

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting January 19, 2010

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

Present: Mayor Linda Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, 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 7:30 p.m. followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Bill McGauley of the Brockton Youth Foundation addressed the School Committee this evening regarding the upcoming event on March 21, 2010, at the Shaw's Center, and the Casino Night.

Dr. Joao Rosa addressed the School Committee this evening referring to Department of Education data that he spoke on at a previous School Committee meeting, directing his inquiries to Superintendent Malone. Dr. Rosa said that the Cape Verdean Association appreciates the direction that Dr. Malone is taking and stated that the Association stands behind the Superintendent.

Mssers. Joseph Mech and Patrick Quinn addressed the School Committee this evening discussing the importance of learning in the Brockton Community Schools classroom, and asked the School Committee to support the Program which, they said, is essential to the Brockton community.

Ms. Jean R. Hamler addressed the School Committee this evening on the importance of recognizing diverse students and the need for diversity among staff.

Approval of Records

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee on January 5, 2010.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Daley moved to accept the report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance for December 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

At this time, Dr. Malone asked for a show of hands of those who attended the MLK event on Monday at Massasoit Community College. He spoke about the impressive rendition of the National Anthem sung by a fifth grade girl.

BPS Three-Year Strategic Plan

Dr. Malone then began his presentation on **R3 - Realigning Resources for Results, A Proposed Three-Year Strategic Plan**. The Superintendent began by saying that Brockton wants a high quality education for every child. He said that strategy and focus are important.

In the five months the Superintendent has been in Brockton, he has accomplished much of his 120 Entry Plan. He began with his listening tour, hearing what people have to say about the school system – teachers, parents, elected officials, community members (individually and in small and large groups), as well as special education groups – what they are proud of and what can be improved. He also reached out into the community, meeting with Cape Verdean Association members, the Metro South Chamber of Commerce, the Plymouth County Democratic Association, as well as participating in the City's Veterans' and Holiday Parades.

According to the Superintendent, the most engaging part of his job has been his school visits. He visited all Brockton Schools in his first two weeks, and has performed very involved instructional site visits in the System. He watches teaching and learning, and has seen great things in the schools. The most fun he had on his visits occurred at the Huntington School where he was invited to play ball with the students.

The other highlights of Dr. Malone's report listed areas of concern, i.e., the elementary achievement levels, special education and the dropout rate. He also discussed the System's core beliefs, emphasizing the classroom as the center of the organization, and offered a theory of action, resulting in increased student engagement, achievement, graduation rates and post-secondary success.

Dr. Malone discussed the realignment of resources to obtain improved results in student achievement, performance management, and learning and teaching in the classroom. He highlighted 11 initiatives under Learning and Teaching, ten initiatives under the heading of Performance Management and five initiatives in Human Capital. Under Resource Reallocation, the Superintendent addressed the implementation of zero-based budgeting, speaking on what we can live with and live without.

Dr. Malone spoke on the next steps which involve the School Committee prioritizing and strategizing the plan and holding the Superintendent accountable for its implementation.

The Superintendent's promises are to 1) eliminate performance gaps, 2) get all students into a four-year college, and, 3) make Brockton the best school district in Massachusetts. Dr. Malone said that the plan has the backing of people and the investment of thought and time. He thanked his strategy team for their hard work and efforts.

After a lengthy discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to move forward and strategize and prioritize the Three-Year Strategic Plan.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

- Recess** Mayor Balzotti called for a recess at 9:02 p.m.
- Reconvene** The Mayor reconvened the meeting at 9:08 p.m.
- Entry Report** Superintendent Malone referred to the Entry Report in this evening’s agenda packet which will be discussed at the School Committee Retreat. Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the report.
- Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously
- Authorization to Submit Proposals** Mrs. Beyer moved to authorize the application for the FY10 Collaborative Partnerships for Student Success Program and, if successful, the expenditure of funds. The purpose of the funding is to increase the number of students currently in the classes of 2013 and 201 who Student Success obtain their competency determination on the MCAS on the first try. The proposal seeks \$50,000 in grant funds.
- A brief discussion took place on the motion regarding comparison of funds from last year, and Shailah Stewart responded.
- Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously
- Summer of Work and Learning** Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to authorize the application for the FY10 Competitive Summer of Work and Learning Proposal and, if successful, the expenditure of funds. The funds will enable the School Department to continue to offer intensive supports this summer for students from the classes of 2010 and 2011 who have yet to pass the 10th grade MCAS. We are seeking \$67,500 in funds.
- Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously
- Dropout Work Group Planning & Program Implementation** Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to authorize the application for the Dropout Prevention Work Group Planning and Program Implementation and, if successful, the expenditure of funds up to \$11,500.
- Questions regarding the funds were asked by School Committeewomen Beyer and Joyce, and Shailah Stewart responded.
- Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously
- Champions for Healthy Kids** Mr. Daley moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to authorize the application for the General Mills Champions for Healthy Kids proposal and, if successful, the expenditure of funds up to \$10,000. The Plouffe Academy is identified as the district partner to propose the creation of a new Wellness Elective and Afterschool Program using this funding.
- Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Acceptance of Donation

Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the generous donation from *School on Wheels* of \$500 worth of one dollar Brockton Area Transit (BAT) bus passes to the students of the Champion High School, on an as-needed basis, to be used by the end of this school year, and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Personnel Appts.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #9.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mr. Daley moved the the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #10:

Leaves of Absence:

Tarah Creighton Craig, Ashfield (12 Wk. Maternity, Eff. 3/29/10)

Christine McQuaid, Ashfield (8 Wk. Maternity, Eff. 4/30/10)

Heather Ronan, Assistant Principal, Raymond (12 Maternity, Eff. 2/26/10)

Theresia Akamangwa, MTA, West Middle (Unpd. FMLA, Eff. 1/5/10)

Resignation:

Geolina Reed, Paraprofessional, West Middle, Eff. 1/6/10

Change of Retirement:

Willie Wilson, BHS, from August 6, 2010 to June 30, 2010

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

FY2010 Budget

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to close the FY2010 School Department Budget effective January 19, 2010, except for emergencies and those anticipated needs during the last months of school.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

New Business

Mrs. Beyer read a letter from the Save Our Sports Foundation praising James Hayden, Executive Director for Operations and School Administration for supporting the replacement of the railings in the bleachers at Marciano Stadium

Mr. Carpenter announced that the National Kidney Foundation is interested in Brockton Public Schools for a period of screening, identifying 6th graders with high blood pressure. Mr. Carpenter requested to have the Superintendent's designee speak with Andrea Savisky, RN, CNN, at the Foundation.

Mr. Minichiello moved to have the BPS enrollment report sent to the School Committee on a monthly basis.


Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mr. Bath expressed his concern about the School Committee not being notified about the Governor's visit to the South Middle School. Dr. Malone said that he would do a better job of keeping the School Committee informed of these events. The Mayor said that she will also do a better job of getting information out, and did not intend to slight anyone.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.

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