

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 14, 2023
6:00 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

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

EXCUSED: Mr. Toomey.

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

2. 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, to discuss strategy with respect to non-union personnel and to discuss a Step 3 Grievance filed by the GNBEU Unit A in accordance with the grievance procedure in the GNBEU Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement as the Chair has determined that an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the committee. Members will be returning to open session.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Returned to regular session at 6:30 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

4. READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was voted to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting.

Yes – 7 No – 0

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to accept and hold the minutes of the executive session until the matter is completed.

Yes – 7 No - 0

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,513,040.34.

Yes – 7 No – 0

6. SUPERINTENDENT SHOUT-OUT:

Superintendent Watson in his monthly “shoutout” expressed his appreciation of Noah Rivera who is our new Student Activities Coordinator who is really assisting in the athletic department with promoting all of the athletic and spirit events and also the Culinary Arts teachers for putting on the retiree breakfast and the middle school counselors’ breakfast.

7. FACILITIES PRESENTATION:

Zeb Arruda, Director of Facilities, thanked all of the vendors, contractors, staff and students who worked together this summer to complete all of the projects. The HVAC systems were maintained and motors upgraded, some of the lighting throughout the school was converted over to LED, student lockers were refurbished, seven garage doors were replaced, four sets of doors in the building were replaced, all of the classrooms were cleaned, duct work was done throughout the building which improves the air quality in the building, the old fashion design shop was converted into a nurses office while the health center was being built, the old fashion design shop was then converted into an IT shop, new cabinets and counter tops were installed in various shops, the coffee shop was completely redone, a new plumbing house was completely rebuilt, the track was completely redone. Through a solar project that we participated in 2020 we have been able to save approximately \$2,900 per month in electric bills.

\$

8. 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.

9. ARTISAN REPORT: Principal Williams explained this month’s artisan report. This month, the artisan report centered around our Social Studies and Science departments in academics with each department highlighting activities utilized in the classrooms. In our Voc-Tech classrooms, Academics C and D were highlighted with classwork done in Automotive, Business Technology, Collision Technology, Cosmetology, Diesel Technology, Information Technology, Architectural Drafting, Machine Drafting, Machine Technology, Media Technology, Metal Fabrication, Stationary Engineering, HVAC, Visual Design, and Marine Technology. The report also highlighted our Cafeteria department and the work done by Mr. Arroja and the Junior Electrical student in collaboration with the New Bedford Police Department in assembling bikes for students in the community.

10. 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.

11. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

Nia Rodrigues brought Committee Members up to date on the events taking place amongst the student body. The homecoming dance took place, the SkillsUSA students went to Hastings Middle School to talk to the students about SkillsUSA and about GNBVT. The students have been working on a mental health project. A literacy project is under way. This project is designed to help students with their employability skills. In support of Breast Cancer, the students and staff had a pink out day. There was also a Halloween spirit week. The student council met and discussed a school spirit / multicultural event for the month of December. There will be a pep rally just before the Thanksgiving break.

12. VOTE TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was voted to approve out of state travel for the Visual Design students to travel to RISD Museum in Providence, RI and for Laura McLean's class to travel to the International Museum of World War II in Kingston, RI.

Yes – 7 No - 0

13. VOTE TO DESIGNATE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS:

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

- Jet 16 Gauge foot shear
- Roper Whitney, PEXTO 16ga foot shear M#137L
- Stainless steel single sink with utility drawer. Table #1
- Stainless steel double sink with garbage disposal. Carbone
- Stainless steel double sink. Advance Tabco. Table #3
- Stainless steel double sink. Table #4
- Large refrigerated unit\Small counter top unit
- 17 - Tables

Yes – 7 No – 0

14. REPORT ON PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS OR RESIGNATIONS:

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

1. Cecelia Labrode effective December 31, 2024

Yes – 7 No – 0

15. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Memorial Service – Sunday, November 19, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
2. Open House – Sunday, November 19, 2023 – 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
3. Craft Fair – November 25 & 26, 2023 – Fieldhouse
4. Donation – Master Millwork Inc.
5. Donation – MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board

Yes – 7 No – 0

16. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to adjourn.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee