



REGULAR MEETING
New Bedford School Committee
New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford, MA
Monday, March 8, 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. CHRISTOPHER COTTER, MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL, MS. COLLEEN DAWICKI (REMOTE), MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

ABSENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. THOMAS ANDERSON, MS. MARJORIE FERNANDES, MS. KAREN TREADUP, MR. ANDREW O'LEARY, MS. HEATHER EMSLEY, MR. ARTHUR MOTTA, MR. ROBERT TETREULT, MS. TAMMY MORGAN, MS. DARCI AUNGST, MS. JUSTINE MEDINA, MS. MELISSA REGO, MS. JENNIFER MEDEIROS, MS. NADIA ABOUCHANAB (STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE)

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 – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES*

4. *PUBLIC COMMENT*

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to place the Public Comments on file as submitted to the School Committee.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent

5. *STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE*

Student representative, Nadia Abouchanab began her report with notifying the Committee that New Bedford High School (NBHS) held its PSAT exams on Monday, February 22, 2021 and over 150 10th graders took the exam. Listed below is some information shared with the Committee:

- Course recommendations are due and underclassmen are selecting courses now.
- The new Robotics Lab is under construction and located in Room B-292. The lab will provide equipment to prepare students for careers in robotics.
- Gyms and training room's renovations are underway.
- JROTC Drill & Ceremony Team have a competition at Lawrence High School on March 13th.
- Third quarter progress reports were just released.
- Student Advisory Council elections will be taking place this month (March).

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Thomas Anderson began his report with a data presentation presented by New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) principals: Ms. Darcie Aungst (Congdon/DeValles Elementary), Ms. Tammy Morgan (Hayden McFadden Elementary), Ms. Melissa Rego (Pulaski Elementary), Ms. Justine Medina (Pacheco Elementary) and Ms. Jennifer Medeiros (Brooks Elementary). The Superintendent asked the principals to share some on the school experiences due to Covid-19.

Ms. Aungst began the presentation by discussing with the Committee the "Ups and Downs of Data" that schools have been experiencing during this time. She shared data regarding reading growth with the fifth graders at the Congdon and DeValles Elementary Schools. Ms. Morgan added the common shared beliefs, focus and goals of the schools. She reviewed the Sustainable Improvement plans and shared how important it is in the process to work together and how data drives instructional efforts. Ms. Rego shared how family data is important in making decisions also. She gave an example of how the data is collected and used from the student families to access communications with the school. She then went on to share information regarding the school-wide reading initiative and how it was implemented.

Ms. Justine Medina updated the Committee on what initiatives are being implemented to improve student attendance at her school. She shared the chronic rates of absenteeism and initiatives to encourage school participation: attendance ambassadors, attendance challenges, home visits, perfect attendance awards, etc. Ms. Jennifer Medeiros highlighted examples of what is being done to improve student outcome. Her school is reviewing current strategies to see what is working or not. She reviewed what is done during regular learning walks to make assessments in analyzing and inquiring, instructional dialogue, positive climate and student engagement to guide educators.

The Superintendent closed out the principal's presentation by sharing what academic and programmatic adjustments are being made for the Whaling City Jr./Sr. High School teachers and student population. He reviewed their attendance rates and highlighted attendance rates at Normandin Middle School. He included the overall rate of attendance for the district is 91%.

The Superintendent did a briefly reviewed the NBPS phase 4 schedule of how more Cohort A students will be returning to in-person learning and reiterated safety protocols are being followed and continues to be enhanced.

Mr. Rob Tetreault, Director of Technology Services, gave the Committee a briefing on where NBPS is with technology services. He reviewed items that included: equity and home internet access, Clever Single Sign On, Relay Classroom, and Staff Intranet. He gave an update on the student and staff safety precautions, as well as, privacy and password safeguards. Mr. Tetreault ended with an equipment update and shared 12,500 devices have been assigned to students, including an additional 1,500 to NBPS teachers and staff.

The Superintendent closed out his report with an update on the School Resource Officers Working Committee and shared the next meeting will be held on March 10, 2021 and reiterated the timeline for completion is still June 2021. He added that Covid-19 vaccinations for K-12 employees will begin on March 11.

7. OTHER REPORTS

Finance & Operations: Mr. Andrew O’Leary, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations began with the Function Code Report. He went on with an overview of the General Expense, Health Insurance Spenddown, Salary, Transfer and Grants reports. After Mr. O’Leary’s review, member, Mr. Christopher Cotter asked about the surplus materials being discarded that were labeled as good. Mr. O’Leary shared that the desks and chairs that Mr. Cotter noted will be stored away and offered to other schools that may need or used to swap out other damaged desks or chairs within the district.

Mayor Mitchell asked for an update on the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) projects. Mr. O’Leary shared MSBA has visited the Campbell Elementary School remotely and with drones and he is confident that Campbell will get a vote in the June board meeting to proceed. He added that DeValles and Congdon Elementary Schools were also visited remotely and due to the core projects MSBA receives they put a heavy emphasis on need first and Mr. O’Leary is confident that the board will accept the DeValles and Campbell Elementary School projects.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. Bruce Oliveira to accept the Transfer report as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

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

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

Personnel Report: Ms. Heather Emsley, Executive Director of Human Capital Services (HCS), shared that there were 18 appointments, with 3 from Unit A, 7 from AFSCME, 3 paraprofessionals and 5 non-union, as well as, 2 AFSCME retirements. Ms. Emsley added that there were 7 resignations with 2 from Unit A, 3 non-union, 1 Unit B and 1 paraprofessional. She concluded there were 3 transfers with 2 from Unit A and 1 paraprofessional.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento seconded by Mr. John Oliveira to place the Personnel report on file as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

School Committee Report: Member, Christopher Cotter wanted to emphasize on behalf of the Committee that the paraprofessional contracts can be resolved, approved and agreed upon. Secondly, he stated how proud he is of the district getting students back into school by expanding the Cohort A. Additionally, he gave credit to all the principals and teachers for a job well done.

Mr. Cotter went on to suggest that School Committee meetings be open to the public once again. Member, Mr. John Olivier shared the same sentiment. Mr. Cotter ended his report by asking the Committee Chairmen if Mr. Oliveira could be appointed to a Sub-Committee. Chairman, Mayor Mitchell shared Mr. Oliveira was offered to participate on the Curriculum Sub-Committee. Mr. Oliveira made it clear that he was never offered a position on the Curriculum Sub-Committee and feels the committee needs to be filled to completion whether it is him or not.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Member, Mr. Joshua Amaral together with member, Mr. Cotter offered a resolution to the Committee to join the Massachusetts Association of School Committee’s (MASC) delegation and other school districts in a resolution regarding the moratorium on Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) testing for the 2020-2021 school year. The Superintendent shared with the Committee, before their vote, that four bills are in front of the Massachusetts State Legislature in regards to MASC testing. As he is a member of the Urban Superintendents Network and the Superintendent Legislative Committee he shared the following bills:

- Bill HD 32:60 – an act to place a moratorium on high stakes testing for 3 years, supported by Representative Marjorie Decker.
- Bill HD 31:65 – an act to place a moratorium on high stakes testing for the duration of the Covid-19 state of emergency, supported by Representative Marjorie Decker.
- Bill HD 14:48 – an act to cancel the administration of MCAS for the 2020-2021 school year, supported by Representative James Hawkins.
- Bill SD 18:55 – an act responding to Covid-19 emergency by instituting a moratorium on the administration MCAS testing for the 2020-2021 school year, supported by Senator Joanne Comerford.

Superintendent Anderson wanted to share this information and inform the Committee that NBPS would like to delay the MCAS testing until at least the spring of the 2021-2022 school year.

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Joshua Amaral and seconded by Mr. John Oliveira to adopt the resolution.

The roll call was as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. John Oliveira – Yes | Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes |
| Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes | Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes |
| Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes | Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes |
| Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes | <i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i> |

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. John Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Joshua Amaral to amend the MCAS resolution to include teachers and parents.

The roll call was as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. John Oliveira – Yes | Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes |
| Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes | Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes |
| Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes | Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes |
| Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes | <i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i> |

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Jack Livramento and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to enter into Executive Session for purpose #3 in respect to negotiations with union personnel:

- New Bedford Educator’s Association (NBEA) – Unit B and Unit A
- NBSSU
- Federal of Paraprofessionals

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

10. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The School Committee voted on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the NBEA Unit B contract as presented to the School Committee.

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

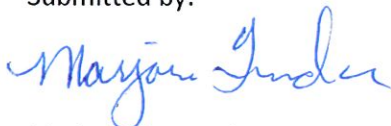
11. ADJOURN – (meeting ended 9:47 PM)

The School Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY on a motion made by Mr. Bruce Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Christopher Cotter to adjourn the School Committee meeting:

The roll call was as follows:

Mr. John Oliveira – Yes	Mr. Joshua Amaral – Yes
Mr. Christopher Cotter – Yes	Ms. Colleen Dawicki – Yes
Mr. Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Jon Mitchell - Yes
Mr. Bruce Oliveira – Yes	<i>7-Yeas, 0-Nays, 0-Absent</i>

Submitted by:



Marjorie Fernandes
Senior Executive Assistant
Recording Secretary, School Committee

Reviewed by:



Thomas Anderson
Superintendent
Secretary, School Committee