

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

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

**ABSENT:** NONE

**IN ATTENDANCE:** DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MS. EMSLEY, MS. BETTENCOURT, MRS. DUNAWAY (Recording Secretary)

Dr. Barry Rabinovitch/Business Manager and Ms. Kimberli Bettencourt/Ex. Director of Student Services, addressed the Committee stating that there is a \$1.7M increase in the Special Needs budget that is either under budgeted or was not budgeted in FY15. They explained that they are realigning current funding to ensure students' needs are met, including students who may enter during the next school year. They also expressed that it is tricky trying to project funding that is needed because the budget will have to reflect unanticipated costs.

The presentation was as follows:

**Required Areas of Need  
 Under Budgeted/Not Budgeted FY 15**

- Special Education: **\$1,764,374**
- - 247 new students moved to New Bedford that need special education services
- - All Circuit Breaker reimbursements were used as revenue to pay anticipated costs leaving no reserve to handle move-ins.

**Need for enhanced programming for Medically Fragile Children**

<u>In-District Cost:</u>	<u>Out of District Cost:</u>
Total Classroom Cost for 8 students \$531,571	Tuition at Schwartz Center for Year-Round Program \$53,446
Per Pupil In-District Cost (total divided by 8) \$66,446.37	Incremental Transportation \$11,500
Additional Summer Programming (replicate year-round program) \$7,730	Net difference between CB reimbursement for OOD vs In-District (\$3,304)
Total Per Pupil In-District Cost for year-round program \$74,176	Total Per Pupil Cost of Schwartz Center Placement \$41,442
	Total Per Pupil savings: \$12,734 or 17%

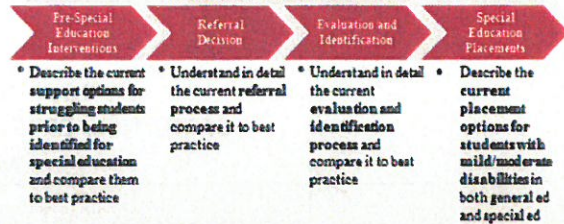
### Reorganization of Special Education Central Office

- Provision for targeted services by type provided to emphasize the quality of services at all levels in the areas of Special Education Instruction, Social/Emotional support, and Related Service
- There will now be a position explicitly responsible for coordinating SLP, OT, and PT services
- The Early Education Department will be moved to the Office of Instruction, given that it serves an increasing number of students without an IEP
- Reduction by 4 clerical positions and more efficient use of Special Education and Student Services staff
- Additional supports at the school level for Special Education Teachers and Special Education Facilitators

The goal is to ensure that students are placed in the least restrictive environment, whether special ed or general ed, for their individual needs.

### Project Goals

#### Identification and Placement Process



A discussion took place relative to the needs and costs for approximately 3000 students.

Dr. Rabinovitch stated that transportation vendors will not create the routes. This project will now be done by the Supervisor of Transportation. He also informed the Committee that transportation bids will go out next fiscal year.

A presentation was given by Beth Doherty (Director of Math and STEM), Debra Letendre (Principal of the Parker School) and Jen Magalhaes (Teacher) on the new math curriculum that is in the proposed FY16 budget. Some key points were:

### Why is a new math program needed?

- The current math program in elementary is *Real Math*
- Real Math program is eight years old
- Real math has no references to the current math standards.
- Real math materials are discontinued and will no longer be available for purchase.

### EnVision Math -2015

- Reviewed by a team of district educators in 2014 – 2015
- Selected for Parker School to pilot this year
- Materials are aligned to the Mass. 2011 Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics (CCSS)

### Advantages to EnVision Math

- Units are organized by concept topic
- There are built-in assessments
- Problem solving focus (not procedural/"robotic" learning)
- Higher order thinking skills and questions supported
- Strong mastery objectives for each lesson
- E-presentations for lessons are available
- Each lesson provides an assessment and results determine the supports and interventions to use.
- Support for ELL, special education, and advanced learning
- Online resources available to teachers, students, and parents
- Parent communication component
- Professional Development options

A discussion and further explanation of the proposed curriculum ensued. Dr. Durkin also stressed that supports for the program must be put into place in order for it to be successful such as coaches and on-going professional development.

A discussion took place regarding potential reductions to the proposed budget. Mr. Oliveira stated that it is a “no frills” budget and there will have to be a way to pay for as much as we can.

Dr. Durkin stated that every cost center will be asked to find areas where they can cut costs and make reductions.

At 5:03 P.M., on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

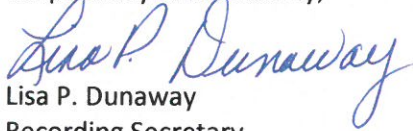
The roll call vote was as follows:

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

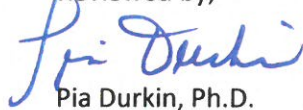
Mr. Amaral – Yes  
Mr. Livramento - Yes  
Dr. Finnerty – Yes

7 – Yeas      0 – Nays      0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,

  
Lisa P. Dunaway  
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,

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

