

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. Daley; Mr. Carpenter; 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 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. Following a clarification requested by Mr. Minichiello on **Enclosure #'s 2 and 4, Approval of Athletic Eligibility Task Force Minutes of October 17, 2011, and Approval of Home Education Requests**, Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following entire Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of SC on October 4, 2011
- Approval of Minutes of Athletic Eligibility Task Force on October 17, 2011
- Approval of Minutes of Facilities Usage & Planning Subcommittee on October 17, 2011
- Approval of Home Education Requests
- Authorization to send SC members to NSBA annual conference
- Acceptance of Community School Advisory Bd. Minutes of September 2011
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leaves of Absence

Voted: to adopt motion, unanimously

Learning & Teaching

Academic Achievement

Dr. Malone then introduced the four BHS students who were awarded the MASS Academic Achievement Award. They are: Robert Daly, Samantha Kessler, Nisha Khubchandani (absent) and Alexander Thou. Each student was presented a Certificate of Recognition by Mayor Balzotti and Dr. Malone. Mayor Balzotti then asked for the students' parents to stand for recognition, and a group photo was taken.

Health Coordinator of the Year Award

The Superintendent introduced Ms. Mary Ellen Kirrane, Wellness Coordinator, K-8, who was named Health Coordinator of the Year by the American School Health Association. Ms. Kirrane is the Association's first recipient. Dr. Malone and Mayor Balzotti presented Ms. Kirrane with a Certificate of Recognition, and the Superintendent thanked her for bringing honor to the Brockton Public Schools.

DESE Teacher/Administrator Evaluation

Dr. Malone distributed a letter to School Committee regarding new Teacher/Administrator Evaluation regulations information for which a task force has been formed. He stated that it will be necessary for one School Committee member to be involved in the vetting process at the appropriate time.

MSBA Update

Dr. Malone gave the School Committee members an update on the progress of the Green Repair Program. He discussed the roofing work being done at the Hancock, West Middle, North Middle, Downey and Brockton High, as well as the temporary boiler replacements at North and East Middle Schools.

BPS Data Report

Dr. Malone introduced Dr. Ethan Cancell, Associate Director for Accountability and Assessment, to give the Data Overview 2011 report.

Dr. Cancell gave an extensive report, first announcing the big changes that are coming that will affect all learning: *Common Core to National Standards; Common Core Assessments to National Assessments; a Potential Waiver for NCLB Accountability*. The report discussed gains and gaps in 2011 and from 2006-2011 in the Composite Performance Index (CPI) in ELA, SWD ELA, LEP ELA, Math, SWD Math, and LEP Math, by grade/all grades/grade band; included a comparison of BPS and the state; highlighted student growth percentile (SGP), gaps and gains; and ended with an optimistic focus on the elementary level due to 1) new leadership and strategy, 2) renewed focus on reading, writing and math; and, 3) a successful investment in Priority Schools.

A discussion took place following the presentation. Mr. Minichiello stated that this was the third presentation containing the same information. Dr. Malone briefly described what is being done, i.e., partnerships with Revere and Attleboro, and state level conferences that are being held and attended by teams of educators. Dr. Malone said that BPS is on the cutting edge of sharing best practices, and said, *“There is no silver bullet with student achievement.”*

Mr. Minichiello asked about what other systems do that Brockton does not, and Dr. Malone said that he would like to have a full in-depth subcommittee meeting and give all pieces that BPS is working on. Dr. Malone said, *“We are going to get results.”* At Mr. Minichiello’s request, Dr. Malone said he will provide bullets for School Committee members to use at school meetings on what BPS is doing.

Mr. Daley moved to accept the above report.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

Budget Update

Aldo Petronio, Executive Director for Finance Services, distributed a Finance Report, month ending September 2011, and an Overtime Report for the periods 07/01/10 – 09/30/10 and 07/01/11 – 09/30/11, highlighting school police and custodial information. After reviewing the documents, Mr. Carpenter asked to have a separate overtime report on the craftsmen, and Mr. Petronio said that he would provide it. Mr. Carpenter also stated that, during budget prep time, the Superintendent committed to a 50% reduction in school police overtime if another full-time officer were to be hired. Mr. Petronio said that there are a total of seven officers assigned at this time, and it will be a period of time before the School Department will get more officers. Dr. Malone said that overtime was brought down.

Mayor Balzotti agreed that there was a conversation regarding the above, and mentioned how difficult it is to obtain officers on the City side.

Lt. Donald Mills spoke on the current school police force, saying that he is three officers down. Mr. Carpenter continued his questioning on school police overtime. He also asked, "...out of curiosity," he said, what one (football) game cost in police overtime, and Lt. Mills was unable to respond at this time. Mayor Balzotti asked that the information be sent out in an Informational Bulletin.

Mr. Minichiello said that the above discussion needed to go to the Finance Subcommittee with respect to the variations in the school police budget. "*We need to approve that money,*" he said. Mr. Minichiello asked Dr. Malone if some of the money would be made back, and Dr. Malone responded, positively.

At this time, Mr. Sullivan informed Lt. Mills that drivers were driving down the wrong side of the Forest Avenue entrance at the game last Friday. Mr. Sullivan asked Lt. Mills if a "*keep right*" sign could be placed at the entrance, as well as assigning an officer to direct traffic. Lt. Mills said that it is possible, but didn't know from where he would get the person.

Mr. Sullivan then asked how Mr. Petronio would grade this year's first quarter, and Mr. Petronio said that the School Department is on target and consistent with where it was this time last year.

Mr. Bath inquired about the status of overtime with a full-strength police force, and Mr. Petronio responded, explaining certain variables that need to be considered. Lt. Mills said that the amount of hours would be down about 65% to 75%.

Mr. Carpenter referenced Mr. Sullivan's request to have an officer to direct traffic at games, asking Lt. Mills how many officers worked. Lt. Mills answered, "*Eight;*" with four being details. Mr. Carpenter said that he left at 9:30 p.m., and finds it hard to believe that an officer couldn't be assigned for traffic.

New Business

Mr. Carpenter asked if the report on *consultants* that School Committee previously received in the Informational Bulletin included all the consultants and all the money. Dr. Malone said, "*Yes, they work on professional development and find weaknesses in the System.*" Mr. Carpenter also inquired about retirees of the System who are brought back to work, and Mr. Petronio responded, explaining about contract services.

Mr. Jerome said that the System defines consultants as those who provide professional development services. Mr. Carpenter asked if there are consultants working who do *not* provide professional development, and Mr. Jerome said, "*No.*"

Mr. Carpenter said that he had a lot more questions about the procurement process, and requested that the consultants item be listed on a future School Committee agenda so that School Committee members could ask more questions. Dr. Malone said that he would add the item to the December 6th meeting agenda.

Final questions were asked by Messrs. Minichiello and Daley regarding from where in the budget substitutes (principal for a principal) and grant consultants were paid, and Mr. Petronio responded.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.
Secretary

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