

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 12, 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; Mr. Toomey; Student Nia Rodrigues.

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

4. VOTE TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR LPS STUDENTS:

The meeting was taken out of order in order to address item 9g. - Vote to Approve Out of State Travel for the LPS Students.

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mr. Toomey, it was voted to approve the Out of State Travel for the LPS Students to travel to Ground Zero / Fire Station #1 in New York City.

Yes – 8 No – 0

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF:

Superintendent Watson informed that there are close to one hundred new faces at GNBVT over the last three school years, 51 of those new faces are teachers in front of our students every day. He acknowledged the school committee's desire to meet new educators to the school district and stressed that educator turnover due to retirements and other factors have impacted many school districts across the Commonwealth. Mr. Watson also thanked the Committee for their commitment to supporting instructors in closing the gap to support new educators in their new endeavors with the district.

Principal Williams introduced all of the new staff members.

Mr. Shea asked the new staff to work together and to keep the fire going. He thanked everyone for being there that night and for being positive for the students.

6. READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2023 meeting.

Yes – 8 No – 0

7. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was moved to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,206,722.55.

Yes – 8 No – 0

8. SUPERINTENDENT SHOUT-OUT:

Superintendent Watson in his monthly "shoutout" expressed his appreciation of the Assistant Principals and Security Department. The school year has begun and has a different feel to it. All members of the department are working hard with the students, visible all day long and in the cafeteria, ensuring the hallways and common areas are safe and students ready to learn. Ms. Pimentel also commented and informed the Committee that she had come in to the building during lunch time and was very impressed with the students.

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S WEEKLY UPDATES:

Superintendent Watson updated the Committee with his first weekly newsletters to all staff. He reminded the Committee he will continue the practice of a weekly newsletter to all District personnel on Monday mornings providing an update of key district events and work the team is hoping to accomplish.

10. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

Nia Rodrigues brought Committee Members up to date on the events taking place amongst the student body. She informed of the Senior Sunrise event that took place. The senior students met in the parking lot on the first day of school to catch up before school started. They played games. It was a fun time for all. The student council had its first meeting. Class meetings took place with Mr. Williams, Mr. Methia and Ms. Dennis. Senior students met for yearbook pictures.

11. VOTE TO APPROVE THE SUPERINTENDENT'S SMARTIE GOALS FOR 2023/24:

Superintendent Watson explained his SMARTIE Goals for the 2023/24 school year. The SMARTIE goals address both the student learning and professional practice goal of the Superintendent, Mr. Watson stressed the two District goals for all educators this year. For district SMARTIE Goal # 1 All CTE programs and grades will implement the SkillsPlus competency based for all students in real time so it's visible for parents, students, teachers, and administrators; in academics all courses will administer common formative assessments to gauge student progress to the learning standards and inform instructional practices to improve learning; launch students support team with measurable outcomes, and finally culturally relevant teaching practices are embedded in all lesson planning and that teachers can provide evidence of two lessons to their supervisors. District SMARTIE Goal # 2 is focused on two-way communication with families and improving outreach to all families in their home languages. Mr. Shea inquired if other schools are as advanced in technology, SkillsPlus, in the shops as we are. Superintendent Watson explained that we are quickly closing gaps but that most schools have programs in place to ensure that students are making progress towards the students. Superintendent Watson explained that we need to record all processes in order to best service the students. Parents and students need to see the information in real time.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was voted to approve the Superintendent's SMARTIE Goals for 2023/24 as submitted.

Yes – 8 No - 0

12. VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2023/24 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:

The employee handbook for the 2023-2024 school year was discussed. Mr. Toomey inquired about CVTE certification requirements for all teachers. Superintendent Watson informed the Committee that the District will amend the handbook to include the proper certification requirements for CVTE teachers.

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was moved to approve the Employee Handbook for 2023/24 with the recommended changes.

Yes – 8 No – 0

13. VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2023/24 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART:

The Committee discussed the 2023-2024 organizational chart. The Chairwoman, Ms. Bettencourt, articulated that Superintendent Watson met with the Committee leadership to explain the organizational chart and the restructuring efforts underway over the last year. Superintendent Watson discussed that

the organizational chart reflects the changes to the structure over the last two years and previewed anticipated changes to come in the next few years. He also offered to all committee members the opportunity to meet one on one to discuss the organizational chart. The Chairwoman, Ms. Bettencourt, encouraged her colleagues to take advantage of the 1-1 time with the Superintendent.

On a motion by Ms. Pimentel, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to approve the 2023/24 Organizational Chart as submitted.

Yes – 8 No – 0

14. FORMATION OF AN ADMISSIONS POLICY REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE:

Discussion was held on the formation of an Admissions Policy Review Sub-committee. Mr. Durrigan suggested, for consistency purposes, reappointing members to another year to continue the momentum begun last year. Ms. Pimentel inquired if there were any openings on the sub-committee. Superintendent Watson reminded the Committee that we cannot have a subcommittee with a majority of members, though all members will vote on the Admissions Policy for the Class of 2028 in October. The District is reviewing internal data for the Class of 2027 and is in communication with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regarding state data as well. Ms. Bettencourt explained that the previous sub-committee was comprised of Mrs. Ribeiro, Mr. Oliveira and herself. She agrees with Mr. Durrigan in keeping the same sub-committee. Mr. Shea recommends keeping the same sub-committee in place for one more year. Mr. Toomey agrees with keeping the same sub-committee in place.

On a motion by Mr. Durrigan, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to keep the same admissions policy sub-committee in place for one more year.

Yes – 7 Abstain – 1 (Ms. Pimentel)

15. VOTE TO INCREASE THE LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE DAILY RATE FOR THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR:

The Committee discussed the changing in practice to adjust the long-term substitute daily teaching rate to make it consistent if the assignment is longer than 25 school days, the substitute would be compensated for any day beyond 25 days at the provisional rate in the educator contract.

On a motion by Mr. Toomey, seconded by Mr. Durrigan, it was voted to increase the Long-term Substitute Pay Rate for the 2023/24 school year as submitted.

Yes – 8 No – 0

16. VOTE TO APPROVE OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR STUDENT ATHLETES:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Toomey, it was voted to approve the out of state travel for the girls' volleyball team to travel to Brown University and Providence College to watch games.

Yes – 8 No – 0

17. VOTE TO DESIGNATE EQUIPMENT AS SURPLUS:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to designate the following equipment as surplus.

- 14-inch Sony Monitor
- 9-inch JVC Monitor (3)
- 480p Canon G12 Video Camera (2)
- JVC VHS Deck
- JVC DVD Mini DV Recorder
- Sony DVD/VHS Deck (2)
- Kodak Scanner
- Binding Machine
- Canon Vixia HV40 HD Mini DV Camera (2)
- Rollseal Altima 35 Laminator
- DVD Cases
- DVD-Rs
- CD's
- Laminator Material
- Advanced Company Floor Machine

Yes – 8 No – 0

18. REPORT ON PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS OR RESIGNATIONS:

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

1. Veronica Arruda effective August 25, 2023

Yes – 8 No – 0

19. COMMUNICATIONS:

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

1. Treasurer's Report.

Yes – 8 No – 0

20. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:

Mr. Durrigan inquired about the status of the Marine Program. Superintendent Watson informed that there is still a marine advisory committee in place. We have been in conversations with folks trying to build the program up. Jobs are a concern for us and we keep trying to find places for our students to work at once they graduate. He will check to see if any students went out on co-op last year and will inform where students are working this year.

Nia Rodrigues informed that she is part of the offshore sailing program and she will be participating in a race this Saturday off of Block Island.

Mr. Toomey informed that he had attended the Freshman Orientation Day. He commended all the staff and administration for the work they did in organizing the event.

21. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

Adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee