scheduling and promoting better teacher/learner relationships. More professional development in that area should be implemented.

It was stated that expanding the arts program is essential for critical thinking and for educating our young people on what is available to them right here in New Bedford.

Regarding the Bridge Program – too many students are being retained in ninth grade. With the proposed Bridge Program, students needing help will be retained in an “eight plus” program as this should be addressed earlier and at the middle school level.

Family Welcome Center – Sites are being looked at.

Expanding Learning Time – Proposal being studied for students.

### Supporting document 4C

At this time, Mayor Mitchell spoke on several issues related to the Innovation Schools' proposals stating that the financial section and budget process needs to be completed and that the burden rests with the initiators of the Innovation Schools to build and establish a budget.

Dr. Finnerty suggested that the Committee be given the opportunity to ask the Administration and the initiators of the Innovation Schools questions before the future Public Hearings and a chance to review their proposed budget. Ms. Pollock suggested that a special meeting be held.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to require the budgets, for the proposed Innovations Schools, be submitted to the School Committee 10 days before the Public Hearings (to be announced).

Several members gave reports to the Committee.

Public Comment followed:

- Eddie Johnson – Environmental/Health Report – New Bedford High School
- Sandra Cunha – Esperanza Innovation School

Ms. Marissa Perez-Dormitzer of the Regional Refuse District picked the recycling contest winner – Hathaway School.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to grant Jane Jacobsen/Entrepreneurship Class/NBHS, permission to take 50 students and five chaperones to New York City, NY on Thursday, April 25, 2013, for a NYC Wholesale Buying Trip.  
Supporting document 7B

Mr. Shea recommended to the Committee that only a waiver of the rental fee be granted to the supporters of the New Bedford Idol contest. Due to the budget situation, the School Department is unable to grant a waiver of the custodial fees (\$1350).

Mr. Bruce Duarte, Sr., present at the meeting, told the Committee that the N.B. Idol group did not have the funds or the resources to pay the custodial fee. On a question by Ms. Pollock about possible fund raising, Mr. Duarte said they had tried to fund raise in the past but were unsuccessful and money gained from ticket sales at the final program is used to pay the Zeiterion Theatre and the D.J.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira, and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to follow the recommendation of the Superintendent and grant permission to City Council President Bruce Duarte, Jr., to use Keith Middle School auditorium on the following Saturdays: March 16, 23, 30, 2013 from 10:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. and the cafetorium at Normandin Middle School on the following Saturdays: April 13, 20, 27; May 4 and 11, 2013 from 4:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M. for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual New Bedford Idol singing competition, with a waiver of the rental fee only and further, to ask the City of New Bedford to pay the custodial fee. Supporting document 7C

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - No
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – No
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

5 – Yeas          2 – Nays          0 – Absent

Mayor Mitchell mentioned that he hoped that a solution could be worked out before the March 11, 2013 meeting.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to grant a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at New Bedford High School and Normandin Middle School. Supporting document 7D

Mayor Mitchell introduced Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria, President of Bridgewater State University and Chairperson of the Preliminary Superintendent Search Committee.

Pres. Mohler-Faria thanked members of the Search Committee and support staff. He then went on to announce to the School Committee that there was a good pool of candidates and the Search Committee voted unanimously to recommend the following candidates as finalists:

Dr. Kriner Cash– former Superintendent/Memphis City Schools in Memphis, TN  
Dr. Pia Durkin – present Superintendent of Schools in Attleboro, MA  
Dr. Stephen Zrike – present Chief of Elementary Schools in Chicago, IL

Pres. Mohler-Faria stated that all three candidates are very capable of leading the district. He felt confident that they could all be an effective leader who could bring about positive change. He also went on to comment that the Mayor understands the need to have clear leadership and that the Search Committee had great, non-political support during the process.

The Superintendent Search - *Preparation and Work Session* followed.

Mr. William Garr of Future Management Systems (FMS) addressed the Committee and said he and FMS are very pleased to present the candidates to the School Committee for public interviews on the following dates:

February 25 – Dr. Stephen Zrike  
February 26 – Dr. Pia Durkin  
February 27 – Dr. Kriner Cash

Each candidate will tour several schools and meet with staff and students on the day of the interviews. During the week of March 4, School Committee members (to be announced), will visit the candidates' districts.

On March 7, the Committee will meet to report on the candidates' profiles, highlighting their social, academic and leadership skills.

A vote on the appointment of the new Superintendent will take place at the Regular School Committee Meeting on March 11, 2013.

A Discussion ensued with regard to interviews on the site visits, the vetting process and questions to ask the candidates.

Mr. Garr distributed a document listing questions, based on the Leadership Profile that could be used to interview the candidates. Mr. Garr suggested that each member rate three questions in each category and send it back to him. When they are calculated, they will be sent back to the School Committee members. The same questions will be asked of each candidate.

To a question asked by the Committee, Mr. Garr answered that if a Committee member had a question of their own, they should first ask the general question, then add their own concern.

After a discussion, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to transmit their top three questions in each category, as listed, to Mr. Garr of Future Management Systems by Tuesday, February 19 and to have them returned by Mr. Garr by Thursday, February 21, 2013.

At 9:03 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session without returning to Open Session, for the purpose of discussions in regard to the following:

- Workers Compensation Issue
- Collective Bargaining

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas	0 – Nays	0 – Absent
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Submitted by,

Michael R. Shea  
Interim Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MRS/lpd