

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; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Jerome

Absent: 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 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag, and explained that Dr. Malone is absent this evening due to health-related issues. He will return for the next meeting. Mr. Jerome will represent Dr. Malone.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members if they wished to remove any items from it. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove **Enclosure #8, Donation from Daniel and Margaret MacAdam Loughry Charitable Foundation to the BHS Scholarship Fund.**

Mr. Robinson then moved to approve the following, remaining items on the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of SC Regular Meetings on 2/4/12 and 3/6/12
- Finance Subcommittee minutes of 3/7/12
- Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee minutes of 3/6/12
- Acceptance of Notification of Non-Certified Personnel Appointments
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action re. leaves and change in retirement date
- BHS Key Club Overnight Trip, April 13-15, 2012, Springfield, MA
- BHS Overnight/Out-of-State DECA Trip April 28 – May 2, 2012, Utah
- West Middle School Out-of-State Trip, 6/15/12, Salem, NH

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello expressed the Committee's appreciation to the Daniel and Margaret MacAdam Loughry Charitable Foundation for its generous donation to the BHS Scholarship Fund. He then moved to accept the donation and send a letter of acknowledgment to the donor.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Teaching & Learning

Mr. Jerome announced that the 2012 MCAS testing will begin. He said all lot of good effort has been put in place, and he wished the students and teachers well.

STEM Report

Mr. Jerome then discussed the BPS Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Initiative with respect to the following:

- Formation of STEM Advisory Council
- Roles of the Council
- Middle School STEM activities and initiatives
- Future expansion of STEM curricula

Mr. Jerome explained STEM, and said that the RttT monies have been used to hire teachers and purchase supplies. "*We don't dissect frogs anymore,*" he said. He also discussed other sources of monies, i.e., GEMS and Gelfand grants, that will assist STEM planning in the System, mentioning the potential addition of more science labs (East MS and Davis) and extended teaching time.

Mr. Jerome took questions from Committee members regarding:

- science labs in various schools
- conversion of space to free up labs
- use of the BHS planetarium
- purchasing and updating of equipment
- laptops for students
- professional development and training
- minimum standard for all middle schools
- communication between department heads/principals/teacher leaders
- use of current resources and collaboration and a “calendar plan”

Concerns were responded to by Mr. Jerome, Dr. Szachowicz and Ms. Wolder.

Mayor Balzotti then said, “*I just want to say that I CAN dissect an earthworm!*”

Technology Report

Mr. Jerome called upon Director of Instructional Technology Dan Vigeant to give the FY 2012 Annual Technology Report. Dan discussed the early and middle years of technology in the Brockton Public Schools, as well as today’s trend, i.e., Web 2.0, digital curriculum, mobile devices, etc. He said that one goal is to have one teacher and five student iPads in every fifth grade classroom teaching math and science. He also described the Discovery Education Science TechBook, and spoke on the use of personal devices.

Dan took questions from the Committee. Mayor Balzotti cautioned to take care when rolling out the “bring your own devices” initiative. She said, “*Make sure protection is in place.*”

Mr. Donegan moved to accept the above reports on STEM and Technology.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

New Business

Ms. Meaghan, Student Advisory Council rep to the School Committee, proposed that the freshmen start a day earlier in the school year. Mr. Healy said that the PAC made a similar recommendation to have Kindergarten students have a half day pre-meeting before school opens. These proposals will be discussed in a Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Robinson gave kudos to the boys basketball team in their competition with Newton North in the south sectional championship, at UMass, Boston. He said that the coaches, parents and students were phenomenal, and he is proud to be a resident and School Committee member in Brockton.

Mr. Minichiello congratulated the *Credit for Life Program* participants for their hard work and effort at their April 27th event held at Massasoit Community College.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Jerome
Deputy Superintendent

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