

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

PRESENT: MAYOR MITCHELL, MR. BRUCE OLIVEIRA, MR. JOSHUA AMARAL, MR. CHRISTOPHER COTTER, MS. COLLEEN DAWICKI, MR. JACK LIVRAMENTO, MR. JOHN OLIVEIRA

ABSENT: NONE

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, DR. DEFALCO, MS. BETTENCOURT, MR. O'LEARY, MR. TETREULT, MS. FERREIRA (Recording Secretary)

Dr. Durkin addressed the Committee and stated that this presentation illustrates the budget number that will get us closer to maintain and sustain an accelerated improvement plan. She noted that, by working effectively with the City, we are able to forecast the Net School Spending (NSS) contribution from the city more accurately than in the past.

Dr. Durkin reviewed the preliminary budget overview for FY19 and invited Mr. O'Leary to continue with the presentation.

NEW BEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FY2019 Budget Workshop March 28, 2018

- Enhancement Requests
- Net School Spending
- Steps to a balanced budget

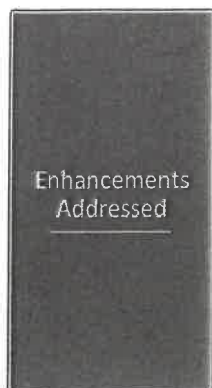
Preliminary Budget for FY19

Eligible Net School Spending	\$127,697,764
Non Net School Spending	\$12,007,604
Total Operating Budget	\$139,705,368
Enhancement Requests	\$7,258,332
Total	\$146,963,700

Budget Workshops/updates

- February 8, 2018 Finance Sub-Committee budget discussion
- Superintendent's Preliminary FY19 Budget on Monday, February 12th
- February 26, 2018, Budget Workshop with Cost Center materials
- March 8, 2018, Finance Sub Committee meeting
- March 9, 2018 & March 23, 2018 updated materials and FAQ
- March 28, 2018 Budget update to the School Committee
- May 14, 2018 Budget Hearing and vote by School Committee

Dr. Durkin stated that she hopes that an agreement on the budget will be reached at the May 14th meeting and that all questions and concerns will be answered and addressed by that time.



Item	Original Budget	Revised Budget	Notes
Transportation reg ed	762,520	0	Addressed by approved transfers
Special Ed Transportation	51,397	0	Addressed by approved transfers
CTE Manager	100,000	100,000	Addressed by approved transfers
6 ESL Teachers	360,000	360,000	Addressed by approved transfers
Work Comp/medical	250,000	250,000	Addressed by approved transfers
Total	1,399,917	710,000	

Mr. O’Leary explained that after the first budget workshop, some of the enhancement requests were addressed in this current fiscal year’s budget. They used approved transfers to pay for Chromebooks and the facilities revolving account to cover some of the facilities requests. He noted that the enhancements involving larger capital non salary and wage items were not able to be addressed at this point.

To a question from Mayor Mitchell, Mr. O’Leary responded that the enhancements are services, requested by cost centers, which are above the level service budget. Dr. Durkin added that the “enhancements addressed” were the requests that we were able to fund in addition to what the level service budget would have been.

Revised Budget for FY19

Original Level Service Draft Budget	\$139,705,368
Transportation reg ed reduction	\$ (762,520)
Special Ed Transportation	\$ (51,397)
CTE Manager	\$ 100,000
6 ESL Teachers	\$ 360,000
Work Comp/medical	\$ 250,000*
Total	\$ 139,601,451

Dr. Durkin was pleased to announce that the bids for the regular and special education transportation were very favorable noting that the cost of this service came down.

At this time, Mr. O’Leary explained that we are proposing to send the \$700,000 of the food service staff healthcare charges to the city as a reimbursement. This will be a credit to healthcare on the Net School Spending (NSS) calculation. In turn, we will increase our FY19 budget by \$250,000 to fully fund the workers compensation line that had been receiving this credit.

To a question by Mayor Mitchell, Mr. O’Leary responded that in the past, our food service programs transferred funds to the school department budget by quarters that accumulate to \$700,000 per annum. The workman compensation then pays the claims, at the school department level, from that account.

Proposed FY19 Offsets

Amount saved/offset/cut	Source	Estimate (to be determined)
	Pothole Funding	\$400,000
\$1,000,000	Vacancy Savings	
\$1,500,000	Circuit Breaker offset	
	Building Insurance/Testing	\$150,000
\$286,156	Science Early payment	
\$2,786,156		
Revised Total		\$136,815,292

Dr. Durkin mentioned that the Pothole Funding refers to the grant that the district is receiving for the displaced students from Puerto Rico.

Mr. O’Leary explained the proposed Circuit Breaker offset, salary savings as well as an early curriculum installment payment will help reduce the FY19 budget from \$139,601,451 to \$136,815,292.

A discussion ensued in regard to the Pothole Funding that the district will receive from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Mr. O’Leary stated that the district will receive allocations of those funds around mid-April and the funding figure could be higher than outlined in the presentation.

Dr. Durkin stated that New Bedford is the 5th highest City serving displaced students from Puerto Rico. She explained that the process to input the data to receive the Pothole Funding was very specific but the Technology department, along with the Family Welcome Center, were able to complete it successfully.

To a question from Bruce Oliveira, Dr. Durkin stated that, once the district receives these allocations, they will come up with recommendations as to how to spend the money and it will be presented to the Committee.

What is included in Revised FY 19 Budget

- Year 2/4 Science Curriculum
- CTE Manager NBHS
- Information Technology projects
- Special Education cost increases
- Title 1 Grant reduction
- 6 ESL Teachers

Mayor Mitchell commented that the demands for technology have increased and requested a memorandum or list to be produced and shared with the Committee that shows the needs in this area. Dr. Durkin took the opportunity to emphasize that we need more technology specialists as the district currently has only 6. The industry recommendation is 1:400 and we currently have 1:4000.

Several members agreed that more technology staff is needed to maintain the equipment.

What is not included in the FY 19 Level Service Budget

- Enhancement Requests from cost centers
 - 10 Reading Specialists \$650,000
 - Science Curriculum Materials (K-2) \$411,000
 - Middle School Math Supplements \$ 50,000
 - 300 Leveled Classroom Libraries \$350,000
 - 19 Elementary Student Success Centers \$285,000
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- VCT tile / maintenance projects \$120,000
 - Expansion of specialized programs \$400,000

Dr. DeFalco addressed the Committee by reviewing the enhancements that are not included in the FY19 budget. These are enhancements that were not able to be funded but are important for the improvement of the district.

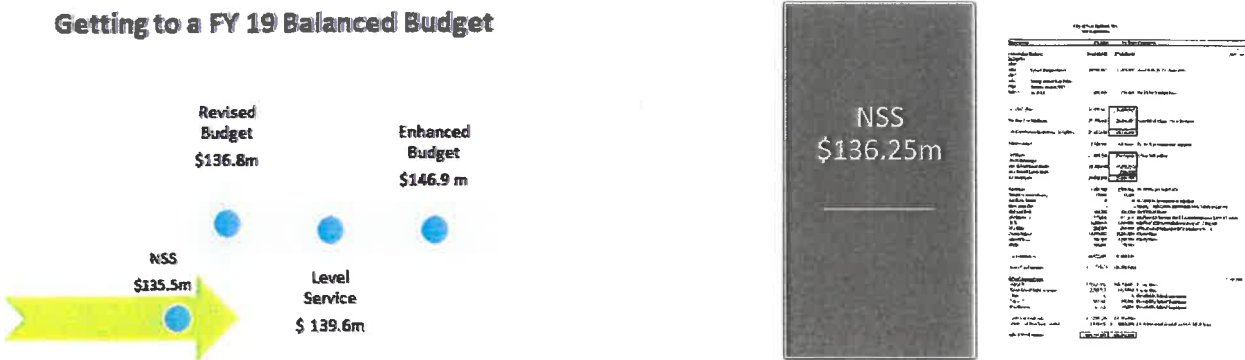
To a question from Mayor Mitchell, Dr. DeFalco responded that the majority of the cost for the student success center is associated with staffing. He explained that the student success center is a reset room for students who are having a difficult time and need a reset to return to their classroom.

Mr. O’Leary explained the last two items not included in the FY19 budget.

Mayor Mitchell stated that he was concerned that some of the maintenance requests were not included in the FY19 budget. He pointed out different projects that have the potential to become more expensive as time goes by, and suggested a discussion in the future to address these requests.

To a question from Colleen Dawicki, Dr. Durkin responded that these are requests that have been repeated from previous budget cycles and these are the top priorities that are affecting the reform agenda, in being able to provide the basic services that are needed, to fill the gap and prevent students from falling behind.

Mr. O’Leary continued with the presentation as follows:



Mr. O’Leary indicated the revised budget figure is at \$136.8M and the net school spending figure is at \$136.2M. He stated that we are about \$600K away but there are some possible additions referring to the Net School Spending revenue and charter school reimbursement, which he noted that it tends to be low and does not expect a dramatic change to the revised budget figure.

Dr. Durkin went over the next steps and goals as it relates to the FY19 budget.

Goals/ Next steps

April/ May

- Finalize budget book – distribute to School Committee/ Public/ City Council
- May 14, 2018 Budget Hearing and vote by School Committee

May/June

- Explore Medicaid funding for Specialized & Alternative program improvements
- Revisit Pothole funding for displaced students (invest in FY19/FY20)
- Revisit Facilities needs with FY18 savings & FY19 bond offsets
- Report on FY19 Grants for supplemental enhancement requests
- Monitor MA House final budget for state aid increases

Mayor Mitchell suggested to review any over budgeted items that we may be able to reduce. One being the legal services at \$195,000. Mr. O’Leary will develop a forecast from the last two fiscal years to show the committee how the district is calculating for FY19 budget.

At 7:00 P.M., on a motion by Joshua Amaral and seconded by Bruce Oliveira, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

John Oliveira – Yes	Joshua Amaral– Yes
Christopher Cotter – Yes	Colleen Dawicki - Yes
Jack Livramento – Yes	Mayor Mitchell – Yes
Bruce Oliveira - Yes	

7 – Yeas 0 – Nays 0 – Absent

Respectfully Submitted by,


Adlybeiry Ferreira
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


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