

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening at 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 7:01 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

The Honorable Rick Savignano, Messrs. Ed Jacoubs, Tom Kenney, James Casieri, and Attorney Fred McDermott each addressed the School Committee to speak in support of a proposal to name the *Snack Shack*, located at the south end of the Marciano Stadium, after Mr. John Waldron, a "tireless and enthusiastic supporter" of all aspects of Brockton High School. Mr. Jacoubs said that a plaque will be prepared dedicating the *Snack Shack* to John Waldron and if the School Committee desires he will bring it back for approval.

Communication

Mr. Carpenter asked to take **Enclosure #8** out of order, *Request from BHS Football Alumni to dedicate the "Snack Shack" in memory of John Waldron*. Mr. Carpenter stated that the Committee recognizes that this is not a formal naming, but a request for approval of signage. He then motioned to approve the request of the BHS Football Alumni to dedicate the *Snack Shack* in memory of John Waldron.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it.

Ms. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items from the Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of October 2, 2012
- Minutes of the Community School Advisory Board Meeting of June 12, 2012
- BHS Concert Choir Out-of-State Trip to New York City – Feb 16,17, 2013
- Authorization to Submit proposals and the expenditure of funds for the following:
 1. Nellie Mae Ed. Foundation Change Initiative FY 2013
 2. 21st Century CLC Enhanced Programs for Students with Disabilities
 3. Gateway Cities ELL Enrichment Academies FY 2013
- Notification of Personnel Appointments
- Notification of Personnel Action (LOA's, resignations; retirement)
- Report of Supervisor of Attendance for September, 2012

Voted: to adopt recommendations, unanimously

Dr. Malone asked to take the FY 2013 Budget Update with Overtime Report out of order. Mr. Aldo Petronio, Executive Director for Finance Services, prepared the update in response to the School Committee's request concerning issues of spending and quarterly reporting. He highlighted the 3% decrease in spending from last year at this time (13%) compared to this year (10%). Mr. Petronio explained there are controls that have been put in place to keep the budget tight. He then gave a summary of the overtime report. Mr. Petronio feels that the School Committee's target savings of \$500,000 will be easily achieved. Mr. Minichiello asked how often the budget is

reviewed, and expressed his concern that the Department stay on top of it. Mr. Petronio responded that, at the request of the Superintendent to keep a close eye on the budget, he reviews these reports monthly, with some areas being reviewed weekly. He further said that overtime requests are reviewed and discussed in a timely manner.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Malone stated that at the October 4th, 2012 Curriculum Subcommittee meeting, the School Committee asked for a list of suggestions that they could support to in regard to improving gains in student achievement growth at the Level 3 designated elementary schools. In response to that request, Mr. Jerome, Deputy Superintendent of Schools, prepared a *Follow-up to the Elementary Curriculum Presentation of October 4, 2012* for the School Committee, taking into consideration the Committee's concerns about current fiscal needs and applying caution regarding budget increasing. Mr. Jerome presented three options:

- **Level Literacy** strategy, which uses Title I teachers to remediate teacher-identified students in groups of four. This is occurring now and has no additional cost.
- **Additional classroom teacher to reduce class size, proportionately.** The cost would be approximately \$65,000 per teacher; the Baker and Raymond schools fit the criteria for this.
- **Hiring part-time interventionists** from November 12, 2012, through the end of May, 2013. These would be licensed teachers, providing immediate remediation to identified students (catching them up). This also allows classroom teachers to be able to move forward with instruction and not hold the class back. The requirement is 3,000 hours, for a total cost of approximately \$96,000.

Mr. Jerome indicated that he endorses the part-time interventionist plan. Currently, Title I is funding a very successful model at the Davis School. Mrs. Joyce recommended that this item go forward to the Finance Subcommittee meeting on October 23rd. Mr. Minichiello agreed, and stated that, if it is determined at the Finance Subcommittee meeting that this it is something the School Department can afford and can be implemented, approval will be given to initiate the plan for November implementation. Mayor Balzotti asked for clarification of the funding of this project, and Mr. Jerome responded that it is local. Mr. Minichiello suggested that the Subcommittee look at the costs of the additional kindergarten classroom that received approval, and the new positions should they implement one of the above plans, and then ratify the entire budget at the November 7th School Committee regular meeting. Mr. Carpenter stated that there is nothing good about high class sizes, and he feels the School Committee "*cannot afford to do nothing.*"

The Superintendent said he is pleased to report some "*positive news*" regarding Brockton High School. Initially, BHS was classified a *Level 3* school by the state under the new accountability system, PPI. Dr. Szachowicz, Principal, the Superintendent, and several others contacted the state because the way it was coded was technically unfair to BHS. The state has recalculated, and BHS has been correctly reclassified a Level 1 school.

New Business

Mr. Healy said it has been brought to his attention that, at the middle school level, the amount of time allotted for music practice in school varies from school to school. Mr. Healy asked the Superintendent to look into this; he feels that all schools should receive the same amount of time. Dr. Malone responded that he will get back to Mr. Healy with information.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Matthew H. Malone
Secretary