

REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, DR. SOUZA, D. WINN, H. LARKIN, L. OLIVEIRA,
L. DUNAWAY (Acting recording secretary)

Filipe Andre, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Input was as follows:

1. Tom Derosier – Pulaski Funds
2. Linda Gordon – Dr. Bonner's resignation/No Diversity – Sch. Comm. and Administration
3. Nancy Feeney – Welcome to Dr. Francis/After Prom Event
4. Christine Levasseur Smith – Pulaski funds/budget and accounting
5. Denise Fisher-Rose – Dr. Bonner's resignation
6. Joseph Silva – Congratulations to new Superintendent
7. Gloria Williams – Concern about preparation for new workforce/affirm commitment to students.

Mayor Lang stated that he wanted to assure the community that the School Committee as well as the School Department and new Superintendent would work tirelessly to be sure the community feels included, valued and loved and students receive the finest education. They will meet with all Community groups to hear their concerns and work in the best interests of the city. Mayor Lang went on to mention that Dr. Bonner provided some excellent leadership expertise and ability, and it was not an easy decision for the City of New Bedford, the School Department, and Dr. Bonner to part ways. Wants the community to rally around our students. We have been building momentum and will continue to do so and we are absolutely committed to making improvements where they are needed. Mayor Lang continued that he has tremendous confidence in Dr. Francis and the community will find that Dr. Francis is a person you can all work with, confide in, trust and take great pride in her ability to move the district forward. To those who are concerned where we are headed, we are headed in a unified way to improve the education system for the city and our students. Let's find our common ground for the students, the children and the children to come. Absolutely certain that in the next several months, we will find tremendous contributions from the people in this room to help guide us.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Atty. Clark, to take up the approval of the minutes altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock to receive and place on file the following minutes as corrected.

- March 15, 2010 (Sub-Committee/Finance)
- March 15, 2010 (School Committee Meeting)
- March 17, 2010 (Sub-Committee/Curriculum)
- March 22, 2010 (Budget Working Session)
- April 5, 2010 (Transportation Sub-Committee)
- April 5, 2010 (Facilities, School Building and Maintenance Sub-Committee)

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

Superintendent's Report was as follows:

At this time, Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, from the City of New Bedford Recycling Department/Greater New Bedford Refuse District, picked Winslow Elementary School as the March recycling contest winner. Winners receive \$500 worth of Recycling themed books. Schools that applied this year are: Swift, Parker, Pulaski, Roosevelt, Hathaway, Hayden McFadden, Congdon, DeValles, Phillips Ave. and Winslow.

On behalf of Dr. Finnerty, Mayor Lang interrupted the Superintendent's Report to take up the following:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to reconsider the Personnel Report, previously voted on and to sever Item E.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to sever a portion of the Personnel Report under Item E – Administrative Transfers.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, take up the Personnel Report - Item E – Administrative Transfers.

At this time, Dr. Finnerty asked to reconsider the vote previously taken regarding the Personnel report. He explained that these transfers were prepared during Dr. Bonner's time as Superintendent and suggested that they be severed and tabled to the next meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, to sever and table "Administrative Transfers" under Section E of the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Personnel Report excluding "Administrative Transfers" under Section E of the Personnel Report.

Superintendent's Report continued as follows:

Steven Mack, Teacher Representative and Vice President of the NBEA working on the Science and Technology Academy committee, introduced the members of the this committee. He gave a Power Point Presentation regarding a proposal to add a Science and Technology Academy to New Bedford High School under a restructuring plan. This academy will involve a smaller learning community, will focus on 21st century learning and will deliver traditional academic subjects in a non-traditional way. It will also offer specific certifications to allow students to enter industry with a good paying job if they do not plan to go on to college. Intern programs will be offered within the community and college credits will be available. Project based curriculum will fit to align with the District's Strategic Plan. Existing staff, budget, facility and schedule will be used.

Robert Massoud, Community Representative working on the Leadership Academy design team, explained, and went over a Power Point Presentation regarding a proposal to add a Leadership Academy to New Bedford High School under a restructuring plan.

The vision of the Leadership Academy is: Students will demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership skills and exemplary citizenship preparing them for the 21st century.

It will be a smaller learning community within the high school population that will address individual needs of the students. It will be based on a percentage of students that are at risk. These students may or may not be able to survive will be the focus and will be open to students that think the program will be valuable to them. The Design Team visited several programs in the state and researched programs in the country. The design of this program will be based on real life situations involving students.

Students are to be involved in their education and teach them to be leaders. There will be 125 incoming freshman and students will continue to be added over the next four years with a total enrollment of 500 students.

Staff selection and capacity building, curriculum design, selection of students and shared facility use are on going in the planning. The design is not to be different but to work within the present vision of the school system.

Many stakeholders including students, staff, administration, unions and community will be involved in the ongoing planning of this program.

At this time, Dr. Fletcher asked Dr. Francis to put these projects at the top of her list. He cited several urban districts that have cut their dropout rate due to a formula that includes the school department, unions and community. Everyone must be involved in order for this to be successful.

Mrs. Ussach said she had a good rapport with members of the Fall River School Committee and they mentioned that this type of plan has a lot of possibilities for change to address issues in New Bedford Public Schools.

Ms. Pollock said she was very excited about both of the plans as the district must ramp out efforts to address at risk students. These two initiatives will help students to succeed and feels that many more students may be interested than what capacity may allow.

Atty. Clark asked about what a student's day may look like.

Mr. Winn said that the design team is looking at dramatic changes, over time to include: cross curricula, thematic instruction, co-teaching, infusion of the arts.

At this time (7:50 P.M.), Mr. Nobrega left the meeting.

Kara Zajac and Justin Braga, student representatives on the design team, addressed the Committee regarding their thoughts regarding the Leadership Academy. They both felt that the Leadership Academy proposal is a perfect plan to emphasize the full potential of every student and that every graduate should have qualities of leadership and academic success. This will insure a positive workforce and positive group of citizens for our City, Commonwealth and Country.

Dr. Finnerty mentioned that he applauds the work of both committees and complimented the Leadership Academy design team for including students. Flexibility and discipline is key. Went on to emphasize that discipline is not punishment; it means consequences and rewards. Students should be disciplined in school rather have them on the street. If they are on the street, they are not in attendance and they are not learning.

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted to approve the Technology and Engineering Academy as part of the restructuring plan for New Bedford High School, and to be implemented in September, 2010. A roll call vote was as follows;

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

7 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

On a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, the Committee voted to approve the Leadership Academy as part of the restructuring plan for New Bedford High School, to commence in September, 2010. A roll call vote was as follows;

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

7 - Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

The Superintendent's Report continued:

Dr. Francis complimented the design teams of both committees as well as the student representatives. Dr. Francis thanked the Committee for their vote of confidence to appoint her as Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Francis went on to say how honored, pleased, humbled that they had that confidence. She is proud of New Bedford Public Schools and its students. She said she will work to the best of her ability to facilitate and to promote a positive climate conducive to change. She feels strongly that the basis of everything is good communication. Door is open to all including members of the community. Dr. Francis stated that she was honored to work with the Committee, individually and collectively. She was a past member of the Acushnet School Committee and has a perspective on being a School Committee member.

Dr. Francis continued with her report on school department related issues.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the Superintendent's report.

The Student Representative report and several School Committee member reports were given.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the School Committee Reports.

Sub Committee Reports:

Atty. Clark gave the report on the Sub-Committee on Finance. Budget shortfall is even and we are at zero due to Mr. Oliveira's hard work and the budget freeze.

Ms. Pollock gave the report on the Sub-Committee on Transportation. In the report it was mentioned that a new policy be considered regarding bidding on bus routes by vendors and to promote competition to reduce costs.

Mayor Lang asked that a package be put together soon to get ahead in delivering Request for Proposals (RFP).

Ms. Pollock asked that a vote be taken by the School Committee as a whole regarding the bidding and negotiation of bus routes.

On a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, it was voted to embrace a policy that prohibits bus companies, with the majority number of routes, from negotiating on Special Education routes. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

7 - Yeas

0 – Nays

1 – Absent

Ms. Pollock gave the report of the Sub-Committee on Facilities, Maintenance and School Buildings.

Update on the new Lincoln School was given.

Mayor Lang asked about the brick work at the new Lincoln School. Mr. Oliveira said that misinformation was given to several City Council members about the brick work being done during the cold snap in the winter. The mason company was working inside the building with a portable heating system during the cold snap. It had been inspected and was found to be sound.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to receive and place on file the report on Facilities, Building and School Maintenance.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file the Financial Statement from Office of Finance & Operations (April 12, 2010 Finance Committee).

Mr. Oliveira stated that there is a normal controlled spend down in continuing and the procurement of school supplies has begun.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to receive and place on file the Facilities reports for the months of January and February, 2010 (April 5, 2010 Facilities, Maintenance and School Building Sub-Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file the Excess Property Report for January, 2010 (April 5, 2010 Facilities, Maintenance and School Building Sub-Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve of the year two Welcoming Schools pilot program at the Campbell, Taylor and Winslow Schools (March 17, 2010 Curriculum Sub-Committee).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to table the proposal to re-locate the Pregnant and Parenting Teen program at the Ottiwell School for the 2010-2011 school year and the re-location of the Adult and Continuing Education programs at 181 Hillman St. (April 5, 2010 Facilities, Maintenance and School Building Sub-Committee).

On a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, it was voted to approve the addition of one bus to provide transportation to Keith Middle School students who live beyond the two mile limit in the North Front Street, Coggeshall Street., Bullard St. and Belleville Avenue area. (April 5, 2010 Transportation Sub-Committee.) The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 – Nays

1 – Absent

Dr. Fletcher said that students had a poor attendance record of 12 to 15 days per year. Keith Middle School students in this area do not have a bus available to them.

Ms. Pollock also suggested, and asked Dr. Francis to look into giving compensatory education help, possibly summer school, to approximately 33 students who were affected by lack of transportation to this area.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to authorize the following donations:

1. Cynthia Trinidad/Principal/DeValles School – 25 computers from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol.
2. Susan Beck/Principal/Dunbar School - \$250 from the SouthCoast Education Compact.
3. Jo-Anne Hodgson/Principal/Lincoln School - \$103.52 from Shaw's Community Rewards program.
4. Martha Kay/Principal/Gomes School - \$37.01 from Target.
5. Richard Desrosiers/Principal/Keith Middle School – Various window samples and products from Custom Window Products, Inc. for the KC3 program.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to approve a request from Christian Gomes, Training Officer, on behalf of South Coast Young Marines, to use the pool facility for swimming and scuba training from May 6 – May 13, 2010, from 5:00 – 9:00 P.M., as well as a standing waiver for future use of the pool, with waiver of rental and custodial fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, with Atty. Clark abstaining, to approve a request from Dave Vieira, President, on behalf of New Bedford Youth Soccer Assoc. (NBYSA) to use the Bronsiegel Auditorium at NBHS on August 24, 2010, from 6:30 – 10:00 P.M., to conduct parent orientation night, with a waiver of rental and custodial fees.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, with Atty. Clark abstaining, to approve a request from Dave Vieira, President, on behalf of New Bedford Youth Soccer Assoc. (NBYSA) to use the Green House Cafeteria at NBHS on October 7, 2010, from 4:00 – 9:30 P.M., to hold their annual Spaghetti Dinner, with a waiver of the rental and custodial fees. NBYSA to pay Food Service fee.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to take up all the following Out of State Field trips together.

Ms. Pollock asked that students either appear in person, or submit in writing, a report about their out of state field trips.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to approve the following Out of State Field Trips, with reports to be given to the Committee by teachers with an optional report to be submitted by students:

1. Donna Lewin/Teacher/Brooks School – 26 students and five chaperones to travel to Mystic, CT on 6/9/2010, to visit Dinosaur Land.
2. Michael Florio/Teacher/NBHS – 24 students and four chaperones to travel to Franconia/Lincoln, NH from 6/22 – 6/24/2010, to visit Franconia Notch State Park.
3. Eric Drew/Music/Band Instructor/NBHS – 40 students and four chaperones to travel to New York, NY on 5/15/2010, to visit the Museum of Natural History and the Majestic Theater.
4. Gerald Bedard/JROTC/NBHS – four students and one chaperone to travel to Washington D.C. and Fairfax, VA, from June 25-29, 2010

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

1. Anne Oliveira/Academic Director/Science to travel to New Britain, CT from April 14 -15, 2010, to research implementation of Science & Technology for Children (STC) kits and science notebooking, with no cost to the local budget.

2. Anne Oliveira/Academic Director/Science to travel to Stamford and Hamden, CT from May 11 - 12, 2010, to research implementation of Science & Technology for Children (STC) kits and science notebooking, with no cost to the local budget.
3. Marcia Letourneau/Teacher/NBHS to travel to Daytona Beach, FL from June 14 – 18, 2010, to attend the AP Statistics Reading Conference with no cost to the local budget.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms Pollock, to approve a request from Rosemary Wilde, Director of Adult and Continuing Education and Summer School, to increase the following tuitions:

Elementary Summer School

Residents: \$ 105.00 per course (increased by \$ 5.00)
Non-residents: \$ 160.00 per course (increased by \$ 10.00)

Secondary Summer School

Middle School courses

Residents: \$ 120.00 per course (increased by \$ 5.00)
Non-residents: \$ 170.00 per course (increased by \$ 10.00)

High School courses (3 hour class)

Residents: \$ 230.00 per course (increased by \$ 10.00)
Non-residents: \$ 325.00 per course (increased by \$ 20.00)

New Bedford Evening High School

Residents: \$ 105.00 per course (increased by \$ 5.00)
Non-residents: \$ 160.00 per course (increased by \$ 10.00)

Sea Lab Program

Residents: \$ 340.00 (increased by \$ 20.00)
Non-residents: \$ 450.00 (increased by \$ 55.00)

Ms. Pollock asked how many non-residents were enrolled at Sea Lab.

Mr. Dutra, principal of Hannigan School was asked to address the Committee. He mentioned that it was not his recommendation to increase the Sea Lab tuition for non-residents at that rate (state above).

He then stated that 20% of the Sea Lab students were non-residents.

Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira to explain the costs.

Mr. Oliveira explained that the increase was needed due to the increase in hourly wages for teachers as well as administrative costs. This will assure that the program breaks even.

Mayor Lang asked Jean Fox from the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to address the Committee. Mayor Lang, in the past, called upon WIB to help subsidize the New Bedford Evening High School tuitions. Ms. Fox said that there was only so much money in the budget.

At this time Rosemary Wilde, addressed the Committee and said that WIB was able to give \$6000 to help subsidize tuitions.

After a brief discussion, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock to give the Superintendent the authority to work with Mrs. Wilde and Ms. Fox regarding the Summer School and NBHS Evening School tuition costs.

Mr. Dutra, principal of Hannigan School and Sea Lab, spoke to the Committee regarding the suggested tuition increase at Sea Lab.

Mayor Lang suggested that the tuition for Sea Lab be frozen and asked Mr. Oliveira to find the money to supplement the Sea Lab program.

Ms. Pollock asked what our commitment was to non-residents. Mr. Dutra explained that the non-residents were students who started the program and then moved out of the city or had custody issues during the summer time. Mr. Dutra said that city residents were accommodated first.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to freeze the Sea Lab tuitions to the FY 2010 rate and have Mr. Oliviera earmark \$5000 from money saved each week in the local budget.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to table a request to eliminate/establish the following classes for the 2010 – 2011 school year:

SCHOOL	ELIMINATE	ESTABLISH
ASHLEY		GRADE 1
BROOKS	GRADE 5	GRADE 4
CAMPBELL	GRADE 5	-
CARNEY		GRADE 2
DEVALLES		GRADE 2
HATHAWAY	GRADE 3	GRADE 4
HAYDEN MCFADDEN		GRADE 1
HAYDEN MCFADDEN		GRADE 2
PARKER		GRADE 1
SWIFT		GRADE 3
WINSLOW		GRADE 1
PRAB	Attendance Officer @ NBHS	Drop Out Prevention Specialist @ NBHS

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to receive and place on file a notification from NBHS Headmaster, Donald Vasconcelles, that Justin Braga has been elected Student Representative to the School Committee with Shane Burgo serving as alternate, effective May 20, 2010.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file a communication from Dr. Portia S. Bonner, Superintendent of Schools, informing the School Committee, per the Superintendent Employment Agreement, that she will not seek a renewal of her contract beyond the term of the agreement, therefore ending her tenure with New Bedford Public Schools on June 30, 2011.

A motion was made by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Atty. Clark, to receive and place on file, a Communication from City Councillor John Saunders asking what steps the City and School Department are taking to remedy the construction, engineering and funding issues at the new Andrea McCoy field.

Atty. Clark mentioned that the field will serve all athletic programs and that every step of the way, the school department and School Committee has followed the construction progress since the beginning. Atty. Clark wondered if Councillor Saunders had information that the School Committee did not have. In a response to a question from Atty. Clark, Mr. Oliveira stated that he addressed the concerns with the City Council on March 30 and that they voted for no further action.

Mayor Lang asked Mr. Oliveira to respond line by line to the City Council, in writing, with a copy to the School Committee.

Dr. Finnerty asked that once the facility is completed, it not be locked. He said that residents should have the opportunity to use the facility for recreational use during the time it is not in use by our students.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to receive and place on file, with Lawrence Oliveira to follow up in writing, a Communication from City Councillor John Saunders asking what steps the City and School Department are taking to remedy the construction, engineering and funding issues at the new Andrea McCoy field.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to receive and place on file a Communication from the New Bedford City Council requesting that the New Bedford School Department and the City of New Bedford adhere to the State of Massachusetts LEED Plus Green Building Standards in regard to the planning and construction of new public schools in the City of New Bedford.

Atty. Clark stated that information is available to residents and the City Council on the School Department website regarding the construction of our school buildings. For the record, Mr. Oliveira stated that present and future construction plans are for "Green Schools". Mr. Oliviera also said that the Lincoln School is an elite green school as designated by the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Mayor Lang asked that Mr. Oliveira, along with Cable Access, give a presentation and tour of the new Lincoln School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to schedule a special School Committee meeting on Monday, April 26, 2010 at Keith Middle School, in the Community Room at 7:00 P.M.

At this time Ms. Pollock inquired about designating a member of the School Committee to be on the Parker School Design Team. Mayor Lang suggested that all members weigh in on taking part. He stated to Dr. Francis that he would let her know, after speaking with all members, the name of the designee.

A motion was made by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to go into Executive Session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

7 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

At 9:26 P.M. the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to adjourn the Regular Session.

Submitted by,

Dr. Mary Louise Francis
Secretary, School Committee

MLF/lpd