

**BUDGET WORKING SESSION
OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
~MINUTES~**

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. AMARAL, MR. COTTER, MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. NOBREGA,
MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: DR. FINNERTY

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MR. O'LEARY, MR. CARVALHO,
MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Dr. Rabinovitch addressed the Committee and reviewed the FY 17 budget format explaining that the information was gathered and populated using our MUNIS software program.

Dr. Durkin acknowledged that the district will be receiving approximately \$7,000,000 in additional funding from Chapter 70 funds coming from the state but she added that it does not cover the needs of a district this size. The proposed budget is a "needs-based" budget and more is needed to give the schools and district the resources to give students the opportunities they need to make the required achievement gains.

Dr. Durkin continued that since she has been Superintendent, there have been no layoffs and hopes that it will remain this way.

Dr. Rabinovitch reviewed *percentages, comparisons and details* and encouraged Committee members to contact him if they had any questions. He went on to say that the initial amount of \$137M has been cut to \$131M and continues to be a work in progress.

Mayor Mitchell questioned if cost center managers are required to write memos with explanations and clarifications of their budget requests and asked if this could be done so members could review it with each cost center submission.

Mr. Amaral asked what big ticket items could be cut to reach the desired budget amount. Dr. Rabinovitch responded that requests would be sent back to all cost center managers for their feedback. Mr. Amaral also stated that with the \$7M increase by the State; he hoped that schools would not see less than last year.

To a question by Mr. Livramento, Dr. Rabinovitch explained that consumables such as utilities, were estimates and he would be hesitant to take any money from those accounts at this time.

To a question by Mr. Oliveira regarding Net School Spending (NSS), Dr. Rabinovitch answered that he believed that \$126,500,000 would be the final number.

Mr. Oliveira also asked for numbers in relation to grant funding. Dr. Rabinovitch stated that based on projections, he believes that the grant budget is stable from this year to the next.

Mr. Oliveira asked what would cause layoffs to take place. Dr. Durkin explained that she didn't think there would be a need for layoffs but felt that it could occur if the needs of the students were not met in a particular area.

To a question by Mr. Nobrega, Dr. Durkin replied that teachers do get to request what they need for their classrooms.

To a question by Mr. Oliveira in regard to higher transportation costs, Dr. Rabinovitch listed the following items that had an effect on the budget: the Rodman School shuttle, new students needing special education services including transportation, new McKinney-Vento students and the foundation formula for reimbursement that has not increased since the 1990's and remains at 4%.

Mr. Cotter asked several questions in regard to the review of the budget. Dr. Durkin explained that there are several obligations that have to be covered first. Teachers make requests, followed by the principals/cost center managers. She continued that the cost center requests are reviewed to see what is needed at each school/building/office, etc. Dr. Rabinovitch added that the budget material shows what was asked for and what was cut.

Dr. Durkin stated that a template could be created to have principals articulate what their priorities are and why.

Mayor Mitchell reiterated that he would like the Committee to have more information on the details before they make decisions.

In regard to the FY 17 Operating Budget Projection Sheets that were distributed, Mr. Amaral asked if the Committee could have details on the percentages of increases and decreases.

Mayor Mitchell also proposed that there be funds allocated for an increase of faculty for two more classrooms at Whaling City Jr/Sr High School. Mr. Amaral added that there is a recurring theme with teachers that there is too much lag time for identifying other placements for students with issues.

Dr. Durkin commented that solutions are being pursued and the subject will be discussed at an upcoming School Committee meeting.

Mr. Livramento requested that all answers to questions submitted to Dr. Durkin and Dr. Rabinovitch by the Committee be shared with all members.

At 7:05 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Livramento, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

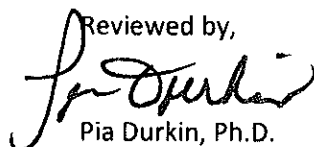
Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Mr. Amaral – Yes
Mr. Cotter – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Absent
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

6 – Yeas 0 – Nays 1 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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