

<b>SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NEW BEDFORD SCHOOL COMMITTEE</b>
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PRESENT: MAYOR LANG, DR. FLETCHER, ATTY. CLARK, MR. NOBREGA, DR. FINNERTY,  
MRS. USSACH

ABSENT: MS. POLLOCK

IN ATTENDANCE: DR. FRANCIS, DR. SOUZA, D. WINN, H. LARKIN, L. OLIVEIRA, L. DUNAWAY  
(Acting recording secretary)

Justin Braga, Student Representative, was in attendance.

Public Comment was as follows:

1. Caroline Bell/Teacher – Spoke on behalf of Academic Coaches
2. Kelly Pacheco/Literacy Coach – Role of Literacy Coaches
3. Dr. Jeanne Bonneau/Principal – Donation of salary to help with budget crisis
4. Elaine Santos/Math Coach – Role of Math Coaches
5. Isaac York/Student – Read a letter to the Committee regarding value of Academic Coaches
6. Marcia Faucher/Principal – Role and necessity of Academic Coaches
7. Mia Vaughn/Student – Praise for Academic Coaches

Mayor Lang commenced the ongoing budget session by stating that the Committee started the budget process four months ago without full knowledge of funding. The budget is a financial planning document where we look for savings and did not expect the budget to be finalized at this meeting.

An explanation was provided by Mr. Oliveira that at the June 14, 2010 meeting there had been a projected \$14,363,350 shortfall. At that meeting were potential cuts of \$3,223,000. Since then, the House and Senate voted on a budget that included \$2,076,000 more revenue. The School Department had since cut \$4.9M, including 4% in general expense. Vendor services have been cut and the transportation bids (4) have a projected savings of \$51,471. A list was distributed to the Committee with specifics with regards to the transportation vendor bids.

Mr. Oliveira reviewed the past and remaining potential cuts and also mentioned that in FY '09 the School Department budget revenue was \$114,839,262. FY '11 budget revenue is \$105,408,569 with projected expenses at \$115,549,242. This comparison reflects \$4.6M Chapter 70 cut from the state; \$3M increase for health care costs; \$1.1M for Paras and AFSCME pensions; \$1.6M for Charter School reimbursement; stimulus funds down \$2M from last year and wage and step increases that equal \$3.5M. Discussion ensued regarding the \$10,140,673 that needed to be cut from the budget and the potential elimination of 127 teachers school wide. Dr. Francis provided an explanation as to the proposed Title I program services that are planned as an alternative to the coaching model, using technology mediated instruction, and use of Title I funding to support the initiative.

Mr. Nobrega asked about the contracted raises and the amount. Mr. Oliveira responded that \$2M is slated for step raises and \$1.5M is slated for negotiated raises for Unit A & B. Step increases involved over 400 Unit A and a handful of Unit B staff members. Paraprofessionals and AFSCME members are also in line for step raises.

Atty. Clark asked if there have been any discussions with the Unions regarding the proposed cuts. Mr. Oliveira said that there have been discussions with AFSCME members regarding reduction in force, and informal conversations with NBEA members to let them know what was coming. There have been discussions with the Paraprofessional Union members, but not the issue of reduction in force. A formal meeting with the NBEA is scheduled for July 14.

Mr. Oliveira reviewed the list of School Committee approved cuts not yet executed in the amount of \$2,018,418 and included explanations as to the future status of employees affected. He also went on to review the list of proposed cuts not yet voted on in the amount of \$8,122,255.

Mayor Lang suggested to the Committee that the cuts, as listed, be further established. He noted that nothing is final until the budget is approved.

After a review by Mr. Oliveira, the Committee proceeded to vote as follows:

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT THE RECEPTIONIST POSITION AT PRAB IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, TO CUT ONE (1) SPED CLERK POSITION AT NBHS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Atty. Clark, TO CUT ONE (1) SPED CLERK POSITION AT PRAB POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT FOUR (4) GUIDANCE CLERKS AT NBHS POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$120,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO CUT ONE (1) DROP OUT PREVENTION SPECIALIST/PR POSITION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$61,000.

At this time a motion was made by Atty. Clark to eliminate one nurse position. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO CUT FOUR (4) INSTRUCTIONAL SUPERVISOR POSITIONS AT NBHS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$336,013.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Atty. Clark, TO MOVE SIX (6) SPED POSITIONS TO A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$330,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty TO CUT THREE (3) VICE PRINCIPAL POSITIONS (ONE AT EACH MIDDLE SCHOOL) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$240,000.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO FUND MISCELLANEOUS POSITIONS BY GRANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$526,405.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, TO CUT FIVE (5) SPED TEACHERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$275,000.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the issue of eliminating 127 teaching positions, Academic Coaches and potential class sizes.

On a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, the Committee voted to CUT THE ACADEMIC COACHING PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,905,824.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

The list of potential cuts included the elimination of (1) one maintenance and 10 custodial positions. Mayor Lang recommended that 10 maintenance and 30 custodial positions be eliminated.

A brief discussion took place regarding this recommendation.

On a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted to eliminate 30 positions in the maintenance department and 30 custodial positions.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to cut \$28,000 from the I T Director/ Half Time position.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, TO CUT THREE (3) SPECIAL EDUCATION INTINERANTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.

A brief discussion resulted regarding the elimination of 46 rather than 40 (listed) paraprofessionals from the budget.

At this time, Atty. Clark recommended that a spending freeze be initiated at the start of the fiscal year.

On a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted to initiate a spending freeze as of July 1, 2010.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 - Nays

1 - Absent

On a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee voted to CUT FORTY-SIX (46) PARAPROFESSIONAL POSITIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$782,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mayor Lang	Yes	Atty. Clark	No
Dr. Finnerty	Yes	Ms. Pollock	Absent
Dr. Fletcher	Yes	Mrs. Ussach	Yes
Mr. Nobrega	Yes		

5 - Yeas

1 - Nay

1 - Absent

After a short break, with the potential cuts on the list exhausted, Mayor Lang said that the focus would be on transportation negotiations. He asked Mr. Oliveira to squeeze any additional revenue from Food Service and suggested that we negotiate with transportation vendors within the week for September for Special Education bus routes.

Atty. Clark proposed that a furlough program be looked into to help close the budget gap. Dr. Fletcher wanted to make it clear that Professional Development days would have to be involved in the furlough as it could not interfere with a regular school day.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, to have the Superintendent research and develop a furlough program to be presented to union and non-union personnel.

Justin Braga, new Student Representative gave a report on past and future events at New Bedford High School.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Dr. Finnerty and seconded by Dr. Fletcher to take up all requests to accept donations, including an item on the Addendum, together.

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

1. Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden McFadden School - \$170.73 from Stop & Shop Supermarket as part of the A+ Bonus Program.
- 2) Andrew Kulak/Asst. Headmaster/NBHS - \$387.38 from Stop & Shop Supermarket as part of the A+ Bonus Program and \$134.46 from Shaws Community Rewards Program.
- 3) Jamie Camacho/Principal/Pulaski School - \$828.24 from O'Connor Portraiture, Inc.
- 4) Matthew Riley/Principal/Taylor School - \$119.31 from the Stop & Shop Supermarket as part of the A+ Bonus Program.
- 5) Suzanne Madden/Principal/Hayden McFadden School - \$1086 from Lifetouch National School Studios.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Atty. Clark and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to take up and approve the following items, including an item on the Addendum, together:

A request from Suzanne Braga, on behalf of Neighborhoods United, to use the north side of the Gomes School grounds for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night out on August 3, 2010 from 5:00 – 9:30 P.M. at no cost to the local budget.

Kellie Freitas/Librarian/Professional Development Facilitator to travel to Aptos, CA to attend the New Teacher Induction Institute from June 21 – 25, 2010, with no cost to the district.

Darcy Fernandes/Principal/Roosevelt Middle School to travel to Lagoa, St. Michael Azores to attend a set of development meetings to coordinate a Sister City partnership, from July 7 - 13, 2010, with no cost to the district.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, for New Bedford Public Schools not to participate in School Choice for the 2010-2011 school year.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY, on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach to receive and place on file a communication from Councillor Brian Gomes of the New Bedford City Council requesting that the School Department do the study needed in order to install school zone signs in the area of Kempton School on Shawmut Ave.

A motion was made by Mrs. Ussach and seconded by Dr. Finnerty, to go into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining and non-union personnel negotiations.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

6 - Yeas

0 – Nays

1 - Absent

At 9:45 P.M., on a motion by Mr. Nobrega and seconded by Mrs. Ussach, the Committee VOTED UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the Regular Session meeting.

Submitted by,

Dr. Mary Louise Francis  
Superintendent of Schools  
Secretary, School Committee

MLF/lpd