

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

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

ABSENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, ATTY. VALERIO (VIA PHONE), MRS. DUNAWAY, MANUEL MONTEIRO -DESE

The Special Meeting was called to discuss and deliberate on issues regarding the Level 5 designation of the John A. Parker School.

Dr. Durkin explained that many issues would have to be negotiated with the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. including:

- Seniority
- Grievance Procedures
- Compensation

Mr. Livramento asked when the Parker School could be returned to the district. Dr. Durkin stated that there are many criteria but it is not addressed in the statute.

Other parts of the agreement, which has to be presented to the Commissioner within 30 days are:

- Extending the School Day
- Commencement of a Summer Program
- Saturday Academy

Mr. Nobrega asked if the Level 5 designation could be changed directly to a Level I (with the appropriate improvement) or did it have to change in steps, from one level to the next. Dr. Durkin said that she thought the school could advance accordingly, even to Level I.

Dr. Durkin announced to the Committee that she was unsure any funding that would be coming to the district other than \$200,000 that must be used by June 30. This must be allocated for materials and possibly a Turnaround Manager.

At 9:30 A.M., Atty. Liz Valerio joined the meeting by phone. Atty. Valerio stated that it was within the Committee's power to close the school if they felt it would be a better option for the district. Committee members asked to what schools students would transfer? It was felt that, due to many factors, that it might not be the best option at this time.

Mr. Oliveira stated for the record that even though his wife is a teacher, the deliberations and decisions that had to be made would have no impact on the status of his wife's working conditions since she does not work at the Parker School.

Dr. Finnerty asked if only MCAS scores were used to determine improvements made at the school. Dr. Durkin responded that even though MCAS is used, there are so many other factors that are used to measure progress as spelled out in the Turnaround Plan.

Atty. Valerio explained to the Committee that a team would have to be authorized by the Committee to negotiate the terms and conditions of an agreement to be presented to the Commissioner of Education.

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Mr. Amaral, the Committee voted to appoint members to a Negotiating Committee in an effort to propose and agree upon changes in working conditions for staff at the John A. Parker School, relative to the Level 5 Turnaround Plan, with the New Bedford Educators Association, Inc. Members of the Negotiating Committee will include: Superintendent – Pia Durkin; Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources – Ann Bradshaw; Business Manager – Patrick Murphy; Consultant – Barry Haskell and Counsel – Atty. Elizabeth Valerio.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mr. Nobrega, the Committee voted to authorize the Negotiating Committee to suspend or change the collective bargaining agreement, consistent with a proposed draft, relative to the working conditions at the John A. Parker School.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

At 9:50 A.M., Mr. Manuel Monteiro from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education addressed the Committee to review matters relative to the Level 5 Turnaround Plan including five themes/conditions as follows:

- More rigorous and effective instructional strategies
- More time for teachers for professional development, time with students and time with families
- More effective instructional time
- Superintendent to have maximum managerial flexibilities
- Compensation system that rewards the best teachers

The following questions were asked:

Mr. Oliveira: Are any additional funds coming to support the implementation of the plan?

Mr. Monteiro: There is no added funding provided for in the statute. Funding will be maintained using the per pupil method as used throughout the district.

Dr. Durkin: Will there be a School Re-design Grant (SRG)?

Mr. Monteiro: There is no grant funding, however the Commissioner is aware of funds that may be needed and will look into resources available.

Mr. Livramento: Who evaluates principals and teachers? How is compensation determined?

Mr. Monteiro: There are seven or eight salary steps based on performance. The same administrator/teacher evaluation model is used as throughout the state.

Atty. Valerio: If you cease to be "exemplary" does your compensation drop?

Mr. Monteiro: No, only if you go back to your former teacher status at another school within the district

Atty. Valerio: What are the bumping rights?

Mr. Monteiro: Teachers can leave and "bump" into positions in other schools however teachers in other schools cannot "bump" into a position at Parker School.

Dr. Durkin: Can we "jump" levels?

Mr. Monteiro: Yes, you can go from a Level 5 to a Level 1 however, at all levels there will have to be specific Measurable Attainable Goals (MAGS) and it will have to be connected to what is sustainable and the trajectory will have to go in a positive direction. No specific criteria at the moment.

Mr. Monteiro went on to mention that the Commissioner may define terms of the contracts that need changing and the DESE and the District Management Council (DMC) will be in the district to offer help.

Voted UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Oliveira and seconded by Ms. Pollock, to authorize the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to appoint a representative from the DESE to serve as a resource during the Collective Bargaining negotiations.

At 10:56, on a motion by Mr. Livramento and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session, without returning to Open Session, for the purpose of discussing negotiations with contractual personnel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Mitchell – Yes

Ms. Pollock – Yes

Mr. Nobrega – Yes

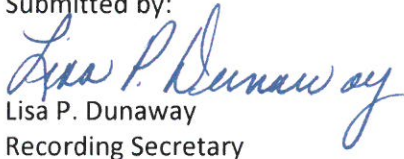
Mr. Oliveira – Yes

Mr. Amaral – Yes


Mr. Livramento - Yes

Dr. Finnerty – Yes

Submitted by:


Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by:


Pia Durkin, Ph.D.
Superintendent/Secretary
to the School