



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, MA
Monday, May 10, 2021
6:00 P.M.

This Meeting was fully remotely in accordance with the Governor of Massachusetts' March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G. L. c. 30A, Section 20.

PRESENT: MAYOR JON MITCHELL, MR. BRUCE OLIVEIRA, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL, MS. COLLEEN DAWICKI, MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: MR. CHRISTOPHER COTTER, MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. MARJORIE FERNANDES, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ARTHUR MOTTA, MS. JENNIFER CARLING, MS. NADIA ABOUCHANAB (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE 2020-2021), SYDNI COLSON (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE 2021-2022), CYNTHIA TORRES (ALTERNATIVE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE 2021-2022)

1. *CALL TO ORDER*

2. *ROLL CALL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS*

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

3. *PUBLIC HEARING-2022 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET*

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to OPEN the Public Hearing for the New Bedford Public School (NBPS) 2022 Fiscal Year Budget Hearing

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

Superintendent Anderson started with stating NBPS priorities have remained the same and balancing the health and safety needs of students and staff while working to ensure their academic programming remains strong. He reminded the Committee that the focus remains on access with equity, standards-based/grade appropriate tasks and assignments, effective instruction, and deep student engagement. He shared NBPS thinks about access and mindset, and as the budget is built this need is kept in the forefront when planning. He stated that when looking at leverage

points, NBPS needs to make sure the middle schools are receiving the level of supports needed: Foreign Language, Algebra I, Civics Education, Dual Enrollment and International Baccalaureate Programs. He included a brief review of NBPS key investments: Additional and School-Wide Internet Access, Munis, Microsoft 365, ASPEN, E-Plus-Cisco VoIP, TeachPoint, West Interactive, School Dude and Frontline AESOP. As well as, the continued and focused investments for NBPS. He went on to review the human capital investments that are being built upon and shared some comparisons in where NBPS stands in comparison to other districts within: Operations, Pupil Services, Administration, Instructional Leadership, Guidance and Counseling, and Professional Development.

The Superintendent asked Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations, Mr. Andrew O’Leary to present the FY 2022 budget information to the Committee. Mr. O’Leary explained the process of determining a target balanced budget that matches the Net School Spending figure. He then reviewed the salary and wages and general expenses that consist within the total budget number. Mr. O’Leary gave a breakdown of the salary and wages which included: administration instructional, pupil transportation, parent liaison, health & security, operations and maintenance, tech, separation, insurance and adult education. He included a breakdown of the categories within the general expense account. He shared that the Committee vote is the same as prior years, one vote for Net School Spending, one for Non-Net School Spending and a vote for the total combined. Committee member, Mr. Bruce Oliveira asked, if on salary and wages the graph is showing 65% and normally it is in the 75% range. He wanted to know if there was something done to reflect this change. Mr. O’Leary explained that beginning this past school year NBPS is now picking up the health insurance expense that was previously taken up by the city.

Member, Mr. Joshua Amaral asked the Superintendent in the budget presented, he would like to know if he could summarize the new investments. The Superintendent shared that new investments focus on strengthening the investments that were made during the past couple years in facilities projects, and instructional technology positions. Mr. Amaral asked about the Manager Educator Quality positions as listed in the FY22 Budget book. The Superintendent shared that five of the elementary schools do not have Assistant Principals. This position at these schools would aid the Principal from classroom observations leading to evaluation with additional building support for the elementary Principal who has none. Deputy Superintendent, Ms. Karen Treadup added that Interventionist positions will be added to all the elementary schools to help with the increased gap this past year and will work directly with students. The Superintendent added that paraprofessional positions are being increased based on the evaluation of what level of support needs to happen in the classroom and not just adding positions for the sake of it (other i.e. Technology, Building Maintenance). Committee Vice Chair, Ms. Colleen Dawicki asked what early education would look like the fall of the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Treadup stated an expansion of additional Pre-K classrooms and the 4 ½ day school week for these students will continue with some students having full days due to their needs (i.e. students on IEP’s).

The Superintendent closed out the budget presentation by reviewing the current graduation rate growth and the progress NBPS English language learners and special needs populations have made with NBPS’s investments in education and answered a few questions from the Committee members.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to CLOSE the Public Hearing for the NBPS 2022 Fiscal Year Budget.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

Budget Hearing was closed at 7:01 PM.
Regular Meeting started at 7:04 PM.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the March 8, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the April 12, 2021 regular meeting minutes as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

5. *STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT*

Student Representative, Ms. Nadia Abouchanab shared updates with the Committee and included some of the following:

- MCAS for the 10th graders will begin on May 10th through May 14th.
- Student Advisory Committee held a clean-up day on April 24th and 22 students and teachers participated.
- District-wide Visual Art Show on May 13th on NBPS social media
- Jazz Band will be performing at the Rotch Jones Duff House on May 20th.

Upon completion of her student report, Ms. Abouchanab thanked the School Committee for the opportunity to participate in the meetings during her Senior year, she is graduating and introduced the student representatives for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year: Ms. Sydni Colson and Ms. Cynthia Torres.

6. *SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT*

The Superintendent informed the Committee that the NBHS graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 10th and the high school will be communicating over the next couple of weeks in regards to tickets and ceremony guidelines. He stated that the last day of school for all other students is Monday, June 21st and any student who is interested, NBPS has contracted with a private company to provide free tutoring to students no matter what grade they are in. Students and families can reach out to their teacher for more information on how to get registered. The Superintendent shared that Friday, May 14th vaccination clinics will be available to students 18 and older in the high school auditorium in collaboration with the NB Department of Public Health.

The Superintendent explained how each year the district reviews revolving accounts, grants and other funds and this includes accounting for the Parent Teacher's Organizations (PTO). NBPS does not have oversight of the funding or organization of the PTO's and there are guidelines that the group has to adhere to. The process of how funds are handled through PTO's needs to be reviewed deeper and more discussions can be had in this area. Member, Mr. John Oliveira shared a notification he had received from someone outside of the school district that funds are at substainational loss at some schools. He called the Superintendent and had a discussion and feels if PTO's are conducting business on school property then the School Committee should have an idea of what is going on with the funding. Mr. Oliveira had spoken to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent in regards to this and the both of them put together information to address this and Mr. Oliveira would like to move the information forward to the

Policy Sub-Committee. Member Mr. Bruce Oliveira pointed out if PTO's use the NBPS tax id number then that changes how funds should be handled and should be approved by the district.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to review how PTO funds are accounted for.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

7. OTHER REPORTS

A. Finance & Operations - Mr. O'Leary, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations began with the Function Code Report. He shared that NBPS is slightly ahead this year in reviewing the Function Code report compared to last year at this time. He then presented the General Expense Report, the Health Insurance Spenddown, the Salary Report, Transfer and Grant reports. He then informed the Committee that he will be having a discussion with them at the July meeting to dive into grant funding. Mr. O'Leary also added that the Massachusetts's School Building Authority (MSBA) outlined the process for the DeValles Elementary School project and is moving ahead and has a forecasted timeline.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to accept the Finance and Operations reports as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

B. Personnel Report – Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services (HCS), shared that there were 22 appointments with 2 from Unit A, 1 from Unit B, 7 from AFSCME, 7 paraprofessional and 5 non-union, as well as, 1 Unit A and 1 non-union retirements. Ms. Emsley added that there were 9 resignations with 3 Unit A, 3 non-union, 1 AFSCME and 2 paraprofessional. She concluded there were 21 transfers with 1 from Unit B, 3 non-union, 4 AFSCME, 5 in-building paraprofessionals and 8 district-wide paraprofessionals.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to place the Personnel report on file as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

C. School Committee Report: Member, Mr. Bruce Oliveira highlighted a congratulations to NBHS administrators, staff and students for achieving a phenomenal result of increasing the graduation rate. Vice Chair, Ms. Dawicki wanted to make the Committee aware that on May 20th the Policy Sub-Committee will be taking up the School Wellness Policy. She added that a lot of community volunteers have worked tirelessly to help revisit and bring the policy into compliance. Member, John Oliveira had two questions for the Chairman in his report. He stated that voters

and the people in the city would like to know why the Committee is still not having open meetings and secondly, when is he going to decide when to fill the two unfilled sub-committee seats on Curriculum and Facilities when he has six members available. With no response, the Chairman closed the report and moved on to new business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Approval of the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the FY 2022 Net School Spending Budget in the amount of \$177,481,001 as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>4-Yeas, 1-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the FY 2022 Non-Net School Spending Budget in the amount of \$14,756,499 as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>4-Yeas, 1-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the 2022 Fiscal Year Budget \$192,237,500 as presented to the School Committee.

The vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>4-Yeas, 1-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION – Start Time 7:44PM

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to enter into Executive Session for the following purpose:

A. Per MGL 30A & 21(a) 3. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and negotiations with union personnel:

- NBSSU
- Federation of Paraprofessionals

B. Per MGL 30A & 21(a) 2. To discuss strategy respect to contract negotiations with non-union personnel:

- Deputy Superintendent
- Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent</i>

10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION - Return Start Time: 7:44 PM

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. John Oliveira to return to the Open Meeting session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	5-Yeas, 0-Nays, 2-Absent

A. Ratification Vote for Employment Agreement with Ms. Karen Treadup, Deputy Superintendent.

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to approve the July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2024 employment contract of Ms. Karen Treadup, Deputy Superintendent, New Bedford Public Schools as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	4-Yeas, 1-Nays, 2-Absent

11. ADJOURN

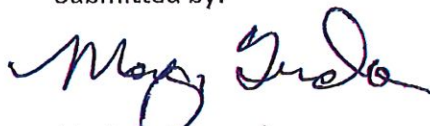
The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to adjourn the School Committee meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – No	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Absent	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Absent	Mayor Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	4-Yeas, 1-Nays, 2-Absent

Meeting ended: 8:08PM

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee