

**Brockton, Massachusetts**                      **Regular Meeting**                      **August 21, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theater 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; 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 7:04 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked School Committee members if they wished to remove any items from it. Ms. Joyce requested to remove **Enclosure # 4, Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments**. Mr. Donegan requested to remove **Enclosure #4**, as well as **Enclosure #1, Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of School Committee On April 9, 2012**. Mr. Carpenter asked to remove **Enclosure #5, Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action**. Mr. Donegan then moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of School Committee on July 17, 2012
- Acceptance of Minutes of School Committee Retreat of August 8, 2012

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

On **Enclosure #4**, Mrs. Joyce had previously asked for a subcommittee meeting to explain, in depth, the process by which the salaries for new hires are set. Mrs. Joyce said she had received a brief presentation, but would like more information, stating that the list seems to have large differences in salaries from position to position. Dr. Malone agreed to this request. Mr. Minichiello stated that this would be referred to the Finance subcommittee.

Mr. Donegan wanted to welcome all new teachers to Brockton (**Enclosure #4**) and wished to recognize the hiring of three teachers from Brockton. Mr. Carpenter also welcomed the new teachers, and added that he would like to see more new hires from Brockton, and see the School System be more proactive in hiring Brockton residents.

Mr. Robinson moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve **Enclosure #4**, and referred the matter to the Finance Subcommittee.

Voted: to approve recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter addressed **Enclosure #5** by saying that he wanted to publicly acknowledge the departure of Adam Dackers, a Brockton teacher at Champion High School and former student. He said that Adam is a great example of a Brockton student coming back to teach in the System. Mayor Balzotti agreed, and Mr. Carpenter moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve Enclosure #5.

Voted: to approve recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Donegan addressed the ELL portion of **Enclosure #1, p. 6**, specifically, the *Newcomer Academy*, saying that the Committee should take another look at accelerating its efforts in taking steps to close the gap between non-English and English speaking students. Dr. Malone agreed, saying that this is an area for something new and creative. *“We have opened a Day/Evening school and, perhaps, we can really take a look at this again this year,”* he said.

Mr. Donegan moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Enclosure #1.

Voted: to approve recommendation, unanimously

## **Superintendent’s Report**

Dr. Malone discussed the 2012-2013 Brockton Public Schools-School Committee Strategic Goals and the Elementary School Structure Task Force.

Dr. Malone stated that the System worked very hard on the strategic goals, incorporating all of the recommendations from the School Committee. He further said that the document was well done and will help align goals from System to site level and down to individual teachers. Dr. Malone feels that the year will start nicely with these goals, which will have a mid-year review with full transparency. Dr. Malone is submitting the document to the Committee tonight for action.

Mr. Healy inquired about the origin of the new *Common Core*, and Dr. Malone responded, then explained further that the new Common Core will be based more strongly on student output. In 2014, MCAS will be replaced with PARCC; eventually all states will measure by PARCC. The State’s new Educator Evaluation Process is aligned with the Common Core, as well. Mr. Healy asked Dr. Malone to explain what the Common Core is for the listening and viewing public. Dr. Malone stated that the Common Core is the new definition of what common knowledge for students needs to be at all grade levels.

Mrs. Joyce said she is pleased with the 2012-13 goals and asked if the document would be posted on the website and made available for parents to view at open houses. She then inquired about Goal #2, asking if Brockton was on track with this goal because an article in the Boston Globe said that two-thirds of the communities will not meet the regulations and could lose some funding from the state. Dr. Malone responded that Brockton, very early on, was aware of the tremendous amount of work involved and prepared to meet the regulations. *“We are in line,”* he said. Dr. Malone stated that communities have until the end of 2013 before they will lose any RttT money, *and that he believes Brockton will get this done thanks to the diligent work of the Committee.* Dr. Malone stated that if the strategic goals are approved tonight they will be posted as quickly as possible.

Mr. Donegan asked Dr. Malone to elaborate on the STEAM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Dr. Malone highlighted the work that Brockton is doing on this initiative: opening a Biotech lab this year at BHS; some middle schools have new labs; and, at the elementary level, the introduction of the Discovery Learning curriculum is exciting. He stated that quarantined data which will be released in the fall will show that Brockton has made strides in Science; Brockton has made this a high priority.

Mr. Donegan asked for clarification on the changes made to the goals from the School Committee Retreat. He then stated that he felt the System and the Committee are definitely moving in the right direction with these goals, and this document will help them to better determine successes and non-successes.

Mr. Minichiello stated that the School Committee is concerned about what happens to students that leave the high school before graduation. The Committee wants to focus on the reengagement, identifying, and tracking of students who leave our school system, and make sure they are engaged in some sort of educational plan.

Mr. Sullivan then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the 2012-2013 Brockton Public Schools-Brockton School Committee Strategic Goals, as presented.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Dr. Malone then moved to **Item #2** of the Superintendent's Report, *Elementary School Structure Task Force*, asking the School Committee for two members to join a new Task Force which will report back in the Spring on the structure of the Elementary school day. The last six years of data shows that improvement is needed at the elementary level. This Task Force will bring a set of recommendations to the School Committee in the Spring of 2013. Mr. Robinson said that he is willing to sit on the task force, as well as Mrs. Joyce, but only, she said, if the meeting times were flexible. Mayor Balzotti commented that if the task force is asking School Committee members to participate then the meetings need to be set at times when Committee members can attend. Dr. Malone agreed to make the meeting times flexible, and Mayor Balzotti thanked Mr. Robinson and Ms. Joyce for agreeing to join the Task Force.

#### **Items to Refer To Subcommittees**

Dr. Malone stated that the following items to be referred have resulted from the Retreat of August 8<sup>th</sup>:

- School Police Utilization – to Security/Safety/Transportation Subcommittee
- Management of Student Personal Data – to Policy Subcommittee
- Further Discussion of administrative titles – to Policy Subcommittee

Mayor Balzotti asked if there were any objections; none were given. She then asked for any items the Committee wanted referred to subcommittee. Mr. Robinson asked to refer the examination of the Brockton Public Schools recycling policy.

#### **Unfinished Business**

Dr. Malone asked Deputy Superintendent John Jerome to speak on two vital positions. Mr. Jerome stated that these positions were placed in the budget, but had not received permission to fill: Department Head for Grades K-5, ELL and a Grade 6-8 Math and Science Department Head. These positions will be funded through Title II grant money which has already been approved; the reinstatement of both positions needs School Committee approval.

Mr. Minichiello stated his support for these positions contingent upon the funding as stated, and if the funding should change, there would be a caveat in place for School Committee review. He then made a motion on same.

On the motion, Mrs. Joyce and Mr. Donegan expressed their support for the positions as well, and thanked Mr. Jerome for the information. Mr. Carpenter asked if Mr. Jerome could give a synopsis of the new positions for the public, and Mr. Jerome responded. Mr. Carpenter stated that, with budget concerns and all of the cuts the Committee has had to make, he understands that these positions are critical and supports them, as well, with the above caveat.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously.

Dr. Malone then asked Mr. Thomas for an **update on the status of the facilities** work.

Mr. Thomas listed the major projects and the progress thus far, stating that most of the projects are on target for school opening. There have been numerous issues with the windows at Brockton High School, and he thanked the Committee for diligently communicating with the contractor to speed up the work. As such, the work will not be completed for the opening of school, but Mr. Thomas' goal is to have all classrooms at the high school operational. There was discussion on other facilities issues, and Mr. Thomas answered queries about the modular classrooms at Kennedy and Davis, as well as the gym floor at the Kennedy.

Mr. Sullivan thanked Mr. Thomas for the work done on North Middle and Raymond Schools and stated that the principals are extremely happy with the results.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Carpenter reported that the Marciano Stadium is being prepared for **the arrival of the Rocky Marciano statue**, which should be arriving around Labor Day weekend. The date for the unveiling in Brockton is September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 p.m. He thanked the Superintendent and Mr. Thomas for their cooperation and work to facilitate this.

Mr. Minichiello welcomed **the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Wanda Alves**. He also thanked Mayor Balzotti for funding the pools in the city this summer, stating they were well maintained. He said her staff did a fine job keeping them clean.

Mayor Balzotti echoed Mr. Carpenter's remarks about the Committee for the Rocky Marciano statue and thanked everyone for their hard work. She also recognized the Office of Community Schools and the many people who were involved in the **Summerfest** event on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>; many families were able to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.  
Secretary