

Brockton, Massachusetts Regular Meeting October 2, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm 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

Absent: Dr. Malone, Mr. Sullivan

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

Mayor Balzotti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. In Dr. Malone's absence, Mr. John Jerome, Deputy Superintendent, served as Secretary.

Hearing of Visitors

Ms. Joan Pratti, a registered nurse from the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center, addressed the Committee to provide information about services that are available at the Health Center, particularly for middle and high school students. Ms. Pratti asked the Committee to allow the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center to be able to speak to school nurses at the middle and high school levels, to inform them about the services available at the Health Center, in order to make them available to the students.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. Mr. Minichiello requested to remove Item C, *Acceptance of Donations*, and Mr. Donegan asked to remove Item D, *Notification of Personnel Appointments*.

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

- Minutes of the Regular School Committee Meeting of September 19 2012
- Minutes of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of August 21, 2012
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously.

Mr. Minichiello read the summary page of Enclosure C, and expressed the appreciation of the School Committee for the donation of backpacks and school supplies from MOMS Club of Stoughton, MA, as well as from Backpacks for New Beginnings, West Roxbury, for their donation of backpacks.

Mr. Donegan addressed Enclosure D, stating that it is always a pleasure when he sees a person from Brockton named to a teaching position, or any position. He congratulated Loduvina Barros on her appointment at the Davis School. He then welcomed all of the new hires, as well.

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above enclosures.

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jerome called upon Sharon Wolder, Associate Principal, BHS, to give the report on the upcoming BHS New England Association for Schools & Colleges (NEAS&C) Accreditation.

Ms. Wolder gave a PowerPoint presentation which was previously distributed to School Committee members. She began her report by explaining what the accreditation process is, i.e., the completion of various surveys and meeting NEAS&C standards which will address the school's needs; the opportunities it affords the school, i.e., a chance to highlight what the school is good at; the length of accreditation (ten years); the formation of seven accreditation committees, consisting of teachers, administrators, parents, students, community members, School Committee members, etc.; and the timeline, requirements, cost/budget, and guidelines. The actual accreditation site visit will take place over four days, from October 4 – 8, 2014.

Ms. Wolder then responded to questions posed by Committee members regarding:

- what School Committee members can do to help
- types of surveys and the review of same, when they can see the survey
- costs involved in the accreditation
- the System's opportunity for self-evaluation
- participation from schools

The School Committee thanked Ms. Wolder for her report, and said that they are looking forward to going through the process and working with BHS.

Mr. Jerome requested to discuss, out of order, naming the Day/Evening Program the *Edison Academy*. Mr. Minichiello and Mr. Carpenter agreed that the naming of a program did not need the approval of the Committee; however, they thought Edison was an appropriate name.

Enrollment and Class Size Report

Mr. Jerome gave a PowerPoint presentation on the BPS enrollment. He began his report explaining to Committee members what is required by the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education relating to annual reporting of enrollment, i.e., the **October 1st Report**. He distributed the *BPS Pre K-12 Student Enrollment October 1st Report* and reviewed all enrollment figures, comparing them to the Fiscal 2010 and 2011 numbers. This year's report shows a total of 16,820 BPS students. The report will be finalized in November, and Mr. Jerome said that he will send a copy of it to Committee members.

Mr. Jerome reviewed the Summary and Three-year Comparison (2010; 2011; 2012), and concluded that BPS has grown by close to 800 more students. He also provided the three-year comparison figures in Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms, and gave the Registration and Assignment Update report for K-8 (by grade - by school). Mr. Jerome briefly reviewed Chapter 70 funding, which is based on/allocated according to the October 1st report.

A brief discussion took place following the report focusing on School Committee members' concerns about overcrowded classrooms in specific school building. The School Committee thanked Mr. Jerome for his report.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce asked to refer the *procedure for setting salaries for new hires* to the finance subcommittee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John R. Jerome
Deputy Superintendent of Schools