

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

### Hearing of Visitors

Reverends Peg and Fred Boucher of the Faith Family Life Church addressed the School Committee this evening on the *SCHOOL IS COOL* outreach event scheduled on September 17<sup>th</sup>, from 12-3 p.m., at East Middle School.

Ms. Jean Mech, parent, addressed the School Committee this evening on the IB program regarding the "bridge" from middle school to BHS. Dr. Malone was able to provide Ms. Mech with some written information from his *Opening of Schools* report at this time.

### Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. Mr. Carpenter asked to remove **Enclosure #8, Notification of Personnel Appointments**, and Mrs. Joyce asked to remove **Enclosure #'s 4 – 7, Authorization to Submit Proposals**.

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

- Minutes of the Regular SC Meetings on June 7 and July 12, 2011, as presented
- Minutes of the SC Retreat on August 23, 2011
- Minutes of the Policy Subcommittee on August 23, 2011
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence; Resignations; Retirement

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Carpenter, referencing **Enclosure #8**, asked if the School Department makes the effort to hire Brockton residents. Dr. Malone said that the best candidates are selected. Dr. Szachowicz said that she has 80 teachers on her faculty that are from Brockton. Mr. Bath commented that people have to apply, and Mrs. Beyer said that, some that were hired, were originally from Brockton, but no longer live in Brockton.

Mrs. Joyce said that the personnel information has come up before at the regular meetings and suggested that discussion be referred to the Policy Subcommittee. Dr. Malone agreed to offer a workshop on personnel information/how appointments are made.

Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent's recommendation to accept notification of the Personnel Appointments listed on Enclosure #8.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mrs. Joyce inquired about the selection of schools/schools specifically named in **Enclosure #'s 4-7, Authorization to Submit Proposals**. She asked how the schools are identified. Laura Silva, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Coordinator, responded to the inquiry.

Mrs. Joyce then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to authorize submission of the following proposals, and, if successful, the expenditure of funds:

- After- and Out-of-School Time Quality Enhancement (ASOST)-FY 12
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Exemplary, FY 12
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Continuation (647-A1 & A2)-FY12
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers enhanced Program for Students with Disabilities Pilot

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

<b>SAC to SC Rep</b>	At this time, Dr. Malone introduced Miss Meaghan Hand, a senior at the top of her class and student council member at BHS, who will now be attending the regular School Committee meetings as the new Student Advisory Council representative to the School Committee. Dr. Malone and School Committee members welcomed Meaghan.
<b>Backpacks for New Beginnings</b>	Dr. Malone recognized <i>Backpacks for New Beginnings</i> , a non-profit organization founded by brothers Jackson and Tristan Kelley, who donated to the Brockton Public Schools over 30 backpacks filled with school supplies, as well as composition notebooks, folders, and notebook and pencil cases with pens/pencils. Dr. Malone said that he would mail the organization a <i>Certificate of Appreciation</i> from the School Committee.
<b>Grant Development Workshop</b>	The Superintendent announced that the Grant Training Center is offering a professional grant development workshop for the purpose of mastering the techniques of writing proposals, from September 21 – 23, 2011, at the University of Hartford, in CT. Dr. Malone asked interested School Committee members to notify his office regarding the registration for the workshop.
<b>Opening of Schools Reports</b>	Dr. Malone said that the first day enrollment, which does not include preschool and kindergarten counts, was 14,786, contrasted with last year's 14,422. He said enrollment projections based solely on first day attendance are not reliable indicators of October 1 <sup>st</sup> counts.
Elementary Schools	Elizabeth Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching, PreK-8, gave an opening report which included the cleanliness of the school buildings; the mention of new leadership teams across the district; the engaging events that occurred between teachers and students, i.e., establishing classroom rules; and the collaboration of two science specialists regarding curriculum and lesson plans for the new Grade 4 and 5 science curriculum.
Middle Schools	Deputy Superintendent John Jerome gave an opening report that included the East Middle School Redesign plan; the use of RTTT funds which created a new position to work at the Plouffe Academy to begin to develop a strategy to better transition Plouffe IB students; the hiring of two teachers to expand Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), as well as the addition of three more fully outfitted science labs; the addition of a second middle school Portuguese SEI strand at North MS; and the South MS Standards-Based Report Card pilot.
High School	Dr. Susan Szachowicz, Principal, gave the opening report for BHS. She said that 3,877 students reported to BHS today, which represents a 92% attendance rate. The breakdown per level was: 88.75%, 9 <sup>th</sup> graders; 92.05%, 10 <sup>th</sup> graders; 94.21%, 11 <sup>th</sup> graders; and 94.28%, seniors. Dr. Szachowicz anticipates an enrollment of 4,300 students by the end of next week.
Alternative Schools	Dr. Salvatore Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, gave an opening report which included the attendance rates for each of the Alternative Schools: Goddard, 97%; Champion Alternative High, 105 students; the Russell School, 84 or 78%; and the Gateway to College Program has 92 students enrolled.
New Hires	Dr. Malone said that 104 staff were hired resulting from various personnel actions in the following areas: administration, foreign language, special education, counseling services, social studies, science, math, art and middle school ELA.
Readiness of Bldgs.	The Superintendent also commented on the various upgrades around the District that included the Kennedy and Ashfield Schools, West and East Middle Schools, the Keith Educational Complex, the districtwide painting of schools, and the <i>Lobby Guard</i> pilot at BHS.
Transportation	Dr. Malone said that approximately 7,300 students are being transported, utilizing 43 buses and 49 vans for special education. " <i>An additional 27 van/wheelchair vehicles are used for students in outside placements,</i> " he said.

Food Service Program	<p>The Superintendent announced that Chartwells School Dining Services served 9,718 lunches, districtwide, and 911 breakfasts. New and upgraded kitchen and cafeteria equipment and furnishings were purchased, the result of proceeds from the Chartwells contract from a successful 2010-11 school year in the following schools: Angelo, Downey and Kennedy Schools.</p>
PreK & Kindergarten	<p>Dr. Malone said that PreK and Kindergarten classes begin on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, and full-day K is offered at every elementary school. PreK is located at the Gilmore School Early Childhood Center. Information packets were mailed to all parents of registered PreK and Kindergarten pupils, and Kindergarten screening is scheduled on September 8, 9 and 12. Orientation sessions for the parents will be held on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at all locations.</p> <p>Dr. Malone thanked the principals, teachers, custodians, administrative assistants, paraprofessionals and all staff for their efforts. He said, <i>“This is my third opening in Brockton, and it keeps getting better.”</i></p> <p>Mr. Sullivan asked if the new meal prices at the elementary level went into effect, and, if so, were there any problems. Dr. Malone said the increased price began today, and his office received no complaint calls.</p> <p>Mrs. Joyce inquired about <i>Lobby Guard</i> regarding a photo ID and also asked about parents dismissing students without an ID. Dr. Szachowicz responded, describing the process, and said that parents cannot not dismiss students; <i>“It’s about safety and security, she said.”</i></p> <p>Mr. Daley asked about the retention of information by <i>Lobby Guard</i>, and Mr. Thomas said that it retains information for 90 days for now, but has the ability to keep it for six months. To this, Mr. Minichiello inquired about a possible “policy” regarding length of storage time.</p> <p>Mr. Minichiello asked if the uniforms worked out at the Huntington, and Dr. Malone said that there was 100% participation. Mr. Minichiello asked Dr. Malone if he would qualify the policy as a success, and Dr. Malone said that he would. Mr. Minichiello was pleased with Ms. Barry’s report regarding the opening at the elementary level, saying that the establishment of rules, routines and expectations on <i>day one</i> is a great way to set the tone for the year; the students immediately know what is expected of them.</p> <p>Following the report, Mr. Bath inquired about the East Middle School Redesign, and asked if School Committee members will receive a report on same. Mr. Jerome said that the School Department has a plan.</p>
<b>Update/Stadium Project</b>	<p>Messrs. Thomas and Petronio gave a brief update on the Marciano Stadium project. The following items were raised by School Committee members and responded to by Messrs. Thomas and Petronio:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soccer field: preventative maintenance/hosting tournaments</li> <li>• Description of new surface (Astro turf): cost and warranty information</li> <li>• New fencing and walking area outside the track</li> <li>• Fitness training center (on back burner; looking at other aspects)</li> </ul> <p>Mayor Balzotti asked Mr. Thomas to mention the costs of repair, so that people would understand the financial commitment. Mr. Thomas responded, saying that two parking lots with the sidewalks cost \$300,000 to pave, and the total expense for the entire parking lot at BHS will be \$2 million. To this, Mr. Petronio added his comment: <i>“Drive slow.”</i></p> <p>Mr. Thomas said that the first game is on schedule against Xaverian. He said the stadium will open the third week in October and a grand opening for the BHS vs. Durfee game on October 21<sup>st</sup> is being discussed. He also said that he is working with the Statue Committee on new columns and is planning to redesign the Stadium entrance.</p> <p>Mr. Petronio discussed the readiness of the roadways and said that the School Department will get quotes to do the entire sealing at the Stadium. He said that everything will be new, and School Department personnel will paint the field house.</p>

**2011-12 SC  
Strategic Goals**

Dr. Malone referred to the 2011-2012 School Committee Strategic Goals. Mr. Daley moved to amend the **ninth goal, Communications**, to include management and staff. The goal will now read, “*We will continue to improve communications between the Superintendent and School Committee, **management and staff**, and also between the Brockton Public Schools and parents.*”

Voted: to adopt recommendation, as amended, unanimously

**New Business**

Mr. Sullivan recognized Jim Mahoney, Manager of the Main Street Walgreen’s, for his generous donation of school supplies to the Raymond School. Mr. Sullivan said that there is a promise of more to come, and requested that Mr. Mahoney be sent a *Certificate of Appreciation*.

Mr. Carpenter inquired about monies that are expended on grant funds, suggesting that, perhaps, this would be an area from which consultants are paid. Mr. Bath said that he would place the suggestion on his consultant request list to Dr. Malone.

Mr. Carpenter also discussed the completion of school lunch forms, and mentioned that Bridgewater offers incentives, i.e., Kindles, to get their completed forms back. He suggested BPS looking into similar incentives, i.e., iPads, Kindles, etc. Mr. Petronio responded.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.  
Secretary

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