

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

August 13, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre at Brockton High School at seven o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Note: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Bill McGauley, President of the Brockton Youth Organization, congratulated Kathleen Smith on her appointment to Superintendent of the Brockton Public Schools. He then addressed the School Committee on the upcoming 2013 Summerfest Event which will be taking place at Brockton High School this Saturday, August 17, 2013, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Mr. McGauley described all the activities at Summerfest, and said that one of the real highlights this year is the sale of the *original* BHS recipe chocolate chip cookies!

Both Ross DePina of 13 Tucker Drive, and Charleson Monfort of 37 Manomet Street, addressed the School Committee this evening on Common Core State Standards (CCSS)/ Partnership for Assessment of Readiness in College and Career (PARCC).

The School Committee disagreed with what the above visitors had to say, and the Mayor, in a very unusual break in procedure, said that she would allow Committee members to respond. Mr. Minichiello qualified what the visitors had to say as "*misguided statements.*" Mayor Balzotti and Superintendent Smith invited both gentlemen to schedule appointments to meet with Mrs. Smith and/or Principal Wolder. Both visitors were given the contact information for said administrators by the recording secretary.

Election of SC Secretary

Mr. Minichello moved to approve Superintendent Kathleen A. Smith as Secretary of the Brockton School Committee.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Recognition of Roger Perron

Mr. Donegan moved to take the agenda out of order and move to Enclosure #7, under the Superintendent's Report, *Recognition of Service of Mr. Roger "Pit" Perron.*

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Donegan expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the Brockton School Committee for Mr. Perron's volunteerism and service to the disadvantaged youth in the City.

Mr. Perron, a boxing "lifer," works at the Cappiello Brothers Boxing and Fitness Gym and has devoted 50 years to the sport.

Mr. Perron was then presented a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor Balzotti, Superintendent Smith and Mr. Donegan. Mr. Perron thanked the Committee for the honor.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. There were no requests, and Mr. Robinson moved to approve the following items in the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Regular Meeting SC Minutes on July 16, 2013
- Approval of Special SC Meeting Minutes on July 25, 2013
- Acceptance of Safety/Security/Transportation Subcommittee Minutes on July 16, 2013
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified; Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence; Retirements; Resignations
- Authorization for Submission of the following RFP's to the DESE:
 - a. FY 14 21st Century CLC Supporting Add'l Learning Time (\$175,000)
 - b. FY 14 21st Century CLC Continuation Programs (\$474,250)
 - c. FY 14 Competitive School Year Work & Learn (\$55,000)

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Barrett Russell School

Superintendent Smith discussed her visit to the Barrett Russell School, made recently, with Mr. Minichiello. She said that the School will open on September 18, 2013. She noted the good condition of the building and its colorful kindergarten classrooms, saying how good it is to see the School Department's own craftsmen doing the work. Mrs. Smith informed the listening audience that Barrett Russell Interim Principal Natalie Pohl has been taking pictures around the building which will be available for viewing on line.

Mr. Minichiello added that the Barrett Russell School will be a cheerful learning environment— "a special building." He commended the Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee members for their work and recommendations.

CSAB/Strategic Plan

Superintendent Smith introduced Community Schools Advisory Board Chair Jean Mech and member Scott Holmes to give the presentation on the Brockton Community Schools Five-Year Strategic Plan.

In taking the Committee through a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Scott and Ms. Mech defined the Strategic Plan as a document that defines the mission, vision, guiding beliefs and goals which will guide the Brockton Community Schools through the next five years. The four major programmatic areas of the Community Schools are: academic support; enrichment programs for students; continuing education and ESL services for adults; and recreation and enrichment programs for the community.

The report highlighted six guiding principles, and discussed the responsibilities of various subcommittees, i.e. finance, fundraising and endowment campaign, and strategic planning and sustainability.

Following the presentation, Mrs. Joyce said that she sees this as a great vehicle to attract stakeholders to Brockton. Mr. Holmes replied that people could be brought in from across the country who can offer different networking.

The School Committee thanked Mr. Holmes and Ms. Mech for their report.

Item(s) to Refer to Subcommittee(s)

Mrs. Joyce requested to have a Building Naming Subcommittee meeting scheduled to finalize the review of the Building Naming policy.

Unfinished Business

DCAP Survey

The Superintendent gave an overall summary of the District Capacity Project (DCAP)—what it is, and the people who are involved. The plan is to create a Horace Mann Charter/Innovation School in the System. A dual language survey will be distributed, and its rollout may occur during the 2013 BPS Open Houses. The next DCAP meeting will be held on August 18, 2013.

Mrs. Smith introduced BEA president Kim Gibson and vice-president Yolanda DiFalco to discuss the Brockton *International Academy* dual language learning community survey. Ms. Gibson stated that the BEA is looking for 100% parent responses in completing the surveys, and the results will be reported back to the School Committee. Mr. Donegan offered the School Committee's assistance in *getting the word out* to the community about the surveys.

Mr. Sullivan asked Ms. Gibson to explain what a charter school is for the benefit of the listening audience, and Ms. Gibson responded.

A brief discussion was held by Committee members, and Mrs. Joyce commented that she liked the questions that were being asked on the survey. Mr. Healy said the involvement of the School System's PAC's and PTO's would be beneficial. Mr. Minichiello emphasized that the Brockton Public Schools is "*proactive.*" "*We recognize in Brockton that things change, and Brockton is always willing to make changes.*" he said. He said the survey results will be discussed in a future Curriculum Subcommittee meeting. Both sides will come together to discuss finance and logistics, working toward success.

Superintendent Smith said, "*The School Department's goal is always to increase our students' achievement and their success.*"

New Business

A delegate and alternative delegate should be elected by the School Committee to be its representatives at the annual Joint Business Meeting of the of the MASC-MASS.

MASC-MASS
Joint Meeting
Delegate

Mr. Donegan nominated Vice-Chair Minichiello to serve as delegate.

Voted: to accept nomination, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello nominated Mr. Robinson to serve as alternate delegate.

Voted: to accept nomination, unanimously

Bill of Rights Essay

Mr. Donegan read a letter from Representative Claire Cronin, inviting students from the Classes of 2013 and 2014 to participate in the \$3,000 scholarship contest, November 20 – 22, 2013, in Washington, DC. Those interested in the program may contact the Representative at 617-722-2130. Deadline for application is September 18th.

Mrs. Smith said that Ms. Wolder will distribute the applications to BHS students.

New Superintendent

Mr. Minichiello officially welcomed Mrs. Smith as new Superintendent of Schools. He also thanked Mr. Jerome for his professionalism.

Bridgewater SU/
Footbridge Program

The Superintendent said that 40 BPS students went through the Footbridge Program, a collaborative between the Brockton Public Schools and Bridgewater State University, where professors of the University work with BPS teachers in mathematics and science. Mrs. Smith said she attended the graduation ceremony and is very pleased that the students had a real college experience. She said that Dr. Lisa Battaglini, Dean of the College of Education & Allied Studies, and Principal June Saba will further explain details to the School Committee, going forward.

Mrs. Smith thanked Mr. Jerome for the support he has shown her. She announced that her move to the Superintendent's Office was on the evening of August 9th. She brought with her this evening the Brockton School Committee Permanent Record from 1977 and found in it her own Brockton Public Schools appointment— her salary posted at \$10,500; the Superintendent has been in the System for 37 years. She commented that her supervisor was Dr. John Kelley, and the supervisor for reading teachers was John Jerome. Also hired at that time was Mayor Balzotti's sister, Mary Valente. Mrs. Smith said, "*We make history every time we sit here, and I thank you all for this opportunity.*"

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary/Superintendent of Schools

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