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

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FY 2014 BUDGET  
&  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

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PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, DR. FINNERTY, DR. FLETCHER, MS. POLLOCK,  
MR. NOBREGA, MR. LIVRAMENTO, MR. OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: MR. SHEA, MR. HASKELL, MR. GUREK, MRS. DUNAWAY

Mayor Mitchell gave an opening statement regarding the budget process.

The Budget Working Session continued with the remainder of the cost center managers' reports as follows:

Mr. Andrew O'Leary, Director of Federal and State Funded Programs:

- He stated that in FY 12, funding for grants reached \$26 million.
- In FY13, the amount dropped to \$16 million and the same amount is projected for FY14.

Ms. Pollock asked how many positions were funded through Title I. Mr. O'Leary answered that approximately 60 positions are funded through Title I, along with 20 more positions funded through several competitive and non-competitive grants.

Dr. Heather Larkin, Asst. Superintendent/Student Services, gave the following summary:

- Her budget calls for the elimination of 50 paraprofessional positions
- Two administrative positions have been eliminated: Director of Special Education and the Director of Pupil Personnel. Services will be provided by Supervisors.
- Other sources of funding arrive from Circuit Breaker from the state. Medicaid reimburses for some therapies and nursing services but the reimbursement goes to the City.
- Fund raising takes place to supplement supplies and other services.

In response to a question by Dr. Finnerty, Dr. Larkin explained that Medicaid funds cover reimbursement for therapies and nursing services. Dr. Finnerty mentioned that the money is reimbursed, but the funds go directly to the city, not the school department. Dr. Larkin mentioned that one employee is paid by NBPS to recover the funds. Dr. Finnerty suggested that a possible arrangement be made with the city to pay for this employee.

Mr. Livramento asked how many paraprofessionals are employed by the District. Dr. Larkin answered that there are 192 permanent paraprofessionals. There are also 76 substitute paraprofessionals. Out of the 76, 50 may be cut in the FY'14 budget.

Dr. Danielle Carrigo, Asst. to the Superintendent for Equity, Diversity and Family Engagement addressed the Committee:

- Welcome Center Serviced 1640 families/1027 incoming registrants
- 913 to date this year have registered for kindergarten
- \$800 funding for translations ran out in March

To a question by Mr. Livramento, Dr. Carrigo responded that communication to parents will continue to be distributed in English, Portuguese and Spanish but there will be a critical shortage of funds in this area.

Mrs. Daly, Asst. Superintendent for Accountability and School Improvement stated that she does not have many line items in her budget. Initiatives set forth from her office such as: data teams, professional development, data team training, NISL training, benchmark assessment (Galileo & DIBELS), Instructional Performance Specialists, etc. are funded through Title I. Mrs. Daly expressed concern for these programs continuing if the grants funding these projects were eliminated.

Ms. Cheryl Costa, Human Resources Director, reported that NBPS currently has 2300 employees. There are approximately 1800 contracted employees with the remainder being substitutes or part time personnel. There are up to 25 substitutes hired per day depending on trainings, etc.

Bob Gurek, Interim Business Manager stated that the FY 13 budget was significantly underfunded. To a question by Mayor Mitchell, Mr. Gurek explained that there is no cut off to when staff can retire; anyone can retire/resign at anytime.

Al Oliveira, Facilities Director pointed out that his budget was reduced drastically (\$500,000). This cut amounts to many staff layoffs in this department. Several schools will go from two to one custodian. Mr. Oliveira voiced concern that some of the buildings are the worst in the Commonwealth. Buildings need painting, and windows. Playgrounds need fencing.

Mr. Oliveira hopes to hire to HVAC technicians as a cost saving measure and will work with the City to look for ways to save energy. He also hopes to purchase a grooming machine to clean the artificial turfs at several facilities. He also stated that currently, the school department is not receiving the revenue from rentals as the City does not give the money back to the department when paid by outside groups.

Mr. Gurek, reporting on the transportation budget said that the majority of contracts have increased by 10%. Unforeseen changes make it difficult to predict the cost. Very little goes to staffing and department vehicles, most of the cost goes to transporting out students.

Mr. Shea reported that the School Committee budget would have a \$50,000 decrease from last year. The cut will come from legal services going to a per diem system rather than a retainer.

Regarding tuitions, Mr. Shea suggested not renewing a contract with Bristol Community College (BCC) dealing with the Middle College program.

No further discussion took place.

At 8:26 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to adjourn the Budget Session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes

Dr. Fletcher – Yes

Ms. Pollock – Yes  
Mr. Nobrega – Yes  
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Mr. Livramento - Yes  
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas      0 – Nays      0 – Absent

**NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
and  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The Public Hearing was opened at 8:27 P.M.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes  
Ms. Pollock – Yes  
Mr. Nobrega – Yes  
Mr. Oliveira - Yes

Dr. Fletcher – Yes  
Mr. Livramento - Yes  
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas      0 – Nays      0 – Absent

The following individuals addressed the Committee:

Eddie Johnson	Support for Sea Lab
Mark Borden	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Jacob Benoit	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Joann Marques	Concern for cuts in the budget
Grace Ouellette	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Candida Desjardins	Concern for cuts/Sea Lab
Sarah	Concern for cuts to nursing staff
Cassie	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Paula Martin	Concern for cuts to nursing staff
Sue Gendreau	Concern for cuts to nursing staff
Lee	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Bill Lacey	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Arminda Dias	Opposed to cuts to Music program
Erica Davignon	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Jill	Support for the Arts
Polly Zajac	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Kara Zajac	Opposed to cuts in Fine Arts
Jill Ussach	Appeal to make cuts wisely
Jean Fox	Appeal to make cuts wisely
Sharon Pinho	Concern for cuts to the library staff
Kelly Freitas	Concern for cuts to the library staff

At 9:40, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to end the Public Hearing and to Open a Special Meeting of the School Committee on the FY2014 budget.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas            0 – Nays            0 – Absent

Mayor Mitchell reiterated that putting the right leadership in place and the financial house in order had to take place before the district could move forward.

Among the items discussed were:

Academic Directors will possibly be placed at the High School as Department Chairs. Dr. Durkin may look at providing a different design with this area.

Sea Lab – to be cut by \$18,000 – elimination of a part time position.

Nurse Practitioner position to be looked at.

No program cuts to Athletics although there will be no proposed middle school athletics. Equipment will be cut from the budget.

Drama Instruction – Headmaster can restore but will have to make adjustments.

Mr. Haskell, in response to a question by Mr. Livramento, said that the School Committee does not have to make decisions on priorities at this time, but going forward the Committee may suggest priorities to add back with guidance from program managers.

Mr. Haskell also stated that the unemployment costs may be in the \$2,000,000 range. Staff that may be terminated due to budget cuts should be given the chance to find positions elsewhere.

A discussion ensued regarding the procedure to restore and eliminate programs/staff.

Mr. Shea recommended that the Committee vote on the proposed budget and then give direction on changes as they occur.

On a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to approve the FY 2014 budget in the amount of \$109,000,000.

At 10:22 P.M., on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee voted to adjourn.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	Mr. Livramento - Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Mr. Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas            0 – Nays            0 – Absent

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. Shea  
Interim Superintendent,  
Secretary/School Committee

MRS/lpd