

**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, MR. O’LEARY, MRS. DUNAWAY
(Recording Secretary)

Student Representative, Katherine Gomes, was in attendance.

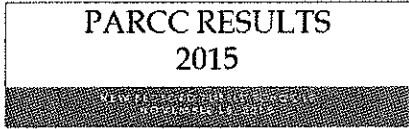
Approval of Minutes: (Supporting documents labeled “3”)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to accept the following meeting minutes as presented:

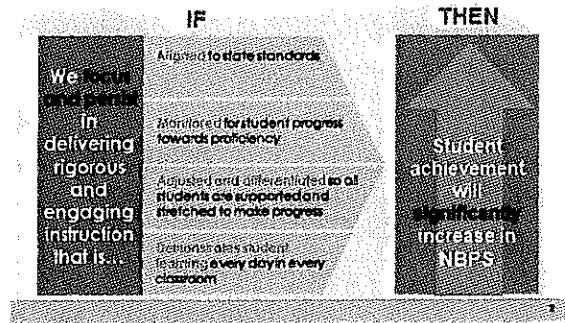
- Budget Working Session: April 28, 2015
- Budget Working Session: May 4, 2015
- Budget Working Session: May 6, 2015
- Special Meeting and Budget Working Session: June 4, 2015
- Finance Sub Committee Meeting: September 10, 2015
- Transportation Sub Committee Meeting: September 10, 2015
- Regular Meeting September 21, 2015

Superintendent’s Report (Dr. Durkin): (Supporting documents labeled “4A”)

- Dr. Durkin introduced Dr. Jessica Hedges, newly appointed Director of ELA and Humanities
- Dr. Durkin and Mr. DeFalco gave a presentation on the district PARCC results for 2015. Dr. Durkin explained that it represents a point in progress and is not the end of the journey but it is a point where we can validate and celebrate the work that has been happening over the past several years. When asked what three things have contributed to the growth in NBPS, they are:
 1. Leadership – principals and administrators
 2. Curriculum – Teaching the right things; embracing the Massachusetts Standards and embracing PARCC testing as opposed to MCAS
 3. Instruction – Teachers and support staff – delivery is different than the past and is a reinvention of how we do our work



THEORY OF ACTION



Dr. Durkin explained that PARCC is a much harder test. We can clearly make assumptions on where are students were and where they are today. The data is so late due to the fact that the DESE spent an extensive amount of time making sure that showing growth and achievement gains is clearly one where we can make those comparisons.

MEASURING PROGRESS

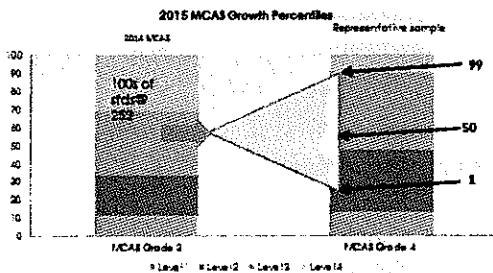
- Comparing MCAS with PARCC
- Composite Performance Index (CPI)
- Student Growth Percentile (SGP)

SCALES OF ACHIEVEMENT

PARCC Achievement Level	MCAS Score Range	MCAS Achievement Level	Score Range
Level 5	Exceeded Expectations	Advanced	260-280
Level 4	Met Expectations	Proficient	240-258
Level 3	Approached Expectations	Needs Improvement	220-238
Level 2	Partially Met Expectations		
Level 1	Did not meet Expectations	Warning/Failing	200-218

Mr. DeFalco explained the five levels of PARCC as opposed to the four levels of MCAS as shown above. Correlation was devised by the DESE.

STUDENT GROWTH PERCENTILES



2015 PARCC AND MCAS RESULTS STATEWIDE

Grade	English Language Arts			Mathematics		
	PARCC	MCAS	Difference	PARCC	MCAS	Difference
3	54%	60%	-6	55%	70%	-15
4	57%	53%	+4	47%	47%	0
5	63%	71%	-8	55%	67%	-12
6	60%	71%	-11	53%	62%	-9
7	60%	70%	-10	45%	51%	-6
8	64%	80%	-16	53%	60%	-7
All Grades	60%	68%	-8	52%	60%	-8

Mr. DeFalco explained that the chart on page 6, with the exception of Grade 4, illustrates the difficulty between tests statewide and underscores how PARCC is a harder exam vs MCAS. It is estimated that 50% of students statewide took PARCC and 50% took MCAS.

SO HOW DID NEW BEDFORD PERFORM?
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade	2014 (MCAS)	2015 (PARCC)	Difference	2015 (SOP)	2014 (SOP)	Difference
2	78.8	78.8	0	N/A	N/A	
3	71.0	68.1	-2.9	68.1	68	-0.1
5	79.1	78.7	-0.4	78	85	-7
6	79.8	78.3	-1.5	84	84	0
7	77.6	75.3	-2.3	81	78	-3
8	79.9	78.8	-1.1	83	82	-1
District	77.7	75.1	-2.6	81	80	-1

MATHEMATICS

Grade	2014 (MCAS)	2015 (PARCC)	Difference	2015 (SOP)	2014 (SOP)	Difference
2	78.8	78	-0.8	N/A	N/A	
4	71.1	68.5	-2.6	67	66	-1
5	71	70.2	-0.8	82	82.8	-0.8
6	73	70.2	-2.8	67	66	-1
7	86.6	84.4	-2.2	84	81	-3
8	82.9	81.9	-1	83	80	-3
District	69.5	67.2	-2.3	68	62	-6

Dr. Durkin stated that the DESE does not consider anything significant which is under 2.5. Composite scores went up 2.6 and in growth, New Bedford students out matched 51% of the students across the state who took the same test. This is very significant.

In math, it is not as significant but shows growth of +6.

Dr. Durkin pointed to a lack of a math program for not having more substantial growth.

To a question by Dr. Finnerty, Mr. DeFalco stated that the scores are sorted by district, school and student roster. It is not sorted by teacher or grade and teachers are not tracked or reported.

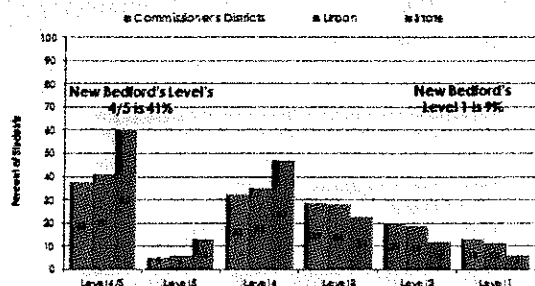
In response to a question by Mr. Oliveira, Mr. DeFalco and Dr. Durkin responded that teachers are still receiving professional development for the Reading Street program and the new EnVisions math program. There are Teaching and Learning Specialists to help with the day to day support and a consultant also visits classrooms to lend support.

ACHIEVEMENT RATES

Subject	2014 (MCAS)	2015 (PARCC)	Difference
Advanced/Proficient	45%	41%	-4%
Warning/Failing	16%	9%	-7% *

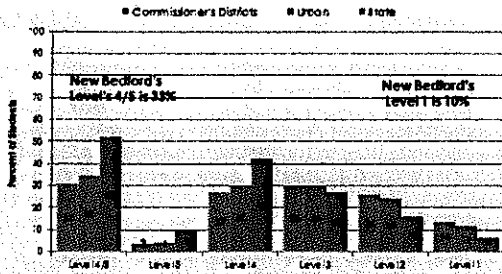
Subject	2014 (MCAS)	2015 (PARCC)	Difference
Advanced/Proficient	36%	33%	-3%
Warning/Failing	26%	10%	-16% *

SO HOW DO WE COMPARE?
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



Dr. Durkin explained how New Bedford compared to the Commissioner's Districts, the State and other Urban Districts.

MATHEMATICS



LOOKING AT OUR SUBGROUPS

EA - Students with Disabilities	Levels 4/5	Overall Percentage
NB	10% (-3)	47
USN	11%	
Math- SWD	Levels 4/5	
NB	10% (-1)	46
USN	10%	
EA- ELL	Levels 4/5	Overall Percentage
NB	21% (+9)	53
USN	11%	
Math- ELL	Levels 4/5	
NB	18% (+6)	49.5
USN	10%	

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS!

EA Growth Over 60	Mathematics Growth Over 10
Brooks	Brooks (over 60)
Comey	Comey (over 60)
DeVales	Hathaway
Games	Keith
Hannigan	Lincoln
Hathaway (over 60)	Pulaski (over 60)
Lincoln	Rodman
Pulaski (over 60)	Roosevelt
Rodman	Taylor (over 60)
Roosevelt	
Swift	
Taylor (over 60)	
Window	

WHAT WE KNOW AND WHAT'S NEXT?

- Validate the "good news" even with a much harder test!
- Use the results to review and adjust next steps
- Deep dive into "what's working?" what's not working?" Why or why not?"
- Continued review of classroom and supervisory practice
- More frequent "quick checks" and using the rigorous set of assessments
- Continued PD in literacy (year 2) and math (year 1)
- Prioritize resource needs for FY17 Budget

Dr. Durkin concluded that it is a work in progress with the district looking at what pieces can be adapted from one school/classroom to another.

Mayor Mitchell complimented all staff for helping to move the district forward stating that it is not an overnight exercise, but you can have confidence in the results as we are on the right track.

Dr. Durkin reiterated by praising the staff in the district for their efforts in reinventing itself and can lift their heads high. "Good job"!

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

Financial Statement

- Dr. Rabinovitch stated that the district is above the estimate for payroll for several weeks due to the payment of three separations of service payments totaling \$57,000.
- The Department's General Expense Budget Report and Schools' General Expense Budget Report accounts are where we would expect them.

Dr. Finnerty asked Dr. Rabinovitch about the status of the crossing guards. Dr. Rabinovitch responded that the district is in need of eight more. Peter Cabral, Safety Officer, and Sgt. Ortega did the training and all crossing guards were issued reflective vests. The job pays \$10 for five hours per week.

To a question by Mr. Livramento, Dr. Rabinovitch responded that 16 traffic areas of concern have been identified and the district is doing the best it can but some parents cross their children where it is more convenient rather than where it is safe.

Transfer of Funds

- The request to transfer funds comes forward to allow schools make necessary purchases of goods and services.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve the following budget transfers (from the Finance Sub Committee):

REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS										
Org	Func	Obj	Description	Org	Func	Obj	Description	Amount	Reason	School or Department
FOR APPROVAL:										
13533080	2410	580008	Taylor Textbooks	13539510	2304	511480	Teacher OT Taylor	2,500.00	Extra teacher bus duty due to increase in students using bus	Taylor
41533080	2410	580008	Roosevelt Textbooks	41537810	3520	511110	After School Club Stipends	10,000.00	To fund after school programs	Roosevelt
13533080	2410	580008	Taylor Textbooks	13538440	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Taylor	2,064.00	To pay for lease of a copy machine	Taylor
04533340	3301	520004	Carney Late Bus	04539561	2240	521050	Carney Other Instr Serv	3,000.00	To cover the cost of Zeiterion Field Trips Admission	Carney
11533151	2415	540005	Library Parker Workbooks	22032931	2325	511110	Substitute teacher	19,425.00	Permanent Substitute	Parker
01535450	2430	540005	Brooks Classroom Supplies	01538442	3600	520004	School Security Brooks Serv	427.52	Police Detail	Brooks
02039540	4230	520004	Maintenance of Equipment	02038441	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Campbell	1,500.00	To cover lease of a new copy machine	Campbell
02039550	2430	540005	Classroom Supplies	02038441	5300	520004	Lease of Equipment Campbell	542.94	To cover lease of a new copy machine	Campbell

MSBA

1. The Hannigan project is continuing on schedule with various work groups meeting weekly.
 - There was a furniture and equipment meeting on November 12 and a Building Committee meeting is scheduled for November 18.
2. Taylor at Sea Lab
 - The General Contractor has been chosen and a contract is being prepared.
3. Elementary School Window Replacement Project (five)
 - The designer held a work meeting today, Tuesday, November 10, 2015.
 - A pre-meeting was held with the ESCO Company to coordinate these programs.
 - The schematic design and scope of work is being prepared for submittal to MSBA by December 8, 2015.

Capital Improvement Bonds

- The pool work at NBHS is finished.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Livramento, to accept the Business Office Report.

Personnel Report (Mr. DeFalco) (Supporting document labeled "4C")

Mr. DeFalco reviewed the personnel report with the Committee. He reported that there were 26 new hires, three retirements and four resignations since the last report in October. Also, there are 16 teaching vacancies district wide.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Amaral, to accept the Personnel Report.

Mr. Oliveira reported that resolutions 1-6 brought forth at the Massachusetts Association of School Committees' annual business meeting on November 4, 2015 were passed. The Tax Reform ballot question (7) was not.

Resolutions:

1. High School Starting Times
2. Poverty and Children
3. Tying Test Scores to Ch. 70 Funding
4. Placement Programs for Homeless Students
5. School Committee Membership on the Board of Education
6. Assessments for Kindergarten Students
7. Tax Reform Ballot Question

Student Representative gave her report.

Public Comment:

- Pat Reynolds – Wants earlier transportation for her child/other school concerns

Old Business:

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to move the approval of the Superintendent's Goals which were tabled on October 21, 2015.

Dr. Durkin explained that edits* (3) were made to clarify goals previously presented to the Committee on October 21, 2015. The Superintendent's Goals for 2015-16 reflect the district's Accelerated Improvement Plan (AIP) and are listed as follows:

Student Learning Goal:

The district's goal is for all schools to achieve a 40% reduction in number of students not proficient or advanced in literacy and math. Schools will also stretch toward moving 10% more students to the advanced level.

This ambitious goal sets a bar that we all strive toward. For schools that do not reach the goal, we will still be looking closely for indicators of progress:

- average SGP of 60 or higher
- moving at least 10% of students out of warning level
- **a 20% increase in the rate of passing scores (3 or higher) on Advanced Placement exams*

Professional Practice Goal:

- a) Extensive and ongoing coaching and supervisory practice using district tools with principals, particularly new principals that will result in their development as strong instructional leaders and competent operational managers through clear indicators of measurable growth.
- b) Conditions for a positive and safe school climate will be reviewed indicated by: school-wide understanding of expected behaviors and responsibilities, development of a tiered intervention system, and an effective school-wide climate committee involving all stakeholders. Data points will be collected for PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention System) which is in the process of being implemented at Keith, Roosevelt, and Normandin through a tiered system of school supports.

District Improvement Goals:

- 1) By the end of the year, 100% of evaluators will be demonstrating improvement in providing growth-producing feedback to those they supervise through the quality of their observations, coaching cycle work plans, and overall use of the educator evaluation tool to improve teacher performance.
- 2) Both student achievement and wellness will be enhanced through purposeful strategic partnerships and a focus on innovation in reaching excellence.
- 3) **The FY17 Budget will be devised and proposed according to agreed-upon timelines emphasizing the need for accelerated improvement so that increased teaching and learning resources and increased time on learning will be realized while increasing operational efficiencies to make the most of city, state, and federal resources as approved by the School Committee.*
- 4) By the end of the year, over 70% of families and community members who respond to a survey will demonstrate a favorable response concerning the overall direction of New Bedford Public Schools.
 - a.) There will be a 10% increase in survey participation.
 - b.) Over 50% of students surveyed in Grades 6-12 will positively assert that they feel connected to the adults in their school.
 - c.) **Over 80% of families/caregivers will positively view their children's schools as welcoming and safe.*

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve the Superintendent's Goals as presented.

Mr. Amaral explained to the Committee that he has given considerable thought about the impact Charter Schools have on NBPS. Charters do not have to serve some students and can send students back to NBPS at will. Charters do not offer anything new or innovative that NBPS doesn't offer. Ms. Pollock added that she can understand parents' concerns and if they feel they don't know enough about NBPS. Financially, Charters

should have their own line item in the state budget and not take away resources from education here, including what is needed for ELL and Sped.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to follow the recommendation by Committee member, Joshua Amaral, to send a letter to the New Bedford legislative delegation asking that they work to maintain the cap on Charter Schools in the Commonwealth, considering the myriad of detrimental impacts to New Bedford Public Schools.

Ms. Coelho, Headmaster of NBHS, explained the revised attendance policy for New Bedford High School. She explained that the policy was adjusted to coincide with updated programs and structure at the school. She responded to a question by Mr. Oliveira that the former student information system, IPass, could not administer the policy, but the new system, ASPEN, can.

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to waive the second reading and amend policy JENBH – New Bedford High School Attendance Policy (Reviewed and approved by the Policy Sub Committee). (Supporting document 7B)

The Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, to approve a request from Superintendent, Dr. Pia Durkin, to attend the 13th Annual District Management Council’s Superintendents’ Strategy Summit-2016, in New York City from January 13-15, 2016. (Expenses paid by DMC) (Supporting document 7C)

At 7:50 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session without returning to Open Session.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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