

**REGULAR MEETING 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, MS. COSTA, MRS. MOURAO (Recording secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to take item 6A out of order.

At this time, cheerleaders and singers from Carney Academy performed cheers and songs about recycling. Marissa Perez-Dormitzer talked about the continued efforts with the Recycling Program taking place in the schools. The winner for this month was the Hathaway School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take items 6B1-6C1 out of order.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to approve a request from Lee-Ann Jupin/PTO President/Lincoln School, for permission to use the Lincoln School cafeteria on Thursday, May 26, 2011 from 5:00-7:00 P.M., for an Ice Cream Social Night, with a waiver of the rental fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B1")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Monica Castro/Asst. Proj. Mgr./Invest-in-Kids Program/City of N.B., for permission to use the Lincoln School cafeteria on Thursday, May 19, 2011 from 5:30-7:30 P.M., for a Spaghetti Supper fundraiser, with a waiver of the rental fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve a request from Kevin Moniz/Coach/Buzzards Bay Youth Wrestling Team, for permission to use the New Bedford High School wrestling room every Monday and Thursday night, beginning on November 7, 2011 through May 31, 2012 (omitting school vacations and holidays), for practices, with a waiver of rental and custodial fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B3")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Christine Smith/Troop Leader/Girl Scouts, for permission to use the Pulaski School auditorium on Friday, June 10, 2011 from 6:00-8:00 P.M., for a troop production "From Our Troops to Yours: A Day in the Life of a Soldier", with a waiver of rental and custodial fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B4")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Steven Ponte/Chair/Neighborhoods United, for permission to use the Gomes School grounds on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 from 12:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M., for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out event, with a waiver of rental and custodial fees. (Supporting document labeled "6B5")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from Mr. Pereira on behalf of the Day of Portugal Committee for permission to borrow the bucket truck, two Snapper Gold Carts, and twelve 2-way radios in conjunction with their annual Day of Portugal Festival.

Items are needed June 6-13, 2011 in preparation for and during the festival. (Supporting document labeled "6B6")

At this time, Christopher Parker, Technology Instructor at New Bedford High School, introduced the winners of this year's ROV Competition. The students gave a brief demonstration on the robot and the equipment used to guide the robot underwater.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve a request from Christopher Parker/Teacher/NBHS, for permission for take three students and one chaperone to travel to Houston, Texas to compete in the 2011 Maritime Advanced Technology Education (MATE) ROV competition at the Sonny Carter Training Facility from June 15-20, 2011, with expenses to be paid through the NBHS Student Activity Fund. (Supporting document labeled "6C1")

Justin Braga and Rebecca Kanter, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at New Bedford High School, gave a presentation on a recent survey completed at the High School regarding school lunches. Results indicated that out of approximately 150 students who participated in the study, the majority of them disliked the hot lunches being served and preferred salads instead. The students informed the members that they are in the process of working with the Kitchen Manager at the High School as well as the Director of Food Services. The Committee agreed that changes need to be made to our lunch options and asked that the students return in June to provide them with an update.

Mrs. Larkin, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, informed the Committee of the First Annual Where Are YOU Headed? Walk for School Attendance event taking place on Friday, June 3, 2011 from 10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.. The purpose of this event is for students to walk in unity to promote improved school attendance. Mrs. Larkin also mentioned that parents and community members are encouraged to walk at one of our schools.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up items in Section 4 altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve and place on file the following minutes:

- April 4, 2011 – Transportation Subcommittee Minutes
- April 11, 2011 – Finance Subcommittee Minutes
- April 11, 2011 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- May 2, 2011 – Facilities, Maintenance & School Bldg. Subcommittee Minutes

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the financial report. (Supporting document labeled "5A")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Schedule of Bills for March 2011. (Supporting document labeled "5B")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report. (Supporting document labeled "5C")

As part of her report, Superintendent Francis discussed attendance rates throughout the District. She indicated that while attendance rates at the elementary level met AYP, the rates at the middle schools and high school are declining. Dr. Francis also discussed class projections and other initiatives for the SY 11/12 and mentioned that a new Business Manager would be recommended to the Committee soon.

Several Committee members gave their reports.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to take up items 6G-M & 7 altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve in accordance with School Department Policy DN-R, a recommended list of surplus property located at the Ashley & Rodman Schools and Trinity Day Academy. (Supporting document labeled "6G")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve the New Bedford Public Schools Policy JK – Student Discipline. (Supporting document labeled "6H")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to approve a request from Andrew Kulak, Headmaster/NBHS, to schedule the New Bedford High School 2011 Graduation Exercises on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at the Paul Walsh Athletic Field. (Supporting document labeled "6I")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mr. Nobrega to hold a Public Hearing meeting on May 23, 2011 at 7 P.M. at Keith Middle School to review the FY12 Budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to approve a request from the Central Office staff that a summer schedule of hours be approved from 8:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. with one half hour for lunch. (Supporting document labeled "6K")

Mayor Lang requested that the following items be discussed at the special meeting of the School Committee on May 23, 2011:

- School Choice participation for 11/12 SY
- Potential Redistricting
- Potential School Closings

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to take up items 6C2-9 altogether.

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

- Clay Forney/Teacher/Roosevelt, for permission to take eight students and one chaperone on a field trip to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. on May 12, 2011 from 7:00 A.M.-1:30 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the school fund. (Supporting document labeled "6C2")
- Diane Robinson & Danielle Riley/Teachers/NBHS, for permission to take 47 students and five chaperones on a field trip to the Planetarium in New York on May 20, 2011 from 5:00 A.M.-10:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C3")
- Technology Ed. Dept./NBHS, for permission to take 80 students and nine chaperones on a field trip to the Naval Underwater Warfare Center in Newport, R.I. on May 12, 2011 from 7:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M., with transportation expenses paid for by the school fund. (Supporting document labeled "6C4")
- Gertrude Fatula/Teacher/Pacheco, permission to take 130 students and 11 chaperones to travel to the Providence IMAX Theatre in Providence, RI on June 2, 2011 from 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C5")
- Laura Chevalier/Teacher/Carney, to take seventy students and thirteen chaperones to Roger Williams Park/Zoo in Providence, RI on June 16, 2011 from 8:45 A.M.-2:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C6")
- Karen Demers/Teacher/Carney, to take 48 students and eight chaperones to Biomes Center in N. Kingstown, RI on June 9, 2011 from 10:00 A.M.-2:10 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C7")

- Stacey Pires/Teacher/Carney, to take 83 students and twelve chaperones to Roger Williams Park/Zoo in Providence, RI on June 1, 2011 from 9:00 A.M.-2:15 P.M. at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C8")
- Lynda Gordon & Ana Melillo/Teachers/Carney, to take 47 students and six chaperones to Biomes Center in N. Kingstown, RI on May 31, 2011 from 10:30 A.M.-2:10 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "6C9")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to take up items 6D1-6 altogether.

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

- Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt - \$100 from Mr. Joaquim "Jack" Nobrega for the "Fuel Up to Play 60" program at the school.
- Andrew Kulak/Headmaster/NBHS – one Kousa Dogwood tree and one memorial plaque from the NBHS Class of '78 to be planted in front of the auditorium in the existing planter.
- Jamie Camacho/Principal/Gomes – six instructional items from DonorsChoose.org to be used in conjunction with the "Kindergarten to College" program and \$36.50 from Box Tops for Education for the school fund.
- Heather Larkin/Asst. Supt. – in-kind donation from Tremblay's Bus Company to provide all transportation for the NBPS 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit to be held on May 27, 2011.
- Marcia Faucher/Principal/Pacheco - \$261.20 from Box Tops for Education for the school fund.
- Susan Beck/Principal/Dunbar - \$233.40 from Box Tops for Education for the school fund.

At 9:06 P.M., on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,



Dr. Mary Louise Francis  
Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm