

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. OLIVEIRA, MR. AMARAL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. LIVRAMENTO,
MR. NOBREGA, MS. POLLOCK

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording
Secretary)

Student Representative, Katherine Gomes, was in attendance.

Pamela Oliveira and Nelson Rodrigues, teachers at New Bedford High School, were recognized for their accomplishment of being two of 32 teachers across the state to receive the partners in Excellence for Education Award by Mass Insight.

Approval of Minutes:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the following minutes as presented (Supporting documents-3):

- Policy Sub Committee – March 19, 2015
- Facilities Sub Committee- April 6, 2015
- Finance Sub Committee – April 6, 2015
- Regular Meeting – April 13, 2015

Superintendent's Report (Dr. Durkin): (Supporting documents labeled "4A")

- Introductions of new Principals/Administrators:
 - Dr. Paula Bailey – Keith Middle School
 - Mr. Daniel Bossolt – Roosevelt Middle School
 - Ms. Maria Reidy – Brooks Elementary School
 - Mr. Joshua Almeida – DeValles Elementary School
 - Ms. Debra Letendre – Turnaround Manager
 - Ms. Lynn Dessert – Parker Elementary School
 - Ms. Darcie Aungst – Congdon Elementary School
 - Ms. Celeste Hoeg – Pacheco Elementary School
 - Ms. Elizabeth Correia – Swift Elementary School
 - Mr. Manny Vieira – Hayden McFadden Elementary School (Assistant Principal)
 - Mr. Andrew O'Leary – Assistant Business Manager

Dr. Durkin informed the Committee that four more administrators would be appointed soon including principals at Campbell, Taylor and Winslow Schools and the Director of STEM/Math.

- EOS Healthy Start Awards - Ms. Christy Mach Dube from the EOS Foundation addressed the Committee. She announced that five schools in the district received Healthy Start Awards for having 80% or higher school breakfast participation. The schools included Kempton, Hannigan, Swift, Hathaway and Parker Elementary Schools. Ms. Dube also went on to list the benefits including academic, attendance, financial and time on learning. Each school received a \$500 unrestricted Healthy Award Grant.
- Expanded Learning Time Grant (ELT) – Dr. Durkin announced that Gomes Elementary School was one of only four schools in the state to receive a grant which will provide funds to extend the school year and school day for students. Dr. Durkin also mentioned that Hannigan Elementary would receive a grant in the amount of \$120,804 for their after school program.
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) – Dr. Durkin announced and Dr. Bailey explained that Winslow Elementary School received re-accreditation for their early childhood program that represents high quality in early childhood education.
- Update: English Language Learners (ELL) – Identification Protocol – Ms. Sonia Walmsley, ELL and Welcome Center Manager gave a presentation on ELL Student Identification as follows:

English Language Learner (ELL) Student Percentages of Overall Enrollment for NBPS:

- 2012: 5%
- 2013: 5%
- 2014: 6%
- 2015: 19%

Initial Identification

November 2012

STATE FINDINGS

- Inconsistencies in how students were identified.
- Procedures were not always followed.
- No evidence of the qualification of staff who conduct the assessments.
- Student records did not contain all ELL assessments.
- Parker School without identified ELLs.

December 2013

DISTRICT FINDINGS

- Registration in seven places.
- NBPS PK students were not language screened.
- Lack of an updated home language survey, a written protocol & procedures, and ELL Student Record System.
- No professional development training for staff who conduct the assessments.
- ELL students exited early

Current Student Identification Process

- Administer the Home Language Survey (HLS).
- Assess English proficiency based on HLS.
- Determine whether the student is an ELL using screening test results (MODEL, W-APT) to make initial placement decisions.
- Notify parents of the test results and inform their rights: Parent Notification Letter.
- Provide check and balances to ensure proper identification.
- Code all ELL students in Student Information Management System (SIMS).

Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners (RETELL) Initiative

Initiatives leading to ELL student development:

- World Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) – English Language Development Standards
- ACCESS – for ELLs Assessment
- SEI Endorsement (Sheltered English Instruction)

Student Identification Taskforce

- Administrators collected Home Language Surveys.
- Teachers identified ELLs & report to Principals.
- Analyze additional student data of students struggling in Reading and/or Writing (MCAS test results, grades, etc.) – Safety Precautions.
- Assess English language proficiency of “possible” ELL students with screening tools.
- Notify parents of test results and their rights.

ELL Staffing to Meet ELL Program Requirements based on DESE Review (3-year Plan)

- Number of ESL Teachers in Year 1 (FY14): High School – 9; Middle School – 6; Elementary – 8
- Number of Additional ESL Teachers Needed: High School – 2; Middle School – 2; Elementary - 31

Dr. Finnerty asked Ms. Walmsley what information is asked on the survey. Ms. Walmsley responded that there are several key questions: “Does a parent speak another language?” and “Is the student exposed to another language?” Parents are interviewed to see how close the student is to a babysitter or grandparent that speaks another language. Dr. Durkin stated that a full audit was done in 2012. Many students were not identified and there was an inconsistency in identifying them. Dr. Finnerty cautioned that tests may be subjective and assessments may be done too early.

Mr. DeFalco stated that New Bedford has one of the lowest percentages of identified students of any of the Gateway cities. Dr. Finnerty asked about the exit process. Ms. Walmsley responded that three goals had to be accomplished including passing English and math.

Ms. Pollock stated that as of 2012 students were very much misidentified and there was no follow up once they exited the program.

- Update: Preschool Programming – Diane Sullivan, Director of Early Childhood addressed the Committee with an update on the birth to Grade 3 Early Childhood initiative and gave a presentation outlining efforts to partner with stakeholders and families to help New Bedford children prepare to succeed in school, career and life. A summary of the project is as follows:

Intent / Purpose

To provide support to local communities to enhance their integrated and coordinated Birth to Third grade alignment efforts.

- Public schools Pre-K to third grade
- Private Early Education and Care Centers
- Birth to Age 3 service providers
- Community agencies

Development Phase

Developed a Leadership Alignment Team including: LEA (Public School), Community Connections Coalition, Early Education Providers, CFCE Council, GNB Early Literacy Consortium, NB Housing Authority, DCF, NB Art Museum, Artworks!, Early Intervention Programs, NB Public Library, United Way, Parents

Vision

With the support of a collaborative partnership of stakeholders and families, New Bedford children are prepared to succeed in school, career, and life.

Core strategies

#1 – to improve school readiness and interagency coordination

Survey – assessing need (Winter 2015)

Transition sub group (December 2014 –ongoing)

#2- to provide “joint” professional development experiences in the areas of:

Social Emotional Development (Fall 2014 and Fall 2015))

Literacy (Fall 2015)

Activities moving forward

Provide Literacy PD for Pre-K Teachers

- Cohort of Public School / non-public school teachers
- 8 – 2 hour sessions
- Coaching / Professional learning communities
- Assessment – collection of data relative to change in practice

Expansion of CSEFL Social /Emotional

- additional training for teachers, families, and community partners

Transition Efforts

- develop formal systems for information sharing
- strengthen outreach to families and community

Anticipated Outcomes

- Improved interagency coordination
- Improved school readiness for children entering Public School (Kindergarten)
- Improved outcomes for students in the areas of Literacy and Social Emotional Development
- Coordinated effort to develop strong Pre-K in NB.

Mr. DeFalco stated that the district must offer staff development, not only to our own teachers, but to external partners as well so all will strive to be aligned before students attend kindergarten. This cohort will include public and non-public school teachers.

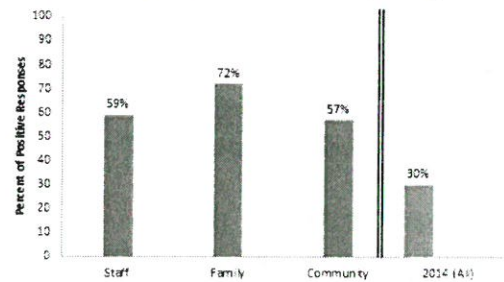
- Community Survey: Preliminary Report – Dr. Durkin explained that the survey was offered on paper as well as on line. Surveys were made available to community partners as well. The presentation is as follows:

Survey Participation*

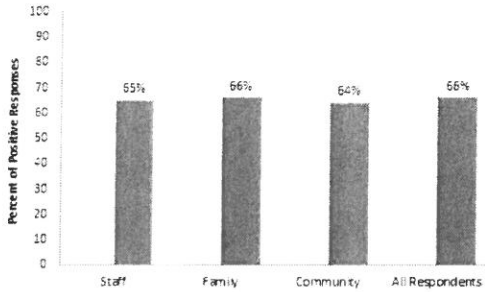
Participants	2014	2015
Staff	282	525
Family	411	2,486
Community Members/ Other stakeholders	163	118
Students	42	TBD
All	898	3,124

*As of 6/10/15 Surveys are still being processed so the 2015 numbers may increase

Overall, how much do you think the New Bedford Public Schools are improving?



Do you feel well informed about the turnaround effort for the New Bedford Public Schools?

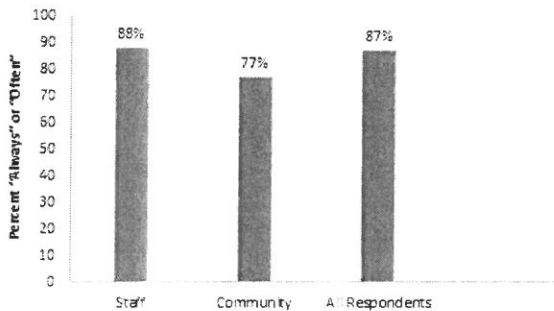


High Level Overview: Staff

Survey Topic	Percentage Favorable Responses (Across Topic)
Expectations and Rigor	84%
Professional Development	70%
Resources	38%
School Climate	64%
School Leadership	74%
Supportive Relationships	73%

Central Office Customer Service

When you contacted a school or district leader with a question or concern, s/he was courteous and listened to you.



2014-2015 Superintendent Goals

Goal	Result
By the end of the year, over 70% of families and community members who respond to a survey will demonstrate an understanding of the overall vision and changes of direction for New Bedford Public Schools.	66% of respondents indicated they felt well informed about New Bedford's turnaround efforts.
There will be a 10% increase in survey participation.	Participation rates increased by more than 300% : from 898 to 3,124 and counting.
Using the Guiding Coalition Team (GCT) as the driver for improved customer service, the central office will increase its overall satisfaction rating to over 70%.	87% of respondents reported that they received quality customer service from school and district leaders.

Dr. Durkin stated that the results will be tabulated by school for trends and to be used as a tool for improvement. Mr. Livramento suggested that in the future, surveys be made available in more places. Ms. Pollock asked if the survey could be made more specific and by grade level.

Business Office Report (Dr. Rabinovitch): (Supporting documents labeled "4B")

Dr. Rabinovitch informed the Committee that the second payment was made in regard to the Unit A and Unit B contracts and budget transfers helped to pay for the first payment of EnVision Math and second payment for Reading Street, Middle School Social Studies and Literature books. Also, payments were made to take care of safety issues and to upgrade/maintain technology.

- Finances: In the process of getting final bills to be paid
- FY Expense for Schools show 87.64% spent
- FY Expense for Departments shows 93.1% spent
- Transfer report - Dr. Rabinovitch, on the recommendation from the Finance Committee, requested several transfers of funds.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento to approve the following budget transfers:

Finance Committee June									
41039551	2340	540005	Normandin Classroom Supplies	4103308	2410	580008	Normandin Textbooks	13,995.97	Math textbooks
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	2063066	9400	522210	Tuition Sped Collaborative High	50,000.00	New Sped Student

50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	2063056 2	9300	522210	Tuition Sped Out of State High	50,000.00	New Sped Student
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	2543544 1	4450	520004	Tech Maintenance Contracted Svs	225,090.00	To cover maintenance contracts
4533150	2410	540005	Carney workbooks	4533340	3310	520004	Carney Late Bus Transportation	2,805.00	to cover late bus transportation for remainder of sy
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1033080	2410	580008	Ashley Textbooks	65,060.09	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1533080	2410	580008	Brooks Textbooks	19,921.63	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	2033080	2410	580008	Campbell Textbooks	16,773.82	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	4533080	2410	580008	Carney Textbooks	50,253.09	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	4033080	2410	580008	Congdon Textbooks	19,280.91	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	5033080	2410	580008	DeValles Textbooks	34,094.28	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	6333080	2410	580008	Gomes Textbooks	49,818.25	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	7033080	2410	580008	Hannigan Textbooks	19,692.59	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	7533080	2410	580008	Hathaway Textbooks	28,843.13	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	7833080	2410	580008	Hayden McFadden Textbooks	24,341.31	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	8533080	2410	580008	Kempton Textbooks	30,020.80	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	9533080	2410	580008	Lincoln Textbooks	55,922.90	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1053308 0	2410	580008	Pacheco Textbooks	30,187.65	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1153308 0	2410	580008	Parker Textbooks	9,340.30	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1233308 0	2410	580008	Pulaski Textbooks	45,185.45	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1253308 0	2410	580008	Rodman Textbooks	9,016.66	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1303308 0	2410	580008	Swift Textbooks	18,634.58	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1353308 0	2410	580008	Taylor Textbooks	13,811.10	Reading Street
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	1403308 0	2410	580008	Winslow Textbooks	19,620.06	Reading Street
50531250	2305	540005	High School Home Ed Supplies	5053844 0	3600	520004	High School Security	4,600.00	Police Detail for the remainder of the year
50530850	2305	540005	High School Business Ed Supplies	5053844 0	3600	520004	High School Security	160.00	Police Detail for the remainder of the year
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	2543544 1	4450	520004	Tech Maintenance Contracted Svs	117,535.00	to cover maintenance contracts
50530850	2430	540005	High School Business Ed Supplies	5053844 0	3600	520004	High School Security	154.00	Police Detail for the remainder of the year
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	4103308 0	2410	580008	Normandin Textbooks	1,038.00	Textbook order Social Studies
50539510	2305	511110	High School Certificated Salaries	4053308 0	2410	580008	Keith Textbooks	22,189.00	Textbook order Social Studies

- MSBA: Hannigan School – the MSBA will vote whether to allow this project to move forward at its August board meeting.
- NBHS Grant Conversion Project – the high school switched to a new network which has upgraded the wireless capacity throughout the school; surveillance cameras have been installed; the new telephone system is not totally operational but is being worked on and tested; phase two of the swimming pool project will commence after school lets out, this includes the locker rooms and filtration system; new alarm system will be worked on also
- Taylor at Sea Lab – Board approved giving a PFA to New Bedford for the project.
- Window upgrades at five elementary schools will done during the summer of 2016

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the Business Office Report.

Personnel Report (Ms. Emsley): (Supporting documents labeled "7C")

Ms. Emsley reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. She reported that there were 18 new hires, 12 retirements, 12 resignations and four additional teacher substitutes since the last report in May.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to accept the Personnel Report.

Several members gave reports including Mr. Oliveira who gave a brief explanation of the instructions regarding the Superintendent's Evaluation. It was decided that the date would be moved up to May 28 to deliver the individual evaluations to him.

Student Representative gave her report.

Public Comment:

- Patricia Reynolds – Concerns regarding her child

New Business:

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to take Item 7 "Communications" out of order.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, motion was made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to receive and place on file a request from Henry Bousquet, Councillor Ward 3, New Bedford City Council, that the School Committee and Superintendent not close the Horatio Kempton Elementary School.

At this time the consideration of closing the Kempton Elementary School was before the Committee. Mr. Amaral stated that no one likes to see small schools close but the plan to combine Kempton with Rodman Elementary School will still keep it as a small neighborhood school.

Mr. Pollock stated that she received several calls, one being concern over transportation. She stated that with planning, there will be a shuttle and thanked Dr. Rabinovitch and Mr. Bruce Oliveira.

Mr. Livramento acknowledged that there is attachment to the school and stated that it is a difficult change but is confident, that with support, students will transition well.

Dr. Finnerty commented that the District cannot sustain a school of 80 students. The closing is unfortunate but necessary.

On the motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to close the Horatio A. Kempton School at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Mayor Mitchell added that cost is not the only reason to close the school. He noted that Dr. Durkin gave good educational reasons, such as grade level teacher collaboration. He stated that he planned to vote in favor of closing the school but the City will make sure that the building will be put to good use after gathering input from the neighborhood.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes

Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes

Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7– Yeas

0 – Nays

0 – Absent

End-of-Cycle Superintendent’s Summative Evaluation – Mr. Oliveira explained the process as follows:

On Monday, May 11, 2015, the New Bedford School Committee met, as part of the Regular School Committee meeting, and discussed the final process issues and scoring procedures for Dr. Pia Durkin’s End-Of-Year Summative Evaluation. At that time, Dr. Durkin presented an overview of the format for her evaluation and provided each member with a coded evidence binder of pertinent documentation. I, as Vice Chairman and as evaluation aggregator, explained members’ responsibilities in rating all agreed-upon areas of the three (3) goals, four (4) standards and 12 indicators. At the meeting, all members received their individual evaluation reports with instructions to complete the process, without consultation. All evaluations were to be turned in by May 28.

All seven members of the committee evaluated Dr. Durkin for the period from July 1, 2014 – until the date of their evaluation in May of 2015. In the aggregate, committee members rated Dr. Durkin’s overall summative performance as PROFICIENT.

Mayor Mitchell thanked Dr. Durkin for her organization when preparing the evidence and the Committee for their thoughtful assessment.

Dr. Finnerty thanked the Committee for going through the evidence provided by Dr. Durkin and giving constructive feedback. Dr. Finnerty also suggested that the Committee enter into discussions with the Superintendent to consider changing the evaluation date and timeline to coincide with the release of current data to use when evaluating the Superintendent on the “student learning goals”.

At this time, the appointment of Ms. Kimberli Bettencourt was discussed.

On the motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted to appoint Kimberli Bettencourt as the Executive Director of Special Education and Student Services.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7– Yeas

0 – Nays

0 – Absent

On a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to appoint, in accordance with M.G.L. ch71 sec 53, Dr. Nancy Langhans as the New Bedford Public Schools Consulting School Physician. (Dr. Langhans will be replacing Dr. Bernard Portnoy who is retiring.)

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Livramento - Yes
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to table and move to second reading, an addendum related to Policy KG-R: Athletic Artificial Turf Fields.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to approve a request to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at Campbell School.

At 8:45 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, for the following purposes (with intent to return to Open Session):

- Update: Lease Agreement with the New Bedford Bay Sox
- Items under litigation
- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with union personnel
 - Unit A – New Bedford Educators Association
 - Paraprofessionals
- To discuss strategies with respect to negotiations with non-union personnel
 - Superintendent’s Contract

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

At 10:12 P.M. the Committee returned to Open Session. (In Dr. Durkin’s absence, Mr. DeFalco called the roll.)

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to table consideration of a Lease Agreement with the New Bedford Bay Sox.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to ratify a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) between the New Bedford School Committee and Unit A of the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. with regard to starting the 2015-16 school year prior to Labor Day.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to approve of the 2015-16 School Calendar listing September 2, 2015 as the first day of school for students.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
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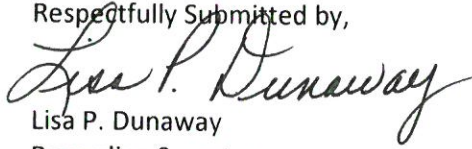
Ms. Pollock – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Mr. Livramento - Yes
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

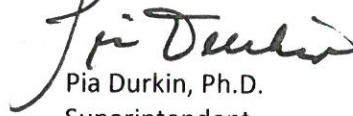
At 10:16 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Pia Durkin, Ph.D.
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee