

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 13, 2024
6:00 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

PRESENT: Mr. Oliveira, Chair; Ms. Pimentel, Vice-Chair; Ms. Bettencourt; Mr. Shea; Mrs. Ribeiro; Dr. Marland; Mr. Toomey.

EXCUSED: Mr. Kitchen.

1. The meeting was held in person and via remote participation (YouTube) for the public.
2. Mrs. Fredette informed that there were no public comments submitted.
3. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to accept the minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting.

Yes – 7 No – 0
4. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to accept and hold the minutes of the executive session until the matter is completed.

Yes – 7 No – 0
5. On a motion by Ms. Pimentel, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to approve warrant 25-01 in the amount of \$976,410.08.

Yes – 7 No – 0
6. Superintendent Watson expressed his appreciation of the full year staff, custodial and maintenance departments, facilities and IT professionals who have really done exemplary work in getting the building ready for the 24-25 school year.
7. Superintendent Watson updated the Committee with his last weekly newsletter for the school year.
8. On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to authorize the Treasurer to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue.

Yes – 7 No – 0
9. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to adopt the following policies with one change to policy BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members, deleting the word “elected” from the first sentence, and this be considered the first reading for adoption:
 - BHE – Use of Electronic Messaging by School Committee Members
 - EFC - Universal Free School Lunch
 - EFD – School Nutrition Program Charge Policy
 - EHAA - District Security Relating to Technology

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- EHB – Data and Records Retention
- GBEE – Personnel Use of Technology
- IJND – Access to Digital Resources & Technology Resources
- JICJ – Student Use of Technology in Schools
- KDC – Community Use of Digital Resources
- KDCB – District Website and Social Media

Yes – 7 No - 0

10. Superintendent Watson explained his SMARTIE Goals for 2024/25. He informed that his goals tie directly with the strategic plan and these are the areas being worked on in the upcoming school year:

- Student Learning Goal
 - Continued work on analyzing common formative assessments to improve student growth percentiles and MCAS performance
 - Our CTE programs will utilize the skills plus platform for educators to upload to their rosters all skills competencies attained by students in their shop program
 - Focus on increasing student mastery around industry recognized credentials specifically in strand two by 10% which demonstrate relevant skills for future employment and try to move beyond the OSHA regulations which are part of the industry recognized credentials and to move towards more industry relevant skills.
 - Expand professional development on data driven differentiated and culturally responsive teaching designed to close not only the achievement gaps but to provide equitable access to high quality education.
 - Implement advanced data analytics and early warning systems for timely interventions through our student support team.
 - Integrate mental health programs to support student well-being and improve student attendance reducing chronic absenteeism rates by 5% and continue to build upon the success of the past few years in introducing and implementing culturally relevant lesson plans in all classes focusing on high quality work that identifies all students within our classroom.
 - Implement at least two culturally responsive/inclusive lessons in all classrooms that incorporate student identity, fostering high-quality learning for all students.
- Professional Practice
 - Advance the district and operational efficiencies and educational practices through the attending of conferences, seminars and training sessions to improve district operations, modernize curriculum and to ensure equitable access, and to enhance effective communication with all senior staff.
 - Introduce and implement an advanced system to monitor and improve student attendance leverage technology resources available to us and again strive to reduce chronic absenteeism by June 2025 by 5%.

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- Utilize new project management software to empower District Administrative staff to manage projects, workflow, and task track effectively, streamlining communication and increasing overall team effectiveness.
 - Introduce Magic School initiatives this school year to enhance digital learning. Teachers and administrators will integrate at least two Magic School tools into all lesson plans to promote innovative teaching practices by June of 2025.
 - Develop protocol to conduct teacher learning walks with interdepartmental collaboration focused on effective teaching practices and foster a collaborative learning environment amongst educators with full scale implementation in the 25-26.
- District SMARTIE Goal 1
 - Support student successes and engagement during the 24-25 school year. The district will develop multi-tier system of supports for students. Our instructional support teams will begin to provide tiered interventions with measurable outcomes to improve student success.
 - Deploy accommodation matrices and provide professional development to simulate the marginalized student experiences for all staff which will foster empathy and understanding in a way of designing and constructing high quality learning environments for all students
 - Expand our CTE partnerships with regional employers by 10% and increase student participation in cooperative education and placement sites by 5%.
 - Implement the conduction of three trimester reviews with all department leaders and the Executive Administrative team to review student performance lesson planning data with teachers and administrators to identify trends and adjust instructional strategies as needed in all Academic and CTE areas.
 - District SMARTIE Goal 2
 - Enhance District communication and engagement throughout the community this year using ThoughtExchange to gather feedback and foster engagement including a broad diverse group of students, staff, parents and community members.
 - Conduct at least four ThoughtExchange engagements this year, one at the start, mid-year, end of the year, and one focused on a specific topic to measure participation rates and gather qualitative feedback.
 - Provide training for all school administrators by October 30th, 2024, we will ensure that resources are allocated to promote and facilitate these inclusive conversations.
 - Use feedback to inform policies and to address community concerns and ensuring accessibility for all stakeholders insuring translations and accommodations for disabilities and actively underrepresented groups.

11. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve the Superintendent's SMARTIE Goals for the 2024/25 school year as submitted.

Yes – 7 No – 0

12. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan as submitted.

Yes – 7 No – 0

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13. On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Ms. Pimentel, it was voted to approve the 2024-25 Organizational Chart as submitted.

Yes – 7 No – 0

14. On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to receive and place on file the early notification of retirement of Leonard Gauvin effective August 13, 2025.

Yes – 7 No – 0

15. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Ms. Pimentel, it was moved to receive and place on file the following notifications of resignation:

1. Grant Crowell effective immediately.
2. Margaret Thurbide effective immediately.
3. Lauren Burke effective August 2, 2024.

Yes – 7 No – 0

16. On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to receive and place on file the following items:

1. Norris, Murray & Peloquin, L.L.C. – June 10, 2024
2. Notification of the Award of the Skills Capital Grant
3. Treasurer’s Report – August 8, 2024
4. Donation from SONOS Inc.
5. Donation from HandUp US LLC

Yes – 7 No – 0

17. On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to adjourn to Executive Session under Chapter 30, Section 2. Members will not be returning to the open session.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ms. Pimentel	-	Yes	Dr. Marland	-	Yes
Ms. Bettencourt		Yes	Mr. Toomey	-	Yes
Mr. Shea	-	Yes	Mr. Oliveira	-	Yes
Mrs. Ribeiro	-	Yes			

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned to executive session 6:48 p.m.

Adjourned

Secretary for the Committee