

**PUBLIC HEARING of the FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET &
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, MRS. USSACH, MS. POLLOCK, MR. NOBREGA, DR. FLETCHER,
DR. FINNERTY

ABSENT: ATTY. CLARK

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, MRS. LARKIN, MR. OLIVEIRA, MS. COSTA, MRS. MOURAO
(Recording secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Superintendent Francis went over her goals and budget priorities.

A Power Point presentation highlighting the budget line items was given. Mr. Oliveira went over the FY 2012 proposed budget and explained the difference in expenditures from the previous fiscal year.

The proposed budget is as follows:

Total General Expenses:	\$26,935,096
Total Salaries & Wages:	\$91,971,699
Total Budget:	\$117,955,801

The FY 2012 proposed budget is \$12,395,539 more than FY 2011.

At the end of the presentation, several Committee members asked questions regarding the budget.

Public Comment followed:

1. Eddie Johnson – praised the efforts of the Superintendent as well as the Environmental Curriculum Committee. He expressed concern about the District Review Report put out by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education and the negative remarks he had heard while attending a dinner with state officials recently.
2. Gillie Safioleas – commented about the attendance of an employee in the Maintenance Department. Mayor Lang asked him to put his concerns in writing.

Mayor Lang asked anyone else in the audience to come up to the podium if they had questions/concerns regarding the budget amounts. There were no questions at this time. Mayor Lang informed the public that the areas to be looked at for cuts would be school closings, transportation, step increase freezes, paraprofessionals, and general expenses. He is hopeful that the federal and state governments would invest in us to enhance our revenue. The next budget working sessions are scheduled for May 31st, June 6th and June 13, 2011.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to close the public hearing on the FY 2012 budget.

Superintendent Francis spoke about the School Choice program. She informed the Committee that we would be reimbursed \$5,000 per student in regular education and that the amount would increase based on services needed for special education students.

Dr. Fletcher asked if our District had room to accommodate students from other Districts. Dr. Francis stated that we would not be required to take other students if we were at max capacity.

Dr. Finnerty cautioned the Committee on how this program could have huge implications on students with special needs. Dr. Francis indicated that if the Committee is interested, then a vote could be taken for certain grade levels only. She had no recommendation at this point as this could go either way for us due to lack of specifics.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to table School Choice participation for 2011-2012 school year to the next meeting.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up items in section 5 altogether.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Ms. Pollock to approve and place on file the following minutes:

- February 17, 2011 – Transportation Subcommittee Meeting
- March 28, 2011 – Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
- May 12, 2011 – Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to place on file the Personnel Report.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to approve a request from Jason Bennett/Asst. Baseball Coach/NBHS, for permission to use the JV & Varsity baseball fields and the Varsity softball field at the Paul Walsh Field for the NBHS Baseball Camp taking place from Tuesday, July 5th through July 8, 2011 from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M., with a waiver of the rental fee. (Supporting document labeled "7A")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Ms. Pollock to approve the following out of state field trips:

- Jamie Camacho/Principal/Gomes, for permission to take 33 students and five chaperones to the University of Connecticut Avery Point campus from June 14th – June 15, 2011 (overnight), with transportation expenses paid for by the school fund. (Supporting document labeled "7B1")
- Matthew Riley/Principal/Taylor, for permission to take 36 students and four chaperones to the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut on June 20, 2011 from 8:00 A.M.- 4:00 P.M., at no cost to the local budget. (Supporting document labeled "7B2")

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to approve the acceptance of the following donations:

- Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt - \$300 from the Roosevelt Middle School Garden Club of Buzzards Bay for the Green Up to Clean Up Club. (Supporting document labeled "7C1")
- Richard Desrosiers/Principal/Keith – 70 fabric swatch samples from Ginny Rivenburg of Custom Window Products, Inc. for the Consumer Family Science program at the school. (Supporting document labeled "7C2")
- Kerri Quinlan-Zhou/Fine Arts Director – free tickets for all third graders from the NB Symphony Orchestra for an entire performance of the Young People's Concert (approximate value of \$5,235) and free performances during school of the NBSO Trio at all elementary schools (approximate value of \$4,000). (Supporting document labeled "7C3")
- Susan Beck/Principal/Dunbar – permission to accept books titled "Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge" for all 5th graders at Dunbar and Gomes School and books titled "Have You Filled a Bucket Today" for all 3rd graders at Dunbar School, donated by the Pioneers, Thomas Sherwin Chapter 14. (Supporting document labeled "7C4")

- Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden-McFadden - \$16.00 from Box Tops for Education for the school fund and \$500 from GNB Regional Refuse Management District for the recycling program. (Supporting document labeled "7C5")

Mayor Lang asked Superintendent Francis for her recommendations on potential school closings. Dr. Francis recommended closing only one school this year and that the George H. Dunbar Elementary School is a priority because of the age of the building. She also indicated that it would cause the least amount of disruption between all the schools. She further stated that Dunbar parents could choose to send their children to the John B. Devalles Elementary School or the James B. Congdon Elementary School. Mr. Oliveira explained how much it would cost the District to keep Dunbar school open and fully operational and how much the District could save if the Committee voted to close it at the end of this school year.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion made by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty to close the George H. Dunbar Elementary School on June 30, 2011.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes	Atty. Clark – Absent
Mrs. Ussach – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	

6– Yeas 0 – Nays 1- Absent

Mayor Lang requested that upon the closing of Dunbar school that the building is turned over to the City for "RFP" (Request for Proposal).

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to turn the Dunbar school building over to the City upon its closing on June 30, 2011.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes	Atty. Clark – Absent
Mrs. Ussach – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	

6– Yeas 0 – Nays 1- Absent

Mr. Oliveira gave his recommendations about redistricting to the Committee. Middle school students who live north of Coggeshall Street would attend Normandin Middle School and students who live south of Coggeshall Street would attend Keith Middle School. This change would save the District \$250,000. He also indicated that Normandin Middle School could accommodate the extra students as well as the need to reduce the enrollment numbers at Keith Middle School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Ms. Pollock and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to approve the redistricting recommendations made by Mr. Oliveira.

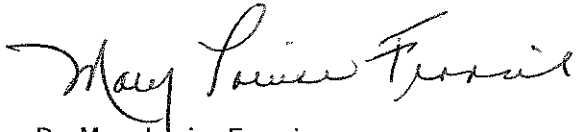
The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang – Yes	Atty. Clark – Absent
Mrs. Ussach – Yes	Dr. Fletcher – Yes
Mr. Nobrega – Yes	Dr. Finnerty – Yes
Ms. Pollock – Yes	

6– Yeas 0 – Nays 1- Absent

At 9:27 P.M., on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Ms. Pollock, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the regular session of the special meeting.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Louise Francis".

Dr. Mary Louise Francis
Superintendent,
Secretary/School Committee

MLF/csm