

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 10, 2023
6:30 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

PRESENT: Mr. Oliveira, Vice-Chair; Ms. Pimentel; Mr. Shea; Mrs. Ribeiro; Dr. Marland; Mr. Durrigan;
Mr. Toomey; Student Nia Rodrigues.

EXCUSED: Ms. Bettencourt, Chair.

1. The meeting was held in person and via remote participation (YouTube) for the public.
2. Item #4 – Executive Session Under Chapter 30, Section 21 was moved to the end of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Fredette informed that there were no public comments submitted.

4. SKILLSUSA COMPETITION WINNERS:

The SkillsUSA competition winners were invited to the meeting to speak about the great work that they're doing and some of the successes that they've had. Meghan Lacasse, Chapter Advisor, thanked both the school and the school committee members for their support of the organization and chapter. It really provides so many opportunities for the students both in building their technical skills but also in their leadership skills as well. The students introduced themselves and shared their experiences.

Mr. Shea explained that many of the current school committee members have been following SkillsUSA for many years. It's exciting to see how SkillsUSA is growing and it's because of the leadership that we have tonight along with the students. Hearing you speak about what it did for you, we're feeling the power that you have in what you're doing, so thank you for participating and for taking a leadership role. Please stay with it because it is one of the best organized programs in the country.

Mr. Toomey agreed with Mr. Shea's comments and having been an advisor for VICA back in the 80s, he expressed his appreciation for what everyone is doing and have done for the school and the community in general. He informed that Mr. Shea has been a contributor to the success of the program. Through his efforts, he put forth a program that would help to save SkillsUSA and the committee is thankful for him and the tremendous job done by everyone in rebuilding the program.

5. READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 meeting.

Yes – 7 No – 0

6. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Toomey, it was moved to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,075,511.11.

Yes – 7 No – 0

7. THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE TEACHING IN OUR WORK WITH STUDENTS:

Superintendent Watson explained that the booklet contains a lot of resources that will be utilized in every classroom and shop area. As noted in his SMARTIE Goals last month, we are looking for at least two culturally responsive lessons from all teachers.

Mr. Shea asked if this initiative is something we are doing or is it State-wide run. Superintendent Watson explained the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is focused on inclusive teaching practices throughout the state, but he was proud of Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech's leadership on this initiative. Since launching the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion position in the Fall of 2021, the District has made significant strides in practices that include culturally responsive teaching practices. The guide booklet is designed to be utilized by educators to support one another in meeting the District's SMARTIE goal.

Mrs. Ribeiro commented that Ms. Dennis has the respect of quite a few in the education component on equity and diversity. She's leading the way and I'm so proud that we have her in this school because she's looked to for advice on how to do their programs. I really commend Mr. Watson, the team and Ms. Dennis for everything that we're doing here because we are leading the way for sure.

\$

Ms. Pimentel commented that the booklet also covers more inclusive Latinos and Hispanics which are the large populations.

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8. MCAS TEST RESULTS:

Mr. Angelo explained the MCAS and School Accountability Results. Greater New Bedford Voc - Tech was in the 43rd percentile of public high schools in Massachusetts.

9. SUPERINTENDENT SHOUT-OUT:

Superintendent Watson in his monthly "shoutout" expressed his appreciation of Lauren Michael and Wadley DaSilva for leading the Rachel's Challenge initiative for the district. He thanked them for their focus on kindness and supporting one another and students through the school day.

10. PARENT COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Watson informed that the possip surveys includes feedback that we're getting from parents. Ms. Dennis is currently leading the family engagement department as well as returning those phone calls and getting that information out to the stakeholders and Community leaders in those areas so we can address parents who are leaving feedback.

11. ARTISAN REPORT: Principal Williams explained this month's artisan report. This month, the artisan report centered around our English and Math departments in academics with each department highlighting activities utilized in the classrooms. In our Voc-Tech classrooms, Academies A and B were highlighted with classwork done in Carpentry, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood Education, Dental & Medical Assisting, and Legal and Protective Services. The report also highlighted our Guidance department efforts and the work in our Assistant Principals office. Overall, the report focused on the classroom efforts of our teachers, supports and important dates for students in guidance, and the emphasis on climate and culture, and ensuring the learning environment is safe.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATES:

Superintendent Watson updated the Committee with his weekly newsletters to all staff. The Superintendent informed the Committee that his weekly newsletters to all staff begun two years ago would continue throughout his third year. The newsletters are sent every Monday morning to all faculty and staff.

13. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

Nia Rodrigues brought Committee Members up to date on the events taking place amongst the student body. The Rachel's Club promoted World Smile Day by having a roll of smiley stickers that was at student's disposal. They were trying to promote positivity and kindness through the smiley stickers so they're all over the place and everybody was smiling that day it was just a great way to start your Friday by seeing a bunch of smiley faces.

The class of 2024 had their elections and the people that got elected are Analise Applebee as president. Nia was elected as vice president. Ava Silva was elected as secretary and Sophia De Almeida was elected as Academy A Representative.

The senior class is starting off their first fundraiser with Crispy Cream Donuts. This week is spirit week as we lead up to the homecoming game and homecoming itself. Today was the first spirit day. The students dressed to their grade. The freshman dressed up as babies, the sophomores dressed up as elementary school students, the juniors dressed up as adults and the seniors dress up as senior citizens. There was a lot of student participation especially for seniors. Tomorrow is barbecue parent versus soccer parent, so that means you can dress up as if you're at a barbecue or at a cookout or you can dress up as a soccer parent getting ready for a soccer game for their kid. The homecoming game theme is country versus country club so you can dress as if you are going western or you're going to a country club to go golfing. The homecoming Dance theme is stary night.

SkillsUSA chapter officer team tripled its size this year. There are 22-chapter officers which is an amazing increase. The students can now work on more projects and start working outside of the community which will hopefully get them to the top 24 schools like they did this past year. The student council is planning their next meeting in November. Ms. Dennis will make sure all of the cultures are getting included. The senior class will be hosting the class of 2026 presidential and vice-presidential debates.

14. VOTE TO ADOPT THE ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR:

On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was voted to adopt the Admissions Policy for the 2023/24 School Year.

Yes – 7 No - 0

15. VOTE TO APPROVE THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2023:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was moved to approve the Student Activities Account Balances as of September 30, 2023.

Yes –7 No – 0

16. VOTE TO DESIGNATE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS:

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Ms. Pimentel, it was voted to designate the following equipment as surplus.

- press brake, pneumatic, Atek bantam, mdl2120GF000R
- Ring Roller , Baileigh R-M10
- 8ft x 16g, Apron Brake, National N9616
- dual station air cleaner, diversitech 02IASC
- multi milling machine HQ800
- Mig Welder, Miller 175
- Tilt skillet Groen Voltage- 3 Phase 480 Volts 15.0 KW Model Number- FPC-4
- Dishwasher Hobart Voltage- 120/208-240 3W 1 phase 37.7A Model Number- LXIGH
- Stacked Deck Oven (Natural Gas)
- 3 Burner Charbroiler Southbend
- Stainless Steel Serving Table Peters
- Stainless Steel Serving Table with Shelf
- Beverage Cooler True Manufacturing
- Large 2 pot steam kettle (Steam Only Operation) Market Forge Model Number- MTL1016C100A
- Small single pot steam kettle's Master Forge Model Number-MT6E18A 208V 18KW 3 Phase 110V 1 phase circuit
- Stacked Convection Ovens Blodgett
- Flat Top Electric Griddle
- Bunn 5 Burner Coffee Maker Bunn
- Grindmaster Coffee Bean Grinder Grindmaster Model 100
- Meat Slicer Hobart Model Number- 2712
- Medical Refrigerator with temperature reading Accucold Model Number- FF28LWHMED2
- Alliant Vertical Milling Machine Alliant
- Rockwell Band Saw Rockwell Manufacturer- Rockwell
- Baldor Pedestal Grinder
- Blast Chiller Beverage Air Model # BC-40-4-0AX5 Voltage 220
- Versymmetric 2 Post Lift Challenger Lift Mo. # CL9

Yes – 7 No – 0

17. REPORT ON PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS OR RESIGNATIONS:

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

1. Timothy McCarthy effective September 30, 2024.
2. David Hughes effective November 20, 2024.

Yes – 7 No – 0

18. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Advisory Dinner Meeting – October 18, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

Yes – 7 No – 0

19. EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER CHAPTER 30, SECTION 21:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to adjourn to Executive Session under Chapter 30, Section 21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the GNBEU and GNBAU as the Vice-Chair has determined that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the committee. Members will not be returning to open session.

Adjourned to Executive Session at 8:11 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

20. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee