

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

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

ABSENT: MR. NOBREGA

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. DURKIN, MR. DEFALCO, DR. RABINOVITCH, MR. A. OLIVEIRA, MRS. DUNAWAY
(Recording Secretary)

Mayor Mitchell called the Special Meeting to discuss the state of snow removal at the City's schools.

Mayor Mitchell commented that the ice and snow conditions at some of the city's schools needed to be addressed, especially in the areas where children were being picked up and dropped off by bus and/or car.

Mayor Mitchell went on to explain that on the previous Friday, he had driven by 15 schools in the district and he did not see any school department employees removing ice and snow from these areas and other areas around the buildings that needed to be addressed.

Dr. Durkin indicated that these are very challenging times for both the city and the schools and said that her staff was trying to do the best they could under the circumstances.

Dr. Rabinovitch commented that part of the issue was lack of staff and lack of resources such as working equipment, etc. and it was not the lack of effort on part of school department staff. He suggested that staff may have been helping during the lunch shifts or cleaning the inside of the buildings.

Al Oliveira, Director of Facilities, also explained that his staff was doing the best they could but it was hard to get ahead with melting snow and then freezing temperatures, making it difficult to stay ahead of it.

Mayor Mitchell pointed out that it wasn't just the ice, but large mounds of snow were not being addressed.

Mr. Amaral stated that it is an opportune time to put more into the budget to address the issue but to come to a middle ground as this was an extraordinary year.

Mr. Livramento stated that passage ways to school are difficult in that the ability to move the snow is limited as the weather pattern does not allow you to get ahead.

Dr. Finnerty said that everyone is frustrated and he acknowledged that he was involved in cutting maintenance positions due to budget cuts; consequently he was not going to criticize. He indicated that there are all sorts of reasons for custodians to be in the buildings instead of working on the snow. Dr. Finnerty also asserted that as a board, they should consider adding more funding for resources in the next budget.

Ms. Pollock agreed that more funding was needed in the budget and suggested the possibility of using day laborers to help out at the schools.

Ms. Emsley expressed that parents must have the confidence that staff have had background checks, etc., therefore hiring day laborers may not be possible. She announced to the Committee that she and her staff were looking into getting a substitute custodian pool to bring on extra people if needed.

Mr. Oliveira asked Dr. Rabinovitch if the school department would be getting aid from FEMA. Dr. Rabinovitch responded that all potential FEMA aid would go directly to the city.

Mr. Livramento asked Mayor Mitchell how the National Guard was deployed in the city. Mayor Mitchell responded that the Guard was only in the city to excavate and did not bring or use plows.

Dr. Durkin was asked to provide the Committee with an after action report, back up plans, including the use of substitute custodians.

At 7:09 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Amaral and seconded by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee voted to adjourn the Special Meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

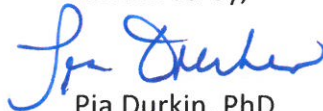
6 – Yeas	0 – Nays	1 – Absent
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Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa P. Dunaway
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Pia Durkin, PhD
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee

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