

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: Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Dr. Malone, Secretary

Absent: Mayor Balzotti

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

Vice-Chair Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Bill McGauley, president of the Brockton Youth Foundation, addressed the School Committee this evening to acknowledge individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership to support Brockton's youth. They are: the seven member executive Brockton Midget Football board; Ossie Jordan; North Middle School *Kids Take Action* students and their advisor, Maria Mair; Clifford Murray, Principal of West Middle School; Cheryl Opper, founder and executive director of School on Wheels; and the JROTC Drill Team and Command Group Col. Robert Tripp and Sgt. Major Deonarine Heera. A breakfast to honor these individuals will be held at the Shaw's Center on March 25, 2012.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. Mr. Joyce requested that **Enclosure #3, Approval of Submission for MA DESE Multi-Year Grant Proposal for Adult Basic Education funding, and expenditure of funds** be removed, and Mr. Minichiello requested that **Enclosure #7, Acceptance of Donation of 3rd Grade Dictionaries** be removed, as well.

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

- Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the School Committee on 1/3/12
- Chief Supervisor of Attendance December 2011 Report
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments, Certified/Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: LOA; Resignation
- Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee Report of 12/20/11
- BHS Overnight/Out-of-State Trip to New York, March 30-April 1, 2012

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce asked Suzanne Martin, Coordinator of the Adult Learning Center to explain the *MA DESE Multi-Year Grant Proposal for Adult Basic Education funding grant*. Ms. Martin explained the services that the grant provided, the students it benefits and discussed the direct and indirect grant.

Following the brief discussion, Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the submission of the above proposal.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Dr. Malone announced that the Randolph Lodge of Elks-2130 donated dictionaries to all grade 3 students and their teachers in the Brockton Public Schools. Mr. Minichiello asked for a letter of acknowledgement to be sent to the Lodge to the attention of Mr. Joseph R. Mini, Lecturing Knight. Dr. Malone agreed that the letter would be sent.

Mr. Sullivan then moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to accept the above donation, and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Communication

Dr. Malone included in the agenda booklet, a letter from Associate Commissioner of the Center for Curriculum and Instruction at the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education thanking the District for its participation, the School Committee leadership, and involvement in the RttT grant. Dr. Malone read the entire letter to School Committee members. Mr. Robinson moved to accept the report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Superintendent’s Report

Independence Academy

At this time, Dr. Malone introduced Mr. Ricahrd Melillo, Principal of the Independence Academy located at 460 Belmont Street. Dr. Malone first read about Mr. Melillo’s background. He said that the establishment of the program was the result of an urban-suburban collaboration between Brockton Public Schools and North River Collaborative. BPS developed a broad contingent of agencies to build the school. *“Our role is partner, friend, and collaborative,”* Dr. Malone said.

A lengthy discussion ensued involving questions about the registration/enrollment procedures; staffing; counseling services; student capacity; rubric; length of attendance; funding; hours of operation; awarding of diplomas; etc. Mr. Melillo responded to all inquiries, adding, at Mr. Sullivan’s request, that Brockton taxpayers are not funding the Academy.

At Mr. Minichiello’s request, Mr. Carpenter explained his involvement in the opening of the Academy, saying that he was first referred to Senator Steven Tolman, advocate for recovery schools, by Mr. Healy, Ward 6 School Committeeman. He also said that a Brockton location was chosen for the Academy due to the availability of public transportation, which was a big part of the model. Mr. Carpenter said that Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, helped to build the framework at the school. *“This is an academic environment with a commitment to sobriety; it’s not a dumping grounds,”* Mr. Carpenter said.

Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone said that he visited four kindergarten classes last Friday and said that the students are already reading and writing. *“I have not seen this anywhere else. It’s January, and our kids are reading and writing – our second language learners are reading and*

writing,” he said. Dr. Malone offered kudos to the Huntington and Hancock Schools, as well as BPS health professionals.

Educational Contract Services Report

Dr. Malone announced that the report on *Educational Contract Services* is the second phase in responding to School Committee inquiry, phase one was the report on *BPS Educational Consultants*, which was addressed on both October 28th and December 6th, 2011. The Superintendent said that this evening’s report shows all of the School Department’s accounting of contractual services, and represents a good amount of work. Dr. Malone thanked his administrative team and invited members of the Committee to ask questions regarding the report.

Questions were asked by Mrs. Joyce and Messrs. Minichiello and Carpenter regarding: local and grant funded contracts; bid process; contract renewals; supplemental services; use of BPS retirees; etc. Dr. Malone and Mr. Jerome responded. Mrs. Joyce thanked Dr. Malone, saying that the work and effort that went into the report was appreciated.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to accept the above report, as presented.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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