

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 Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Henningson; Mr. Jordan; Mrs. Wilson; Mr. Robinson; Mrs. Sullivan; Mrs. Smith, Secretary

Absent: Mrs. Joyce

Also Present: Executive Team

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. There were no requests.

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- September 15, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- September 29, 2015 Accounts Review Subcommittee Report
- 2015-2016 Home Education Requests
- May, 13 2015 CSAB Retreat Minutes
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments – Certified and Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent Report Superintendent Smith began her report by welcoming the new Director of Communications, Ms. Michele Morgan-Bolton, and the new School Committee Student Representative, Mr. Tyler Hunt, a senior at Brockton High School. Also welcomed was Mr. Gavin Rocha, a junior at Brockton High, who will serve as the alternate student representative.

On behalf of the School Committee, the Mayor and Superintendent presented certificates of recognition for the following donations:

Donation of Binders – Ms. Christina Pierce and Ms. Linda Pierce, mother and daughter, donated 6,000 binders to the schools. Ms. Pierce said she was happy to have been able to help the schools out in some way.

Lowe's Home Improvement Keith Center Improvements – Deputy Superintendent Thomas said he was contacted by Brockton Lowe's store manager Chad Gaucher, who was looking to donate a project to the schools. Mr. Thomas recommended the Keith Center outdoor recreation area, which needed some attention. Mr. Gaucher said that about twenty Lowe's associates participated, from the planning stages through the completion of the work, which

included the addition of some picnic tables, decorative planting, and other improvements to the grounds. Mr. Gaucher said they were very appreciative of the opportunity.

Bernardi Auto Group Car and Lease to Driver's Ed Program – The Superintendent thanked Bernardi Auto Group for donating another three-year lease of a brand new Hyundai Elantra, and for continued partnership with the district. Community Schools Director Maxine Richardson was also present.

BHS Drama Club – The Superintendent invited drama instructor Bob Hogan to highlight this year's achievements. Mr. Hogan said it was a tremendous year for the drama club, *Anything Goes* won Best Musical, Outstanding Supporting Actress, Overall Outstanding Acting Ensemble, Overall Outstanding Dance Ensemble, and Best Costuming at the M.E.T. Guild Awards. Mr. Hogan credited the team effort, including students, staff, parents and community, almost 300 students per year participate. A video clip of the musical followed.

2015 Albert N. Baroncelli Award – Maxine Richardson announced Elaine Kelly as the recipient of this year's award; she said Ms. Kelly's devotion to the students in the drama club has had a positive effect not only on the students themselves, but within the Brockton community. Mr. Matthew Cunningham read aloud the nomination letter that was submitted. Ms. Kelly accepted the award, and said "truthfully, I have gained more than what I gave, and it has been wonderful for youth and needs to continue."

Presentation by Davis School – Principal Campbell, Assistant Principal Kelly, and Associate Principal Lynch prepared a power point presentation that highlighted the school's collaboration with Bridgewater State University (BSU). Mrs. Campbell said the partnership began in 2006 and has escalated in the past 3-4 years. The power point highlighted the great programs BSU brings to the Davis School, including:

- SOAR (Students Organized to Achieve Readiness), a three year plan for students in grades 6 – 8, including visits to the campus;
- On-site professional development for Davis staff and no cost workshops at BSU;
- After school extension programs including music and Arts for Youth;
- The Bridge Program, where selected grade 7 students reside on the campus for two weeks, and a new Footbridge Program that will target grade 4 and 5 students.

Mayor Carpenter praised the Bridge Program that he said has benefited many first generation college students who would probably never have gone on to college. Mr. Minichiello said it is good to see this collaboration expanding to more schools; he would like to see the same partnership with other higher education establishments and more of our schools. He said this kind of connection can change the direction of a child's life.

Student Report - Tyler Hunt gave his first report to School Committee. He reported that progress reports would be issued Wednesday, juniors will be taking the PSATs next week, the last football game of the season is October 16th at which participating seniors will be recognized, and Thursday, October 29, at 5:30 p.m. BHS will hold the annual Halloween hallways. The Superintendent added that "Halloween Hallways" is extremely popular, donations of candy and small pumpkins are welcomed, anyone wanting to donate can contact BHS for more information.

MCAS Update – The Superintendent stated that Dr. Cancell would report on the MCAS results this evening. She spoke briefly about the PARCC decision timeline and said the Commissioner is encouraging all districts to share their experiences because the BOE will

make a decision in late November as to whether they will adopt PARCC. She said she is concerned that the data is not timely, we will not have PARCC results until November.

Dr. Cancell gave a brief overview, he said 54% of districts, including Brockton, chose to take the PARCC grades 3 – 8, tonight's report would include MCAS results for grade 10 Math, ELA and Science, and grade 5 and 8 Science only because PARCC does not have a science component. Dr. Cancell said there is no overall score because we do not have all of the grades together. He explained that the State has urged caution in interpreting results and has given districts specific "margin of error" points. Given this interpretation, Dr. Cancell said the report shows that most of our scores are steady.

Grade 10 Brockton vs. State

- ELA CPI – Brockton outperformed the state by 2.6 points
- ELA Student Growth – Brockton outperformed the state by 9 points
- Math CPI – Brockton outperforms the state by 9 points
- Math Student Growth – Brockton outperforms the state by 3 points
- Science – State outperforms Brockton by 6.9 points, but the gap has closed since 2011

Gr. 5 Science – State outperforms Brockton by 18.1 points, there is a slow upward trend

Gr. 8 Science – State outperforms Brockton by 16.3, scores remain steady with large gap

Comparable Urbans (Lowell, Boston, Fall River, Worcester, Springfield, Lynn, New Bedford, Lawrence)

Grade 10

- ELA CPI – Brockton is number 1, some other districts have better growth
- Math CPI – Brockton is number 3, growth is in line with other districts
- Science - Brockton is number 1, two districts have better growth
- Gr. 5 Science - Brockton is 8 out of 9 with reasonable growth
- Gr. 8 Science – Brockton is in the middle, growth is average

Dr. Cancell summarized the results by stating that Brockton scores remain steady, in spite of an inadequate state funding formula.

The Superintendent said that for years the focus has been on ELA and math, she asked Mrs. Barry to talk about the focus on science. Mrs. Barry said this is our third year with the online Discovery Education Techbook, which provides very engaging lessons, virtual labs, things the children should have. She said the district has invested in professional development for teachers as well, and science is now being taught at all grade levels. Mr. Robinson said he is encouraged that where we have invested the most we have seen the greatest gains, but he wondered how the district will shift the focus to science without losing in the areas of ELA and math. Mrs. Barry responded that science has been pushed to the forefront, but Brockton must maintain the other two areas as well.

Mr. Minichiello asked whether Brockton administrators do "due diligence" and connect with colleagues in districts with noticeable gains to find out what they are doing. He said he is still concerned about the continuity in curriculum within the district. With respect to whether district administrators are looking at other district's successes, Dr. Cancell responded that he shares this information with Brockton's administrators, who will contact other districts. Mrs. Barry added that she has visited Lynn three times already this year. Mr. Minichiello asked why Lynn and Fall River have done well, Dr. Cancell responded, there was brief discussion about demographics. The Superintendent said she is also continually discussing best practices with other superintendents. With respect to the

uniformity of Brockton's curriculum district-wide, Mrs. Barry said that curriculum is now aligned to the common core standards, however, there is some variation because school-based teams are writing their own curriculums. Mrs. Barry said Brockton is still waiting for the state to release science standards and this has been holding the district back. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to see the district set up formal, on-the-calendar meetings where school administrators meet *regularly* to discuss and share best practices. Mrs. Barry was grateful for the additional in-service time on the new calendar, which she said has helped in this area as well. Dr. Cancell stated that funding is a huge issue. Mr. Robinson asked whether Brockton measures trends within the district, looking at demographics, things like trauma sensitive schools and breakfast in the classroom, Dr. Cancell responded affirmatively. Mr. Minichiello thanked Dr. Cancell and Mrs. Barry for the presentation.

The Superintendent reported that the Chapter 70 Report is due out in approximately ten days, other urban districts are waiting on this report before joining discussing whether they will join Brockton in the equity lawsuit.

October 1 Enrollment Report – the Superintendent reported the official October 1 enrollment figure that will be used for reimbursement is 17,383; this is down 57 students from last year. Average class sizes at the high school are in the 30's, middle schools in the high 20's to low 30's, and at the elementary level grades 4 – 6 have the highest numbers, between 28 and 30, which will result in less choice across the district. Mrs. Smith stated that she is now looking at using small amounts of available funds to hire MTA's and paraprofessionals to support the large classes, and she continues to watch transportation costs closely; everything is about funding. She said this year it will be important to develop a policy for registration as the district tries to go back to the neighborhood schools model.

Extended Day Audit - The Superintendent reported that a team from Brockton met with EEC on Monday and she was pleased that, in the preliminary report, the auditor's findings matched exactly what was reported. There were concerns about some of the district's policies with respect to financial management, and the state is handing down some stringent transportation mandates that Brockton is preparing to implement in the next month.

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

- Reminded parents to complete and return the lunch forms
- Congratulations to BHS Housemaster Matthew Crowley on his appointment as Assistant Superintendent of Woburn Public Schools
- Appointment of Melanie Dobson as Assistant Principal of the Goddard School
- Appointment of Patricia Dupuy as Assistant Principal of the Barrett Russell School
- Appointment of Marybeth O'Brien as Assistant Principal of extended learning sites Raymond and Huntington schools, this is a grant-funded position.

Seeing no further business, the Mayor called for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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