

Brockton, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting

October 6, 2009

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-thirty o'clock.

Present: Mayor Harrington, Chair; Mr. Bath, Vice-Chair; Mr. Minichiello; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Dobrowski; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mr. Daley

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

Mayor Harrington called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Kristen Bullock and Jennifer Sylvia of the *Hugs for Healing Foundation* addressed the School Committee this evening to discuss the good work that the Foundation has done and wishes to continue regarding teaching cancer awareness through fundraising efforts.

Approval of Records

Mr. Dobrowski moved to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Committee on September 16, 2009.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Acceptance of Donations

Mayor Harrington announced that he was taking the agenda out of order, going directly to Enclosure #6, *Acceptance of Donations*.

Randolph Lodge of Elks-2130

Superintendent Malone announced that Ms. Monique Hughes, Esteemed Lecturing Knight of the Randolph Lodge of Elks-2130, has arranged to donate dictionaries to *all* Grade 3 students in the Brockton Public Schools.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the generous donation and to send a letter of acknowledgment to the Randolph Lodge of Elks-2130.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Community Affairs/
Stonehill Alumni

Dr. Malone stated that the Stonehill College Alumni Council's Community Affairs Committee generously donated 75 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need in the Brockton Public Schools.

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the donation of backpacks and to send a letter of acknowledgment to the Community Affairs Committee for their generosity.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Dr. Malone and Mayor Harrington presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the donors.

Costco Wholesale
of Avon

The Superintendent informed the School Committee that Costco Wholesale of Avon has donated 350 backpacks to be distributed to children in need at the following Brockton Public Schools: Brookfield, Arnone, George, Howard, Downey, Baker and Angelo.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above donation and to send a letter of acknowledgment to Costco Wholesale of Avon.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Verizon Foundation/
Ed & Literacy Award

Regional Director Rick Colon of Verizon External Ed & Literacy Award Affairs attended the meeting this evening to present the Verizon Foundation's Education and Literacy Award, \$12,100, for the *Brockton Reading Assessment Project*.

The grant will underwrite the cost of professional development of Grades 1, 2 and 3 Brockton teachers to use state-of-the-art PDA technology to assess student reading performance with the standards-based Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS). Dr. Malone said that he observed this training at the Angelo School, and added that it is a very effective response to RTI.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the award, and to send a letter of acknowledgment to Verizon.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Colon then presented the award to Dr. Malone.

Teaching & Learning

Superintendent Malone informed the School Committee that he has created a Project Map document to track the progress of the Strategic Goals. He said that he will give a status report to the Committee on his progress.

Dr. Malone said that the District has begun Walkthroughs; the discussion and feedback has been very robust and both were successful school visits. Dr. Malone has already begun his instructional site visits, having been to both the Raymond and Angelo Schools this week. His visits focus on instruction, and he found has the students engaged and using personal digital assistants (PDA's).

Dr. Malone then referred to a letter distributed to the School Committee earlier this evening regarding his *ride-along* with Officer Landry of the Brockton Police Department. On that evening, Dr. Malone was on site at a house fire that involved two Brockton Public Schools students. He said that Brockton is a great community that rallies around its own. Accolades go to the Police and Fire Departments and the emergency medical services staff.

Mayor Harrington informed Dr. Malone that the police were very impressed he participated in the *ride-along*. The Mayor thanked Dr. Malone.

Report on H1N1

At this time, Dr. Malone introduced Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, and James Hayden, Executive Director for Operations & School Administration, to give the report on the School Department's response to the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus. He said that the state has changed some of its information from last year, and tonight's report is current -- the most up-to-date information.

Dr. Terrasi read the prepared presentation giving information on symptoms, the virus' history, collaborative efforts, i.e., Central Office, CDC, Brockton Board of Health, Neighborhood Health Center, Central Wellness Team -- to name a few. Dr. Terrasi discussed the various ways in which the School Department has educated the school community about the flu and reviewed the proposed vaccination plan.

A lengthy discussion took place following the presentation, and Mrs. Kuplast, Supervisor of Nurses, Dr. Malone, Mr. Hayden and Dr. Terrasi provided responses to School Committee concerns.

Mr. Foley moved to the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

BPS Enrollment

Superintendent Malone then invited Lynn Winkler, Director of the Parent Information-Student Registration Center to join him in speaking on the October 1, 2009 enrollment report. Dr. Malone said that the total of Brockton Public Schools students on October 1st is 15,699, which is up by 369. He said that it is this report that is used to determine Chapter 70 funding. Dr. Malone said that the increased number of students was unexpected, and while he is happy to have the additional number, it has led to some overcrowding at the K-8 level. No school population is below 500 students. The growth, however, is actually a downward trend from five years ago. Dr. Malone said that he hopes to exceed 16,000 students over the next several years, as we increase student achievement and market our school system as the best in the region.

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Districtwide Violence Prevention

MaryEllen Kirrane, Department Head of Wellness, K-8, and Catherine Leger, Guidance Department Head/Registrar, BHS, were called upon by Dr. Malone to give the report on the violence prevention strategies that are in place in the Brockton Public Schools for the new school year. Violence prevention begins with teaching skills, i.e., communication, decision making, problem solving and conflict resolution which enables students to get along, avoid unsafe situations, and make good decisions. The curriculum followed is

Second Step-Violence Prevention Program, Steps to Respect, Peer Mediation Programs and Anger Management. The program also includes Social Skill Building and student-centered programs, i.e., Peer Leadership for grades 4 – 8, and Peer Mediation for grades 4 – 12, both held after regular school hours. Parents Academy and Great Families workshops are scheduled on specific dates. Mrs. Leger also listed the number of outside agencies that successfully assist with violence prevention. School violence, Ms. Kirrane said, is a schoolwide approach; everyone is involved.

A brief discussion took place regarding punitive measures for students who violate the rules, and professional development. Mr. Jerome and Ms. Lynch responded.

Mrs. Beyer moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

CSAB Minutes

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the minutes of the Community School Advisory Board meetings on May 13 and June 10, 2009.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Personnel Appointments

Mr. Dobrowski moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #11.

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

Personnel Action

Mr. Foley moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the following Personnel Action listed on Enclosure #12:

Leaves of Absence

Melanie Malinowski, Downey (8 Week Maternity, Eff. 12/15/09)
Audrey Mbani, BHS (8 Week Maternity, Eff. 1/15/10)
Courtney Medeiros, Brookfield (8 Week Maternity, Eff. 11/23/09)
Kelly Naumenko, Raymond (12 Week Maternity, Eff. 1/4/10)
Sarah Cruz, Brookfield (8 Week Maternity, Eff. 11/13/09)

Resignations

Laura Brophy, MTA, West Middle, Eff. 9/15/09
Whitney Chapman, MT, Russell, Eff. 9/4/09
Luke Enos, MTA, East Middle, 9/1/09
Louwane Almeida, Paraprofessional, Downey, Eff. 9/30/09

Retirement

John Devonshire, Mgr. Info. Technology, Eff. 11/20/09

Early Retirement

To participate in the 12% Final Step Increase Plan
Loreen MacAuslan, Adm. Asst., to retire 12/31/12

Voted: to accept notification, unanimously

At this time, Mr. Minichiello kindly acknowledged Ms. Deborah Grande, BHS MTA.

Dr. Malone, referring to this evening's Hearing of Visitors, stated that he had invited the representatives from the *Hugs for Healing Foundation* to speak this evening. He thanked them and said that he applauds their perseverance in their endeavor.

New Business

Mr. Bath acknowledged the City Council and Mayor Harrington for their show of support in solving the busing issue.

Mr. Bath then referred to the *partial* list of Resolutions that will be discussed at the MASC delegate meeting on November 18th in Hyannis and asked for School Committee feedback.

Mr. Bath then spoke of the recent *Spirit of America* event held at the Dunkin Donuts Center in Providence, RI, and the overwhelming reception and very emotional show of respect – a standing ovation - that was given to the Brockton High School JROTC as they marched by 9,000 people. Mr. Bath encouraged everyone to attend this annual U. S. Army affair, which is free of charge.

Mr. Minichiello said that he attended and enjoyed the presentation of the Constitution and a congratulatory breakfast at the Champion High School and said that the program was very creative.

Mr. Minichiello moved to refer to the City's Law Office for review the potential issues surrounding liability with respect to voluntary implementation and participation in the H1N1 vaccination program.

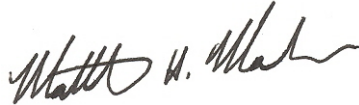
Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Mayor Harrington congratulated the Brockton High School students who were involved in the redesign and renaming of the school store on the second floor of the Core Building of the high school, now named *The Boxer Boulevard*. The Mayor and Superintendent attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on Monday.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Matthew H. Malone".

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.
Secretary

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