

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, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Bath; Mrs. Beyer; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Daley; Dr. Malone

Absent: Mr. Sullivan

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

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

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove *Enclosure #3, Authorization to Accept Donation from Good Sports Foundation.*

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

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of SC on December 7, 2010
- Approval of Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report, November 2010
- Acceptance of Community School Advisory Board Minutes on 11/17/10
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leaves of Absence; Retirements; Early Retirement
- Acceptance of Notification of Executive Session Minutes Review

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello stated that he spoke with Thomas Kenney, Athletic Director, about how pleased Mr. Kenney is to be receiving this donation from the Good Sports Foundation. Mr. Minichiello congratulated Messrs. Kenney and Caruso for pursuing and obtaining this grant. He said that this type of grant money goes right into the System, and he moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept the donation.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone announced the holiday giving activities that are ongoing in the Brockton Public Schools, i.e., canned food drives; Santa to Seniors; Jimmy Fund; Leukemia Foundation; coat, mitten and hat drives; giving trees; gift cards to local supermarkets; and donations to veterans at the Brockton VA. At North Middle School, the students were involved in an Apangea Learning contest, resulting in the students being awarded a \$50 donation to the Wounded Warrior Project and a pizza party given in their honor.

Dr. Malone also informed the School Committee he was pleased to have had the privilege of presenting the math initiative to the Chamber of Commerce at its Good Morning Metro South Breakfast Program.

Huntington School Redesign Update

Dr. Malone stated that the Huntington School was a Level III school last year, and the School Committee agreed to a redesign. He introduced Principal June Saba who brought along some of her staff this evening to give the update report on the Huntington School Redesign. Staff members who assisted were: Iris Turchetti, Beverly Leblanc, Marybeth O'Brien and Ruth Agoglia.

Ms. Saba thanked the School Committee for their invitation and support. She and her staff then gave a detailed report consisting of the school's redesign effort focused on changing structure, instruction and culture. She explained the advantages of extended learning time, discussing the alertness of the students and the benefit of uninterrupted learning time. Teachers meet eight hours per month on lesson plans, best practices, etc. "*There is more time and more learning,*" Ms. Saba said.

Ms. Saba's report also discussed past, current and planned professional development programs, strategies and initiatives, as well as learning team core components, and she highlighted students' gains in an achievement data comparison report.

Under the heading of *Culture*, listed community building and character education, i.e., the building of empathy skills; good citizen awards; ESL classes for parents; community service projects, as well as staff-, PTO- and outside agency-sponsored events, i.e., a health and fitness night, spaghetti dinners and support services.

Ms. Saba said that uniform participation is a tremendous success; parents love them. She said 93% - 95% of students wear uniforms every day.

Ms. Saba also discussed in her report existing challenges, some of which are class size; staff changes and reduction; the need for an Interventionist, etc. She said that her next steps will be a continued focus on professional development which supports the redesign; a partnership with the Community Schools Program regarding the offering of ESL classes; and a collaboration with Bridgewater State University.

Ms. Saba said that she needs the School Committee's continued support. She then accepted comments and questions from Committee members whose concerns focused on issues regarding: the offering of ESL classes on site; the impact of the turnover of staff; the need for an Interventionist, on site coaching, and the scheduling of a Finance Subcommittee meeting to look into both, as possibilities; the percentage of students from non-English speaking homes; the need for an assessment "road map" to be built into the program; and DOE involvement.

Dr. Malone said that in spite of a \$10 million cut, 269 cut positions and 350 new students added to the BPS enrollment, the School Department was able to implement the plan at the Huntington School. The School Committee thanked Ms. Saba and her staff for their report.

School Performance Indicators

Dr. Malone stated that he assigned Dr. Ethan Cancell, Associate Director for Assessment and Accountability, to the Huntington School, where Dr. Cancell provides resources and works at the school one day per week. Dr. Cancell then gave the report on School Performance Indicators which included six categories of measure for Brockton which was broken down by all BPS schools. The measures were: Composite Performance Index (CPI); Student Growth Percentile (SGP); Churn Rate; Percentage of population by subgroup; Sheltered English Immersion Category Training (SEI); and Percentage of students absent for 10 or fewer days.

Dr. Malone thanked the School Committee for allowing him to present the above data this evening, saying that the report represents a month of work performed by Dr. Cancell. He thanked Dr. Cancell and Mr. Jerome, who offered coaching along the way.

Mr. Daley inquired about special education, asking if the plans presented this evening are used to determine the needs of the students, and Dr. Cancell responded. School Committee members thanked Dr. Cancell for his report.

Items Referred to Subcommittees

Dr. Malone stated that items referred to a future Finance Subcommittee meeting are: support for Huntington staffing, and ESL classes offered to parents of Huntington students, on site.

Superintendent's Priority Schools

Dr. Malone announced that he would inform School Committee members at the January 18th SC meeting of the number of Priority Schools from the Walkthrough data.

At this time, Mr. Minichiello alluded to a meeting with legislators that he attended with Karen Watts, Grants Administrator and Writer. They met with Colleen Colburn, policy advisor to Senator Kerry, Roger Lowe and Jeremy Brandon, who conference called from DC. They are aware of Brockton's population going in a direction where English is not the first language, and are trying to get Brockton some monies to deal with the additional Haitian student population, and identify more grants that are in line with same. Mr. Minichiello said that it is nice to have a connection with Senator Kerry's Office.

FY'12 Budget Forecast

Mr. Petronio, Executive Director of Finance Services, gave the report of the FY'12 Budget Forecast this evening. He reviewed October 1 figures from last and this year, highlighting the approximately 326 additional students of the current year, and discussed per pupil cost. Mr. Petronio stated that an increase of 1.79% or 185. per student will be given, totaling approximately \$6 million. Mr. Petronio said that he is uncertain about ARRA funds for Brockton and has not had any additional news from the state.

Mr. Daley asked about the numbers or funding changing, and Mr. Petronio said that the state may change its formula

Dr. Malone reiterated that a budget forecast report will be given at each School Committee meeting.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello said that this year's holiday concert was fantastic and complimented the students and music staff on the outstanding performance. He congratulated Penny Knight, Kevin Kardel and Vincent Macrina.

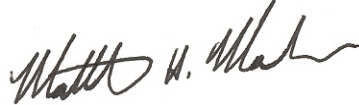
Mr. Minichiello also congratulated the Angelo School band and choir on their performance. He said that the band has been travelling to other elementary schools to perform with some of the bands that are smaller. He complimented Bob Nichols; Susan Moscadelli; and Kim Holmes on readying their students for BHS, and mentioned that Mrs. Joyce's son is a member.

Mr. Bath congratulated the students and staff of the BHS *Rumors* production. He said the set of *Rumors* was outstanding and the lines were great.

Mayor Balzotti wished everyone a happy holiday season and reminded all that, "*When you have your health, you have everything. Have a happy and healthy 2011,*" she said.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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