

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 11, 2025
6:00 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

PRESENT: Mr. Oliveira, Chair; Ms. Pimentel, Vice-Chair; Ms. Bettencourt; Mr. Shea; Mrs. Ribeiro; Dr. Marland; Mr. Kitchen. Student Caroline Pereira.

1. The meeting was held in person and via remote participation (YouTube) for the public.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ms. Kelly Haggerty offered comments regarding the Travel Club’s trip to Portugal. She informed that she and Mr. David Goncalves would be in charge of the trip and responsible for all decisions but would need the help of Ms. Susan Harrison as they did not have the experience that Ms. Harrison does.

3. The meeting was taken out of order to address Item 7c. – Out of State Travel for the Travel Club.

4. On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Pimentel, it was voted to approve the out of state travel for the Travel Club to travel to Portugal with the understanding that Ms. Kelly Haggerty and Mr. David Goncalves would be in charge of the trip and responsible for all decisions and supervision of the students.

Yes – 7 No - 0

5. **READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2025 meeting.

Yes – 7 No – 0

On a motion by Ms. Pimentel, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve and hold the minutes of the executive session until the matter is completed.

Yes – 7 No – 0

6. **APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, it was moved to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,635,367.73.

Yes – 7 No – 0

7. **AUDITOR’S REPORT:**

Robert Russell of Hague, Sahady & Co., P.C. presented, in depth, the auditor’s report.

8. CLASKY PARK PROJECT BY THE AFTERDARK PROGRAM:

Carpentry instructor Frank Goncalves explained the Clasky Park project that was done by New Bedford High School students while attending the After Dark Program. Karen Walsh explained that the students attend their academic classes at New Bedford High School during the day and then transition to Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

9. SUPERINTENDENT SHOUT-OUT:

Superintendent Watson in his monthly “shoutout” expressed his appreciation of the educators who are working with the New Bedford High School students every day from 3 to 6 p.m. for 180 days. Their efforts will help these students graduate with a Chapter 74 education.

10. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE’S REORT:

Caroline Pereira explained her report. She informed that the students celebrated Black History and Healthy Heart Month, the Student Council group is planning Spring events, Multi-cultural week will be in April, the SkillsUSA District Competition will be held on February 28th, the After Prom is conducting a calendar fundraiser and a concession stand donation fundraiser.

11. PARENT COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Watson informed that the possip surveys include feedback that we're getting from parents. Mrs. Maria DeMelo continues to monitor the questions and comments by the families.

12. ARTISAN REPORT:

Principal Williams explained this month’s artisan report. This month, the artisan report centered around our Science department in academics highlighting activities utilized in the classrooms. In our Voc-Tech classrooms, Academies A and B were highlighted with classwork done in Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC, Early Education & Care, Culinary Arts, EMT, Medical Assistant, Legal & Protective Servies and Dental Assistant. The report also highlighted our Off-Site Construction Department. Overall, the report focused on the classroom efforts of our teachers.

13. BUDGET PROCESS UPDATES:

Superintendent Watson explained that the budget sub-committee would be meeting on February 26, and this would be the first of three meetings between now and early April. The goal is to define the steps of the budgeting process and to make sure that the members of the sub-committee understand all of the requests and for them to have the opportunity to ask questions and to weigh in.

14. THOUGHTEXCHANGE / EXPLORATORY PROCESS:

Superintendent Watson explained that the ThoughtExchange platform is used to engage with our community. The system allows for questions to be answered and automated summaries are created in real time. The platform was used with the 9th grade student exploratory process and 437 students participated in the feedback.

15. FETC CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS:

Superintendent Watson explained the takeaways from the FETC Conference that he attended and how the District plans to implement the takeaways.

16. SUPERINTENDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATES:

Superintendent Watson updated the Committee with his weekly newsletters to all staff. The newsletters are sent every Monday morning to all faculty and staff and highlight the events taking place on a weekly basis.

17. GRADUATION & COMPETENCY DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS FY25:

Superintendent Watson explained that in order for students to graduate from a public high they now only need to meet the local District graduation requirement. The proposed Graduation & Competency Determination Requirements for the Class of 2025 will be reviewed by the District Committee and then voted on at the March 11th meeting.

18. OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR THE SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB:

On a motion by Mr. Kitchen, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to approve Out of State Travel for the Ski & Snowboard Club to travel to New Hampshire in February or early March.

Yes – 7 No – 0

19. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to designate the following equipment as surplus:

- Haas TL-1 CNC Lathe
- Atlas Copco Air Compressor
- Air Dryer Type FD 50
- Oil Condensate Separator

Yes – 7 No – 0

20. INFORMATIONAL:

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

1. SMEC Annual Report
2. Communication to State Legislators – January 23, 2025
3. Communication to Tremblay Bus Company LLC – January 24, 2025
4. Communication to Open Cape

Yes – 7 No – 0

21. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Bettencourt, it was moved to adjourn.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee