

**NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
CONTINUATION OF BUDGET WORKING SESSION**

~MINUTES~

- PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY, MR. AMARAL, MS. POLLOCK, MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA, MR. OLIVEIRA
- IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. MURPHY, DR. LARKIN, MS. WALMSLEY, MRS. MOURAO (Recording Secretary)
- ABSENT: NONE

Adam Vieira, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Dr. Durkin and Mr. Murphy spoke about entitlement grants and competitive grants and provided the following explanation:

- In real and relative terms, entitlement grant funding for Massachusetts' districts' now stands below 2008 levels. Main reductions have come in Title I and IIA
- Pre ARRA & ED Jobs funding overall grant funding was approx. \$18m annually.
- ARRA & ED Jobs funding increased grant funding over two fiscal years to an average of \$24m.
- In the three years post ARRA & ED Jobs funding overall grant funding was approx. \$16m annually.
- FY15 projection is for approximately \$15.5m in grant funding, slight reduction from FY14.

FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
\$20,998,032	\$20,225,310	\$ 21,912,325	\$27,713,600	\$16,526,841	\$16,326,118	\$15,505,459

Dr. Durkin informed the Committee that the NBHS School Redesign Grant (SRG) had been submitted last week to the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE). The total requested is \$5.2 million (\$2.2 million in year one, \$1.6 million in year two, and \$1.4 million in year three). These funds have been requested in order to assist with the turnaround efforts and made to supplement not supplant our existing budget.

Dr. Durkin informed the Committee of her ongoing plans to replace our reading curriculum which is extremely outdated with Reading Street by financing the program over the next three years. The breakdown is as follows:

- Materials only costs: \$1,679,459
Three year financing estimate:
\$559,820 plus \$24,000 interest = \$583,820 annual payments for FY15, FY16, FY17
- Impact: reduce FY 15 request by \$1,095,000
- Impact: increase FY 16/FY 17 requests by \$583,820
- Funds for professional development retained but not part of the financing proposal
- Next step: Proposal required

Dr. Finnerty inquired if there was any type of loss prevention included with the purchase. Mr. Murphy will look into what type of loss prevention/material replacement plans will be included with the Reading Street package.

Ms. Pollock asked about textbooks district-wide. Dr. Durkin indicated that she did request it in the FY15 budget – but not nearly enough. New Bedford High School's Leadership Team is currently working on a textbook inventory and will have that report for the Committee at the next meeting.

Mr. Oliveira asked about the overall budget for FY15. Several members expressed concern that the budget should not be reduced to any lower than \$118 million. Mayor Mitchell indicated that due to his position, he is looking out for the City's taxpayers. Mr. Oliveira indicated that it would be in the Committee's best interest to be given a number to work with – a range, if possible. Mayor Mitchell informed the Committee that it will most likely be a set of choices as was done last spring and then priorities will need to be set.

At 7:44 P.M., on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Continuation of the Budget Working Session.

Submitted by,



Carla S. Mourao
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Pia Durkin, Ph.D.
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee