

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
--

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. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to receive and place on file the following minutes:

- Sub-Committee Meeting - Policy – October 25, 2013
- Sub-Committee Meeting – Finance – February 13, 2013
- Sub-Committee Meeting – Finance – March 11, 2013
- Special Meeting – Superintendent Search – March 8, 2013
- Special Meeting – Statements of Interest & Public Hearing/Innovation Schools – March 27, 2013

Supporting document 3

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

- Working to keep the budget deficit under \$3 million.
- Continuing to prepare for the FY14 budget with principals and directors
- Bus contract has gone out to bid
- Staff training has begun for integrated software program "MUNIS"
- Resumes are being received for the Business Manager position

Supporting document 4A

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to receive and place on file the Business Office report.

Ms. Costa, Human Resources Manager, explained that in light of the budget situation, the hiring process is being kept to a minimum. Applications for Administrative positions are currently being reviewed. Supporting document 4B

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

Superintendent's Report....

1) The district is currently applying for a School Redesign Grant for Hayden- McFadden Elementary School. A team of school and district staff has been working on the application, with assistance from District Management Council. If we are successful in getting an interview for the grant proposal, a representative from the School

Committee is requested to be part of the interview process. We believe this interview would take place the week of April 29th.

2) Parker School's Turnaround Plan is expiring at the end of this school year. Therefore, we are convening a Local Stakeholder's Group to develop a new Turnaround Plan for the school. The Local Stakeholder's Group consists of no more than 13 individuals to discuss recommendations on a Turnaround Plan. The group shall meet publicly, and the School committee chair and/or his designee are needed for this group. A tentative first meeting date is Tuesday, April 23 from 3:30-4:30 at Parker Elementary School.

Supporting document 4C

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock to receive and place on file the Superintendent's report.

Student representative gave his report.

Public Comment:

No one signed up for Public Comment.

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

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to take items 6C and 6D out of order.

Scott Durkee, Director of the Energy Office/City of New Bedford, addressed the Committee regarding a request from CES NBHS Solar, LLC (ConEd Solutions) for a license approval to locate and install a Solar Generation Facility between the two parking lots north of New Bedford High School. The site license is needed to place solar panes in the ground between the north parking lots at New Bedford High School and the Hetland Skating Rink. If the School Committee approves, it will then go before the City Council.

Mr. Durkee explained, on a question by Mr. Oliveira, that the panels will be self contained with a fence and security cameras. The School Department will secure the area, liability will rest with ConEd Solutions. Mr. Livramento asked the cost to the School Department in which Mr. Durkee answered that there would be no cost. Ms. Pollock questioned what the area would look like. Mr. Durkee said the area would be six to eight feet with a crushed stone surface.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted to approve a request from CES NBHS Solar, LLC (ConEd Solutions) for a license approval to locate and install a Solar Generation Facility between the two parking lots north of New Bedford High School.

Supporting document 6C

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

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve a request from Marcia Faucher/Principal/Carlos Pacheco School, for permission to take 10 students and two chaperones on an airplane trip with Dr. & Mrs. Jacobs, on May 13, 2013, to visit Mystic Seaport and Aquarium in Mystic, CT.

Supporting document 6D

The 2013/2014 School Calendar was presented to the School Committee. Dr. Finnerty asked if Dr. Pia Durkin, Superintendent elect, and Louis St. John, President of the New Bedford Educators Association, had been given a copy to review. Mr. Shea mentioned that Dr. Durkin had not been given a copy and Mr. St. John did not see the final draft. Dr. Finnerty asked if it would be disruptive to not release the calendar at this time. Mr. Shea mentioned that private schools and other outside agencies, such as daycares, were inquiring about the schedule for next year.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to table a request to approve the 2013/2014 School Calendar.

Supporting document 6E

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, 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 Taylor School. Supporting document 6F

Laura Richane, Turnaround Monitoring Coordinator and Patricia Williams, Plan Monitor, from the Center for District and School Accountability/Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, presented the Quarterly Progress Report: December, 2012 – February 2013.

The summary is as follows:

The New Bedford Public Schools have been working on gathering, assembling, and distributing data on student progress. District administration and principals now need to provide professional development and embedded support to enable teachers to respond to the instructional needs the data reveals. This will require ample district support and direction for both principals and teachers. A great deal of work remains to be done.

Next Steps:

- Complete plans for curriculum development, train teachers regarding new curricula and endure its implementation.
- Maintain the momentum on gathering and analyzing data.
- Since efforts to date to improve student achievement at the high school do not appear adequate based on district learning walk results and ninth grade Galileo result, determine what additional changes are required.
- Build the capacity of data teams to focus schools' efforts on addressing assessment results.
- Address the district's need to implement writing across the curriculum.
- Continue to support, guide and monitor the work of the instructional performance specialists.

At this time Mayor Mitchell announced that individual School Committee members would have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the Innovation Schools.

In regard to the Esperanza Innovation School, Mayor Mitchell cautioned that there were too many unanswered questions relating to the budget, transportation, Special Education, retro-fitting of Roosevelt and no clarification on the curriculum. He felt that at this time he would have to vote "no".

On the Renaissance Innovation School proposal, Mayor Mitchell stated that he will vote "yes". The Gomes School is not performing well and teetering on Level 4 status. They need to do something different. Gomes School is too large and by introducing the Innovation School, they will split the school enrollment in half. There will be no transportation issues and the longer school day will be a good thing. This will be different than a Charter School in the way children are chosen. Mayor Mitchell went on to say that if the District doesn't make their own changes, more Charter Schools will come to New Bedford. Change has to come from the bottom up as well as the top down and need involvement from everyone for the betterment of the City.

Dr. Finnerty stated that he is not in favor of Charter Schools as it is a private school funded by public money. Charter Schools only accept some, not all. Dr. Finnerty went on to mention that there are other programs within New Bedford Public Schools that offer different curriculums based on student needs. A new model of service delivery may serve to support expansion to the whole district.

Mr. Oliveira maintained that the district should use the resources it has to serve as many students as possible. He went on to commend the two teams for their hard work in developing the comprehensive proposals but felt that Dr. Durkin, the Superintendent elect, should be given the opportunity to assess the district and set the tone for the change that is needed.

Dr. Fletcher said he was against housing K – Gr. 2 students in a middle school setting due to potential safety issues and not in favor of putting a school within a school that will only serve half the students with a special curriculum.

Ms. Pollock stated that NBPS is not doing well and not progressing. Gomes School may be the next on the list to be declared a Level 4 school. We are in a crisis situation; therefore the new Superintendent will have to make changes system-wide. She gave examples of other schools having special programs such as the Magnet Schools, the Engineering Academy at the High School, and Pulaski School's special education programs. Ms. Pollock also mentioned that the Innovation Schools will show the state that we are serious about changing.

Mr. Livramento said that he recognizes that we will have to make changes with approving Innovation Schools and disagreed that only some students will benefit from these programs. He said there will be a fair method of choosing students as they all will be given equal opportunity to be part of the Renaissance Innovation School. He went on to say that both language groups of the Esperanza Innovation School will be respected as valued members of the community. Mr. Livramento said the system is struggling with change, therefore we need to offer choices to families and give students the best education we can give.

At this time, Mayor Mitchell called for a roll call vote of the Committee to approve the Esperanza Innovation School for Language and Culture:

A vote was taken as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – No	Dr. Fletcher – No
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – No	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - No	
3 – Yeas	4 – Nays
	0 – Absent

At this time, Mayor Mitchell asked for a roll call vote of the Committee to approve the Renaissance School for the Arts:

A vote was taken as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – No
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – No	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - No	
4 – Yeas	3 – Nays
	0 – Absent

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to grant a request from the New Bedford City Council/Councillor Steven Martins, that the School Committee consider granting permission to the Fernandes and Friends Soccer Team to use the soccer field at Roosevelt Middle School on April 14 & 21, May 5 & 12 and June 2, 2013, with a waiver of the rental fee only. Custodial fee to be paid by the organization.

At 8:15 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session without returning to Open Session, for the purpose of discussions in regard to the following:

- Level III grievance – New Bedford Federation of Paraprofessionals, Local 2378
- Non-union personnel negotiations

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

Submitted by,



Michael R. Shea
Interim Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee

MRS/lpd