

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 15, 2026
6:00 P.M.
New Bedford, Massachusetts

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

EXCUSED: Ms. Bettencourt; Ms. Treadup.

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. **READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:**

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Kitchen, it was voted to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting.

Yes – 6 No – 0

4. **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 \$1,070,944.76.

Yes – 6 No – 0

5. **BPA PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Jennifer Gaspar brought Members up to date on the BPA Competition. BPA students addressed Members and thanked them for their support and for making it possible for them to participate in the competition.

6. **UPDATE ON AVIATION PROGRAM:**

Dr. Marland explained that there is a huge shortage of aviation mechanics and is looking for the Committee to consider hiring an individual to research the possibility of creating a program.

Superintendent Watson informed that the FY-27 budget includes funding for this purpose if the Committee wishes to do so.

Mr. Oliveira informed that we need to research space, funding and grants to support the program. He believes that this is the time to put someone in place to begin to put the program together.

Superintendent Watson informed that funding and space is an issue.

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7. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT:

Emilia Noriega informed that 90 students were inducted into the National Honor Society. 10 students attended the Mayor's State of the City Address and After Prom fundraising is taking place.

8. SUPERINTENDENT SHOUT-OUT:

Superintendent Watson in his monthly "shoutout" expressed his appreciation of Tanya DeSousa for her work with the lottery process and all of the work that she has done that led up to today's lottery.

9. ARTISAN REPORT:

Principal Williams explained this month's artisan report. This month, the artisan report centered around our Voc-Tech classrooms, Academies A and B were highlighted with classwork done in Off Campus Construction, Carpentry, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Architectural & Mechanical Design, Engineering & Robotics, Business Technology, Culinary Arts, Dental Assisting, Early Childhood Education & Care Legal & Protective Services, EMT, Medical Assisting, and Design & Visual Communications. Overall the report focused on the classroom efforts of our teachers.

10. PARENT COMMUNICATIONS:

Superintendent Watson informed that the possible surveys include feedback that we're getting from parents. Ms. DeMello continues reviewing the feedback and providing the information to the departments.

11. 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.

12. COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to approve a 3.25% Cost of Living Adjustment for non-union employees.

Yes – 6 No – 0

13. FIRST READING FOR ADOPTION OF THE FY-27 OPERATING BUDGET:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to adopt the FY-27 Operating Budget and this be considered the first reading for adoption.

Yes – 6 No – 0

14. TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to Transfer Funds from the General Fund to the Student Activity Revolving Account (Travel Club) in the amount of \$3,274.00.

Yes – 5 Abstain – 1 No – 0

15. FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR POSITION DESCRIPTION:

On a motion by Mr. Kitchen, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to approve the Food Service Coordinator position description with an adjustment to the salary range to read (\$84,000 - \$95,806).

Yes – 6 No – 0

16. STUDENT ACTIVITY LINE FOR THE ACTIVE MINDS CLUB:

On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mrs. Ribeiro, it was voted to create a Student Activity Line for the Active Minds Club as requested.

Yes – 6 No – 0

17. OUT OF STATE TRAVEL FOR STUDENTS:

On a motion by Mrs. Ribeiro, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to approve the Out of State Travel as follows:

- WWII Museum in RI on April 30, 2026
- Guggenheim Museum in NY on May 14, 2026
- Marble House in RI on May 18, 2026
- DANB Testing for Dental Assisting – Date and Location TBD
- To explore options for a 2027 Senior Prom venue in RI

Yes – 6 No – 0

18. SURPLUS EQUIPMENT:

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

Dell All in One 7450	24" Screen	No Power Cable/No HD	7+ Years
Dell All in One 7770	27" Screen	No Power Cable/No HD	7+ Years
Epson PowerLite 965H 3LCD Projector	1024x768 resolution	No lamp, Out of warranty	10+ Years
Epson PowerLite 585W 3LCD Projector	1280X800 resolution	No mount, Out of warranty	9+ Years
Epson PowerLite 685Wi 3LCD Projector	1280x800 resolution	No mount, Out of warranty	6+ Years
Epson PowerLite 680 3LCD Projector	1280x800 resolution	No mount, Out of warranty	5+ Years

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4 - Apple Macbook Pro Late 2016	13 inch	No OS, no charger, out of warranty	9+ Years
3 - Apple Macbook Pro Mid 2017	13 inch	No OS, no charger, out of warranty	9 Years
5 - Apple Macbook Pro Late 2016	15 inch	No OS, no charger, out of warranty	9+ Years
2 - Apple Macbook Pro Mid 2017	15 inch	No OS, no charger, out of warranty	9 Years
4 - Apple Macbook Pro Mid 2018	15 inch	No OS, no charger, out of warranty	9 Years

Yes – 6 No – 0

19. 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 early notification of retirement of Peter Kane effective March 28, 2027.

Yes – 6 No – 0

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

1. Alaina McNickles effective March 17, 2026.
2. Shawn Morton effective April 3, 2026.

Yes – 6 No – 0

20. INFORMATIONAL:

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

1. CTE Spring 2026 Visit
2. Exit Interviews – April 1, 2026
3. GNBVT Fiscal Year 2026 Summary
4. Donation from Kevin das Neves – March 13, 2026
5. Senior Awards Night – May 26, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.
6. Graduation – May 29, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Yes – 6 No – 0

21. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

Adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee

GREATER NEW BEDFORD REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

REMOTE: Mrs. Ribeiro.

EXCUSED: Ms. Treadup.

1. The meeting was held in person and via remote participation (YouTube) for the public.
2. Ms. Pimentel stated that as required under Chapter 71 of the General Laws as amended in 1972 by the addition of Section 38N, "The School Committee of each city, town or regional school district shall hold a public hearing on its proposed annual budget after publication of a notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in such city, town or district to which such hearing may from time to time be adjourned, all interested persons shall be given the opportunity to be heard for or against the whole or any part of the proposed budget, "therefore, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws and as advertised in the Standard Times on April 20, 2026, this is a public hearing of the proposed Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School District Operating & Capital Costs Budget for fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.
3. Ms. Pimentel asked if any interested party wished to be heard for or against the whole or any part of the proposed budget.
4. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to close the public hearing.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

5. Ms. Pimentel stated that as required under the Massachusetts School Choice Law contained in the Education Reform Act of 1993, "The School Committee of each city, town or regional school district shall hold a public hearing on School Choice after publication of a notice thereof in a newspaper having general circulation in such city, town or district to which such hearing may from time to time be adjourned, all interested persons shall be given the opportunity to be heard for or against school choice therefore, in accordance with Massachusetts School Laws and as advertised in the Standard Times on April 20, 2026, this is a public hearing on School Choice for fiscal year commencing July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.
6. Ms. Pimentel asked if any interested party wished to be heard for or against School Choice.

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7. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to close the public hearing.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 6 No – 0

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

8. On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Mr. Oliveira, it was moved to adopt the final operating and capital costs budget commencing July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$58,292,985 ; with the understanding that this amount includes \$400,000 from Excess and Deficiency which will be transferred into the FY-27 Capital Renovations Line.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

9. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to approve the assessments to City of New Bedford and the Towns of Dartmouth and Fairhaven as follows:

Dartmouth	-	\$6,040,897
Fairhaven	-	2,928,534
New Bedford	-	6,936,189

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

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10. On a motion by Mr. Oliveira, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was voted not to participate in School Choice for FY-2026/2027 due to being oversubscribed by applicants from within the district.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

11. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was voted to approve a Proprietary Item for the Construction Craft Laborers Project.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

12. Cathie Rebelo explained, in depth, the Freshman Exploratory program selections.

13. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to receive and place on file the early notification of retirement of Glenn Morel effective June 30, 2027.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

14. On a motion by Mr. Shea, seconded by Ms. Bettencourt, it was moved to receive and place on file the Donation from Our Sister's School – April 10, 2026.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

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15. Superintendent Watson explained that he would be submitting his evaluation binder to Members within the next 2 weeks.
16. Superintendent Watson informed that we have received a donation of an airplane but unfortunately we are unable to accept it at this time as we do not have a place to store an aircraft.
17. On a motion by Ms. Bettencourt, seconded by Mr. Shea, it was moved to adjourn.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Secretary for the Committee