

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, H. LARKIN, L. OLIVEIRA, C. COSTA, L. DUNAWAY (Recording
secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

1. Gillie Safioleas – Asked for reconsideration for program books to be printed by NBPS.
2. Terry Lopes – Concern over being harassed by students.
3. John Silva – Traffic, parking and safety concerns in the Lincoln School neighborhood.
4. Carol Strupczewski – Concern over grounds maintenance at Pulaski School.
5. Eddie Johnson – Concern about communication and evacuation plans in buildings.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up the two requests for approval of minutes together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to receive and place on file the minutes of the following meetings:

- September 20, 2010 – Finance Sub-Committee Minutes
- September 20, 2010 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Mr. Oliveira reviewed the Financial Statement from the Office of Finance and Operations.

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

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to receive and place on file the schedule of Bills for July, August and September, 2010.

Ms. Costa gave an update to the Committee on matters relative to the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take items 7A and 7B (Communications) out of order.

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted UNANIMOUSLY to keep all parties informed on future plans concerning the following communications:

Communication from City Councillor David Alves, Chairman/Committee on Appointments and Briefings, requesting that the School Committee keep the Portuguese Community and the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament Committee informed of their plans for the Sarah D. Ottiwell School. (Building to possibly be used for development of a larger, more accessible Portuguese Cultural Center.)

Communication from City Councillor David Alves, Chairman/Committee on Appointments and Briefings, requesting that the School Committee notify the City Council of its intentions for the Phillips Avenue School. (Building to possibly be used to house agencies to assist citizens in need.)

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take 6A-8 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request by Salina Gifford/Coach, on behalf of the N.B. Whalers AYF Cheerleaders, for permission to use the gymnasium at the Roosevelt Middle School every Monday and Wednesday beginning on October 20, 2010 through November 19, 2010 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. for practices, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take 6A-7 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve a request by Bunny Conceicao/Administrator, on behalf of the N.B. Bears Pop Warner Association, for permission to use the gymnasium at the Keith Middle School every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning on October 12, 2010 through November 30, 2010 from 5:30 – 7:30 P.M. for practices, with a waiver of all fees. (Effective to October 12, 2010).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take 6F out of order.

At this time, Principal Kevin Sullivan spoke on behalf of several principals in attendance regarding the Grade 5 Standards Based Report Card. Mr. Sullivan reviewed the changes to the grading system with the Committee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve, with any potential clerical adjustments needed, the Grade 5 Standards Based Report Card.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take 6A-1 out of order.

Mr. Neal Weiss addressed the Committee in regard to his request for permission to use the New Bedford High School wrestling room for the Whaling City Kids Wrestling Team. He explained that the fee charged was to cover participants' registration and insurance.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request by Neal Weiss/Coach, on behalf of the Whaling City Kids Wrestling Team, for permission to use the New Bedford High School wrestling room every Tuesday beginning October 12, 2010 through November 16, 2010 from 5:15 – 6:30 P.M. for practices, with a waiver of all fees and permission to distribute recruitment flyers to all elementary students throughout the district. (Effective to October 12, 2010.)

The Superintendent's Report included the following topics:

- Certificate of Excellence, sponsored by the MASC was presented to the top three students at New Bedford High School on September 30, 2010.
- Review of class sizes

At this time Dr. Francis told the Committee that several classrooms in the district were very large. Several teachers would have to be hired to reduce class size.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee empowered Dr. Francis to hire teachers as needed to reduce class size.

The Superintendent's Report continued.....

- Education Jobs funding application, Stimulus (SFSF) and Commissioner's District/Dissemination grants were submitted.
- Race to the Top (RTTT) grant application to be submitted by October 22, 2010
- Title II-A funds released
- Parker School/Level 4 Update: Teachers ratified agreement on October 18, 2010.
- Innovation Schools information was distributed.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take item 6K out of order.

In reference to the Innovation Schools, Dr. Finnerty mentioned that it would be an opportunity to be proactive and to develop an in-district Charter School and that he would like to see the School Committee, Administration and Teachers Union work together cooperatively from the beginning to work out issues before an application process is considered.

A discussion ensued relative to the planning of the Innovation School initiative.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to request that the Superintendent reach out to the New Bedford Educators' Association Leadership to discuss their willingness to act as partners in the development of an application for an Innovation Schools Planning Grant for the school district that would be funded by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take item 6E-3 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve a request from Justine Medina, Julie Amaral and Kathleen Besso/Teachers/Carney Academy, for permission to attend the Parent/Teacher Home Conference in Washington, D.C. from October 22-23, 2010. Expenses to be paid by the NEA.

At this time, Dr. Francis introduced Dr. Marlene Roderiques as the interim Equity, Diversity and Family Engagement Officer.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to receive and place on file the report from the Student Representative.

Several School Committee members gave reports.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Merrilan Melberg/Coordinator, on behalf of the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra, for permission to use the cafetorium at the Normandin Middle School from 11:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on November 13, 2010 and May 15, 2011 to hold public concerts, with a waiver of the rental fee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Denis Lawrence/Councillor at Large, on behalf of SouthCoast Children's Theatre/ City's Citizens Schools/Invest in Kids Programs, for permission to use the Keith Middle School Auditorium on May 7, 2011 from 2:00 – 9:00 P.M. for their production of "*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*", with a waiver of the rental fee (*this is an addition to the original dates requested and approved by the School Committee on July 12, 2010*).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Denis Lawrence/Councillor at Large, on behalf of SouthCoast Children's Theatre after-school program, for permission to use the Keith Middle School auditorium on Monday and Wednesday nights beginning January 12, 2011 through May 12, 2011 from 6:00 – 8:30 P.M. to conduct their spring rehearsals, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Antone "Toi" Fortes/Director, on behalf of Tonka's Tumblers, for permission to use the gymnasium at the Gomes School beginning in November 2010 through May 2011 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. to hold classes, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to approve a request from James Reid/Executive Director, on behalf of the Veterans Transition House, for permission to use the auditorium at the Keith Middle School on December 10, 2010 from 12:00 P.M. – 12:00 A.M. for a holiday concert, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Michael Clapp/President, on behalf of the Lincoln School PTO, for permission to use the cafeteria at the Lincoln School on December 11, 2010 from 9:00 A.M -4:00 P.M., for their Holiday Shoppe fundraiser, with a waiver of all fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to take up all requests for approval of acceptance of donations together.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the following requests to accept donations:

- 1) Tammy Morgan/Principal/Pulaski School - \$425.70 from the Target *Take Charge of Education* Program for the school fund.
- 2) Lisa Andrade/Principal/Campbell School – Copy paper, labor, and use of copy equipment from C.P. Bourg, Inc. for all their duplicating needs and a 40" flat screen television for the computer lab from Best Buy – Dartmouth.
- 3) Karen Treadup/Principal/Carney Academy - \$124.42 from the Target *Take Charge of Education* Program for the school fund.
- 4) Whaling City Jr./Sr. High School – from Robert Neves of Whaling City Transit, to provide one school bus per month at no charge for a field trip within 10 miles of New Bedford as a reward for the students' good behavior.
- 5) Jeanne Bonneau/Principal/Normandin Middle School - \$94.21 from the Target *Take Charge of Education* Program for the school fund.
- 6) Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden-McFadden School - \$89.09 from the Target *Take Charge of Education* Program for the school fund.
- 7) New Bedford Public Schools – dictionaries to all 3rd grade students from the Southern Mass Council Telecom Pioneers.
- 8) Cynthia Trinidad/Principal/DeValles - \$138.31 from the Target *Take Charge of Education* Program for the school fund.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Loretta Bourque, on behalf of South End Civic Association, for permission to distribute flyers at the Taylor and Hannigan schools announcing their annual Halloween parade.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Glenn Oliveira/Director, on behalf of the Marion Institute, for permission to distribute flyers to all schools throughout the district announcing their youth and family-oriented programs.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Donna Howard/Coordinator, on behalf of United Front Homes, for permission to distribute flyers to all students at the Carney Academy announcing the "Halloween Trick or Treat" event on Friday, October 29, 2010.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take up the following requests that were previously approved administratively together:

- 1) Brian Rose/Program Director, on behalf of Bristol County District Attorney's Office, for permission to distribute flyers to students in grades 2-8 throughout the district announcing a free basketball clinic.
- 2) Request for permission to distribute flyers to students at Taylor School, Hannigan School, Congdon School, Dunbar School, Gomes School, and DeValles School announcing *The Great Pumpkin for Early Literacy* event taking place on October 23, 2010.
- 3) Shannon Butler/Coordinator, on behalf of Girl Scouts of Eastern MA, for permission to distribute recruitment/registration flyers to female elementary and middle school students throughout the district.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Ussach, to take up the following requests for out of state field trips together:

- 1) Irene Vasques & Christine Buraczewski/Teachers/Congdon School - for permission to take 37 students and two chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, RI on October 27, 2010.
- 2) Diane Robinson/Teacher/NBHS – for permission to take 40 students and four chaperones to the American Museum of Natural History and the Roger Williams Park in Providence, RI on November 5, 2010.
- 3) Aja Beach/Teacher/NBHS – for permission to take 35 students and three chaperones to the "Pot Au Feu Restaurant" in Providence, RI on October 22, 2010.
- 4) Marcia Faucher/Principal/Pacheco School – for permission to take 15 students and one chaperone to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI on November 10, 2010.
- 5) Ellen Moreau & Dorothy Costa/Teachers/Winslow School – for permission to take 49 students and four chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, RI on October 19, 2010.
- 6) D. Romanowicz & D. Weaver/Teachers/Normandin Middle School– for permission to take 48 students and seven chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, RI on October 28, 2010.
- 7) Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden-McFadden School – for permission to take 15 students and two chaperones to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI on November 10, 2010.
- 8) Michelle Campos/Teacher/Normandin Middle School– for permission to take 86 students and four chaperones to Escobar's Highland Farm in Portsmouth, RI on October 26, 2010 (Rain date October 27, 2010).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Ussach, to take up the following requests for out of state travel together:

- 1) Margo Moore/Teacher/Roosevelt – for permission to attend the National Writing Project Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, from November 18 – 19, 2010. Expenses to be paid by the National Writing Project.
- 2) Rachel Jupin/Teacher/NBHS – for permission to attend the National Writing Project Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, from November 17 – 19, 2010. Expenses to be paid by the National Writing Project.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve to declare, in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at the Dunbar School, Swift School, Carlos Pacheco School, Bookkeeping Office and Finance & Operations Office at the Paul Rodrigues Administrative Building.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Jeanne Bonneau/Principal/Normandin Middle School – for permission to transfer \$3,000 from 4001-2455-22-410-00-5027 (Instructional Software Normandin - Computers) to 4001-4230-21-410-00-4049 (Maintenance Equipment Normandin - Other Expenses).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request to implement the following project for the 2010 – 2011 school year:

- Quality Full-Day Kindergarten – Parker, Taylor, Gomes, Ashley & Pulaski Schools = \$400,200.00

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to designate Dr. John Fletcher as the voting delegate to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) annual business meeting on November 3, 2010 and to authorize the designee to vote on behalf of the New Bedford School Committee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to designate Ms. Marlene Pollock as the alternate delegate.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of collective bargaining and non-union personnel negotiations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	Absent
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Yes
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

At 9:28 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis
Superintendent of Schools
Secretary, School Committee

MLF/lpd