

**SPECIAL MEETING & BUDGET WORKING SESSION  
OF THE  
NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. COSTA, MRS. MOURAO  
(Recording secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Members of the School Committee discussed various ways to save money district-wide. In order to keep class sizes down, Mayor Lang indicated that he wanted Mr. Oliveira to prepare a new budget report between now and the next meeting to reflect a 19% reduction in General Expenses.

Mayor Lang asked any one in the audience who had questions to please come forward. Mr. Joseph Silva, Teacher – Congdon School, asked members of the School Committee why his position is being eliminated when the Committee voted to send Dunbar students to Congdon. Thus, more students are coming in to the school he works at. Mayor Lang referred this issue to Ms. Costa, Human Resources Manager.

Mayor Lang suspended the budget working session until June 6, 2011.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take item 4B off the table.

A discussion on participation of School Choice for the 2011-2012 school year ensued. Per pupil expenditures/reimbursements were discussed. Dr. Fletcher suggested instituting this program in grades 9-12 only. Dr. Finnerty was concerned about how this may affect us with students leaving to go to another district. He was also concerned about "circuit breaker" funds and if the receiving school district was allowed to claim the special needs students or if reimbursement would continue to be made to the sending school district.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to table School Choice participation for the 2011-2012 school year.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to take items listed under section 5 out of order and altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve the following requests for out of state field trips:

- 1) Donna Kirby-Blanchette & Renee Candido/Teachers/Parker, for permission to take 31 students and two chaperones to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. on June 9, 2011 from 8:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the Bridge Fund. (Supporting document labeled "5A1")
- 2) Rebecca Mutnansky/Teacher/Roosevelt, for permission to take 100 students and approximately ten chaperones to the Roger Williams Zoo in Providence, R.I. on June 22, 2011 from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "5A2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to approve acceptance of the following donation:

- Cynthia Trinidad/Principal/DeValles – 2 color televisions from Ms. Diane Fennessey and \$15.00 from Box Tops for Education. (Supporting document labeled "5B1")

Mayor Lang informed the Committee that the Executive Session meeting scheduled for tonight had been cancelled.

Under "Other Business", Mayor Lang informed the Committee that the Ottiwell & Phillips Avenue schools had been transferred over to the City of New Bedford. In addition, folks from the Alma Delmar Charter School have requested to use Ottiwell School as their Charter School site. They have agreed to pay all maintenance and insurance expenses. This agreement would expire in three years and could be open for reconsideration. Mayor Lang recommended helping the Alma Delmar Charter School and by doing so we would keep our overhead down.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to refer this matter to Attorney Walter Smith.

At 9:07 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the regular session of the special meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis  
Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm