

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, DR. FLETCHER, ATTY. CLARK, MS. POLLOCK, MRS. USSACH, MR. NOBREGA

ABSENT: MR. POPE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. BONNER, DR. SOUZA, D. WINN, H. LARKIN, DR. FRANCIS, L. OLIVEIRA,
G. MALITA (recording secretary)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to accept the minutes of the previous meeting held on August 10, 2009 as recorded.

At 7:03 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to adjourn and go into Executive Session, to discuss: 1) personnel matters; and, 2) Level III grievances filed by the NBEA, and that they would be returning to Open Session.

Roll Call Vote was taken as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| Mayor Lang | - Yes | Mrs. Ussach | - Yes |
| Dr. Fletcher | - Yes | Mr. Nobrega | - Yes |
| Atty. Clark | - Yes | Mr. Pope | - Absent |
| Ms. Pollock | - Yes | | |

YEAS – 6 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1

At 8:50 PM, the School Committee resumed the Open Session.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to hear from the following individuals in the audience who wished to address the Committee.

- 1) Tracy Souza – spoke on behalf of parents at the Winslow School regarding the district transfer process and the affect on class size at the school.
- 2) Susan Durfee – questioned whether there was any public transportation from Adams Street to Keith and also mentioned the issue of uniforms/dress code.
- 3) Matthew Riley – addressed the issue of out of district transfers.
- 4) Paula Bailey – addressed the issue of out of district transfers and how it will affect the Winslow School. She pointed to high enrollments in Kindergarten and Grade 2 and the lack of additional personnel or monies provided.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report as follows.

APPOINTMENTS

| <u>UNIT B</u> | | |
|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| <u>Name</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>School</u> |
| Pamela L. Pacheco | Academic Director of English/Language Arts | PRAB |

UNIT A

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rosa Alberto-Gonzalez | Spanish | New Bedford High |
| Francisco Alves | Special Education | Roosevelt Middle |
| Julie Amaral | Grade 5 | Carney Academy |
| Jenna Anctil | Grade 1 | Carney Academy |
| James Audunson | Special Education | New Bedford High |
| Kaitlin Belli | Grade 4 | Hayden McFadden |
| Lindsey Benoit | Grade 5 | Pulaski |
| Gina Bisso | Grade 5 | Pacheco |
| Laura Borges | Grade 1 | Gomes |
| Lisa Boucher | Grade 2 | Hannigan |
| Hannah-Joy Boynton | Grade 4 | Taylor |
| Kelly Burger | Grade 3 | Hayden McFadden |
| Maria I. Calvo-McEnelly | World Language – Spanish | New Bedford High |
| Debra A. Dixon | Health | Roosevelt Middle |
| Kristy A. Drauschke | Biology | New Bedford High |
| Heidi Faria | Grade 4 | Hayden McFadden |
| Stephanie Fiano | Grade 4 | Kempton |
| Dorinda Fidalgo-Rebeiro | Grade 5 | Carney Academy |
| Megan Giammalvo | Grade 5 | Swift |
| Jacqueline L. Hinckley | English | Normandin Middle |
| Sara Jacobsen | Grade 3 | Hayden McFadden |
| Jessica Larocque | Grade 5 | Hannigan |
| Diane R. Littlehale | Music | Roosevelt Middle |
| Douglass L. Marlow | Science | Roosevelt Middle |
| Michol J. Mendonca | Math | New Bedford High |
| Holly M. Meleski | Grade 3 | Ashley |
| Mark A. Moreau | Special Education | Normandin Middle |
| Lisa A. Moreno | School Psychologist | PRAB |
| Lynne Morse | Grade 2 | Swift |
| Mary E. Pearce | Biology | Whaling City Alternative |
| Carolyn Peckham | Grade 3 | Gomes |
| Patricia Pepin | Grade 5 | Campbell |
| Kara Reis | Grade 1 | Gomes |
| Nancy A. Reynolds | Special Education | New Bedford High |
| Daniela Rodrigues | Math | Roosevelt Middle |
| Justine R. Santos | English | Normandin Middle |
| Melissa Scanlon | Grade 3 | Hayden McFadden |
| Jaime Singhal | English | Roosevelt Middle |
| Kristen Souza | Pre-School | Gomes |
| Ivone L. Spencer | Sheltered English Immersion | Roosevelt Middle |
| Tess Tieu | Kindergarten | Gomes |
| Emanuel Vieira | Grade 3 | Kempton |
| Lisa Vieira | Grade 4 | Carney Academy |
| Michael Winderlick | Biology | New Bedford High |

NON-UNION

| | | |
|-------------|---|------|
| Jason Kowal | Senior Technician Computer & Network Specialist | PRAB |
|-------------|---|------|

RESIGNATIONS**UNIT B**

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>School</u> |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Sean A. Ahern | 08-04-2009 | Assistant Principal | Normandin Middle |

UNIT A

| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|--------------|------------------|
| Kathryn R. Baptiste | 08-06-2009 | Math | New Bedford High |
| Yvonne M. Meeh Perry | 08-18-2009 | Health | Normandin |
| Colleen O'Leary | 08-19-2009 | Kindergarten | Gomes |
| Jason Torres | 07-13-2009 | Math | New Bedford High |

PARAPROFESSIONAL

| | | | |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| Maria dos Santos | 08-31-2009 | Lunch Aide | Ottiwell |
|------------------|------------|------------|----------|

TRANSFERS**UNIT A****Name****From****To**

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Stephanie Curvelo | Grade 5 at DeValles | Grade 5 at Campbell |
| Anne Furtado | Kindergarten at Parker | Grade 1 at Gomes |
| Meaghan Healey | Grade 1 at Hathaway | Grade 3 at Pulaski |
| Margo Moore | English at Keith | English at Roosevelt |
| Louise Murphy | | Family & Consumer Science at NBHS |
| Catherine Oliveira | Grade 3 at Hathaway | Grade 5 at Congdon |
| Zelia Reis | School Nurse at Keith | School Nurse at Roosevelt |

ASSIGNMENTS**UNIT A****Name****From****To**

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Rebecca Alves | Grade 2 at Hayden McFadden | Kindergarten at Hayden McFadden |
| Joanna Arena | Special Education at NBHS | Special Education at NBHS |
| Diane Banas | Special Education at Roosevelt | Social Studies at Roosevelt |
| Susan Crouch | Speech Therapist at PRAB | Special Education Facilitator at NBHS |
| Mary-Anne Dalton | Literacy Coach at Hannigan | Title I Facilitator at PRAB |
| Anne Marie Dufresne | Grade 3 at Hayden McFadden | Grade 2 at Hayden McFadden |
| Anne M Furtado | Grade 1 at Gomes | Kindergarten Coach at PRAB |
| Mary-Anne Sheppard | Grade 3 at Gomes | Reading/Literacy at NBHS |

POSITIONS ELIMINATED**Name****Date****Position****School**

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------------|------|
| Keith McAlister | 08-14-2009 | Maintenance | PRAB |
| Gerald Pinto | 08-14-2009 | Maintenance | PRAB |

Correction

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--|------|
| Sandra Galindo | 08-14-2009 | Facilitator for CAAP Program | PRAB |
| Maryann Kilgour | 06-25-2009 | Part-time Director of Central Registration | PRAB |

UNIT A CROSSOVERS**Name****Position****School**

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------|
| Koby Verran | Title I Math Coach | PRAB |
|-------------|--------------------|------|

Superintendent's Report was as follows.....

1. OUT OF DISTRICT TRANSFERS

"My report specifically addresses the out-of-district transfer request, a practice that occurs in the district. Currently, the school district has a policy which clearly defines neighborhoods to said assigned schools. These attendance zones were created to first:

- 1) Control overcrowding at schools;
- 2) Racial balance schools; and
- 3) Maintain a low teacher to student ratio – class size.

A practice in the district has ensued to assist parents who may have hardships. Hardships have been defined as:

- 1) Babysitter lives in another school zone
- 2) Medical or psychological problem

Parents are to provide their own transportation if the transfer request is granted. On March 2, 2009, a letter went home to all parents, included in the letter was a reminder that out-of-district transfer request will only be considered for families whose child's daycare or babysitter is located in the school attendance zone or for medical reasons, granted based upon availability (class size). Such requests must be submitted by June 1 for the upcoming school year in order for class list to be in place. The school committee received a copy of this correspondence and was also informed at the March 9 School committee meeting during the Superintendent's report. April 2009 letters and applications went out to those parents who had to renew and applications were made available for new request. As of July 23, 389 requests were received and 326 were approved. Of the 389 request, 63 students were denied for one of the following reasons: attendance, behavior, no reason for transfer, reason was not supported, i.e., child has ADD. Applications received after June 1, was 42 yielding a total of 431. Since August 10, we have received an additional 22 requests. Prior to the start of school, the district is required by law to send out NCLB letters to those children whose schools did not meet AYP. These children by law have the right to transfer to schools that are performing. There are four of these schools in the district in which placements should be reserved. Out-of-district transfers at these schools will eliminate the number of seats we now have for these children. The time that we have placed on out-of-district has delayed us in informing our parents in of their rights.

Questions for the school committee:

- 1) When do we stop taking requests?
- 2) Are all requests automatic?

If I am not keeping you informed or giving you information that you feel that I am withholding, what can be done to better provide a bridge to communicate to you? What will it take to rededicate ourselves to the long term goals of the district and to speak as one voice for the educational needs of the community?"

At this point, Dr. Souza went over class projections at sample schools (complete chart provided to Committee).

Atty. Clark, after summarizing what had transpired at the August 10th meeting and what had appeared in the Standard-Times over the past week, expressed his concerns that the Superintendent had given blanket approval to the 63 requests that she had previously denied, without regard for any policy or practice, and that the Superintendent was quoted in the Standard-Times that she had done so to make a point with the Mayor, knowing full well that by giving blanket approval, that decision would have an adverse impact on class size. He didn't understand that decision or the reasons behind it. He also didn't know if it was unprofessional or out of spite but he wanted to know the Superintendent's rationale.

Dr. Bonner pointed out that it would have been unethical for a School Committee member to look at those applications and had such a conversation with Mr. Nobrega on that issue.

Atty. Clark again pointed out, that by her actions she had created a negative effect on various schools and their class sizes. Why would the Superintendent approve the 63 applications when she knew there would be a

negative impact on certain schools? The Committee could have amended their motion that evening or hold a special meeting for that purpose.

Dr. Bonner responded that the Committee should have made their concerns known at the last meeting. The Committee needs to put a policy in place. This past practice has been going on for many years. What direction was the Committee going to go?

Mayor Lang stated that the problem was with the implementation, not with the policy or practice.

2. Presentation on MCAS to be held at the 9/14 School Committee meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Superintendent’s Report.

Both Dr. Fletcher and Ms. Pollock provided brief reports of activities attended since the previous meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the Finance Statement from the Office of Finance & Operations.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve the Schedule of Bills for the month of June 2009.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to authorize a line item transfer of \$300 at Dunbar School for the payment of the Verizon fax line account.

Dr. Bonner then initiated a discussion regarding new school construction by advising the Committee that the MSBA has given the school district the go ahead for the construction of the new Hannigan School. Also that the Statements of Intent (SOI) for new school construction will be coming up shortly and this would be the time for any changes or priorities to that plan.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Atty. Clark encouraged the Superintendent to work with her leadership team to find creative ways to reduce class size at the schools and/or provide the resources to do so and if that entailed cutting non-union positions, she would have his support in order to do that.

At 10:00 PM a motion was made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote was taken as follows:

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| Mayor Lang | - Yes | Mrs. Ussach | - Yes |
| Dr. Fletcher | - Yes | Mr. Nobrega | - Yes |
| Atty. Clark | - Yes | Mr. Pope | - Absent |
| Ms. Pollock | - Yes | | |

YEAS – 6 NAYS – 0 ABSENT – 1

Submitted by,

Portia S. Bonner, Ph.D.
Secretary, School Committee

PSB/gm