GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 12, 2025
6:00 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

PRESENT: Ms. Pimentel, Chair; Mr. Shea, Vice-Chair; Ms. Bettencourt; Mr. Oliveira; Dr. Marland; Mr. Kitchen; Ms. Treadup. Student Emilia Noriega.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION: Mrs. Ribeiro.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

3. INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

District Committee Members welcomed Emilia Noriega as the new student representative on the committee. Emilia is a senior student in the Legal & Protective Services program and a resident of the City of New Bedford.

4. READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025 meeting.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

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

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

5. APPROVAL OF BILLS:

On a motion by Mr. Oliveira, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to approve the payment of bills in the amounts of $1,273,503.09 and $487,080.78.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

6. AVIATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Superintendent Watson explained that the sub-committee met in May, July and will meet again on August 21st to discuss the feasibility of establishing an aviation program.

7. ADOPTION OF THE 2025/26 STUDENT HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to adopt the 2025/26 Student Handbook, and this be considered the second reading and adoption.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

8. AUTHORIZE THE TREASURER TO BORROW:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, it was voted to authorize the treasurer to borrow from time to time in anticipation of revenue.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S SMARTIE GOLS:

Superintendent Watson explained his SMARTIE Goals. In the Student Learning Goal we are focused on a new CTE exploratory model that uses student out access and outcome data and this will be discussed on a trimester basis with all of the administrators and vocational directors. We are going to continue in year two, which is to advance our accommodation matrices across all departments during the school year with a focus on tier one strategies. We hope to attain increases from CTE strand 2 credentials by 10% in all CTE areas. In the Professional Practice Goals, we are implementing a teacher learning walk protocol in October which will happen three times this year. We are conducting a comprehensive review of grading practices across the district to make sure there are consistent practices happening across the district. A lot of the work with the DCAP is centered around our long-term goal of MTSS and UDL support in all of the classrooms. We are looking at professional learning communities across the entire school including CTE programs. And finally, we are conducting a district-wide compliance policy review that's aligned with all DESE regulations and federal and state mandates.

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Dr. Marland, it was voted to approve the Superintendent's SMARTIE Goals as submitted.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

10. 2025/26 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Oliveira, it was voted to adopt the 2025/26 Employee Handbook as submitted.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

11. UPDATE ON FEDERAL ENTITLEMENT GRANTS:

Superintendent Watson gave an overview of the Federal Entitlement Grants. He informed that all of the allocations for GNBVT have been earmarked for the District so there is no freeze on any funding today.

12. DISCUSSION ON THE ADMISSIONS POLICY:

Superintendent Watson explained that vocational schools in the commonwealth are required to implement a weighted lottery system. What this means is that every child who completes an application gets a ball in the pot. Regardless of any other experiences, how many absences they have, or any discipline procedures, they get one opportunity to be selected. District school committees have the ability to apply a series of weights to that. For example, if a student is absent 27 or less days unexcused, that student could get a second opportunity to be selected. If a student is absent 30 days, they don't get a second ball. There's also been a change in discipline regulations. Most students are not eliminated from the criteria that we put in place a year ago with discipline. It was single digits out of the 1,100. The provisions have gotten a little bit more stringent from the department in this language up to and including felonies and convictions in middle school. If the student meets the discipline threshold, they get another ball in the pot. The district school committee also has the ability to put an awareness weight. If a student were to come to open house, participate in a tour, submit a video, write a letter, that student could get another ball in the pot. Our current policy does not include awareness or student interest.

13. EXPANSION OF CTE PROGRAMS:

Superintendent Watson explained that one of the avenues that we are looking at is a construction craft laborers program which we would build off of the back of our carpentry wing. We've done a lot of work around the south coast labor blueprint and looking at where the jobs are going to be in the marketplace over the next decade. By introducing another program specifically in this area, a blue-collar program we are targeting exactly the kids that Mr. Kitchen and others mentioned earlier. Students that often seek our carpentry or plumbing programs but do not get into their first pick and end up in a less desirable program for that child who is looking for a hands-on experience directly tied.

14. SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

Discussion was held on the school committee meeting dates. Due to the November 11 holiday and scheduling conflict on January 13, the District Committee will meet on Monday, November 10, 2025 and January 20, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

15. SUBSTITUTE DAILY RATE INCREASE:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Oliveira, it was voted to approve the Substitute Daily Rate to $140.00/day from $120.00/day.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

16. NEW ASSISTANT GOLF COACH POSITION:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted to approve a new Assistant Golf Coach position as requested.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Mr. Shea	-	Yes	Dr. Marland	-	Yes
Ms. Bettencourt		Yes	Mr. Kitchen	-	Abstain
Mr. Oliveira	-	Yes	Ms. Treadup	-	Yes
Mrs. Ribeiro	-	Yes	Ms. Pimentel	-	Yes

Yes - 7 No – 0 Abstain – 1

17. STUDENT ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS:

On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to create Student Activity Accounts as requested.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

18. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

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

Mitutoyo CNN CRTPM443	x15.75	46920121	10 yrs. Old
Fowler Optical Comparator	16x26x26	53-900-100	12 yrs. Old
KILN – thermal chamber	42' x 64"	36499	10 yrs. Old

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

19. REPORT ON PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS OR RESIGNATIONS

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

1. Jeffrey Fortin effective June 30, 2026.
2. Michael Nelson effective June 17, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to receive and place on file the following notifications of resignation:

1. Beverly Rebelo effective June 30, 2025.
2. Laurie Hipolito effective the end of the 2024/25 school year.
3. Joshua Cardoso effective the end of the 2024/25 school year.
4. Ricky Jordan effective June 16, 2025.
5. Tara Roque effective immediately.
6. Ronald Quintin effective immediately.
7. Robert Mota effective immediately.
8. Lael St. Tripp effective August 15, 2025.
9. Lauren Michael effective immediately.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

20. INFORMATIONAL:

On a motion by Mr. Kitchen, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to receive and place on file the following communications:

1. MASC/MASS Conference – November 12-14, 2025
2. Norris, Murray & Peloquin, L.L.C. – June 2, 2025
3. Treasurer's Report – August 1, 2025
4. Report on Summer 2025 Paul Andrews Executive Institute
5. Donation from Primo Medical Group – June 18, 2025
6. Donation from Hiko Vision – May 13, 2025

21. ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Ms. Treadup, it was moved to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 8 No – 0

Adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee