

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre in the Fine Arts Building at Brockton High School, at seven o'clock.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair, Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson; Mr. Donegan; Mrs. Joyce; Mr. Carpenter; Mr. Healy; Mr. Sullivan; Mr. Jerome, 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 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Taneeka Freeman, Project Manager at Health Imperatives, Brockton, introduced herself and spoke about services offered to the community.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it. There were no requests.

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

- Approval of Minutes of Regular SC Meeting on **February 12, 2013**
- Acceptance of CSAB Minutes of January 9, 2013 Meeting
- Authorization to Submit QRIS 2013 Program Quality Improvement Grant, and expenditure of funds
- Approval of BHS Business Education DECA Overnight Trip to Boston, MA
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action: Leave of Absence, Retirement

Voted: to approve the Superintendent's recommendation, unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jerome asked Mrs. Elizabeth Barry, Executive Director of Learning & Teaching preK-8, and Mrs. Colleen Proudler, Principal of the Arnone School, to update the Committee on the NAEYC Accreditation Process that is in progress at the Angelo, Arnone, and Gilmore schools.

NAEYC Accreditation - Mrs. Barry began by saying that the Angelo and Arnone schools are close to finishing the accreditation process; the next phase is the site visit which will occur sometime in the month of March, and then the evaluation. She feels confident that these schools will do well. Mrs. Barry and Mrs. Proudler responded to questions from the Committee regarding the length of the process; how long the accreditation will be valid (five years), and what are the benefits of going through this tedious, lengthy process, and how things such as changes in teacher, or physical location, lengthen the process. Mrs. Barry responded that the NAEYC accreditation is a national "gold standard" for preschool and kindergarten programs, and it is a requirement for some grants. Because the physical location is also evaluated, moving classrooms during the accreditation is a setback to the process; Mrs. Joyce stated that

this should be taken into consideration with respect to the facility planning for next year. And finally, Mrs. Barry said that when these schools have completed the process she will select two more schools to go through the process.

Director of Special Education – Dr. Kathleen Moran reported that they receive a large response to the advertisement for this position, from both outside the system and within. A committee has been selected to conduct the initial interviews, which will begin next week. From these interviews, Dr. Moran hopes to have three to five candidates to recommend to the Superintendent.

**Items to Refer to
To Subcommittee**

Mr. Minichiello reported that Brockton Police Chief Gomes has expressed a desire to speak with the School Committee about improvements to the structure of the school police. Mr. Minichiello said that he felt this should be discussed with the committee as a whole, and would like to refer this matter to a Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Balzotti asked the School Committee to look at Enclosure #9, the proposed 2013-14 School Calendar, for possible approval. Mrs. Joyce asked if Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27, 2013, is a half day of school; Mr. Jerome responded that it is a full day off. Mrs. Joyce recommended that it be a half day of school; a brief discussion took place.

Mrs. Joyce then moved the recommendation to change the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27, 2013, to a half day off rather than a full day off of school, resulting in the last day of school being June 26, 2014 instead of June 27, 2014.

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimously.

New Business

Update on BEA Negotiations – Mr. Minichiello reported that a one-year extension to the current contract, addressing the issues of teacher evaluation, RETELL, and a 2% increase effective September 1, 2013, has been agreed upon by the Subcommittee, Human Resources, and has been ratified by the BEA.

Mr. Minichiello then moved that the Committee approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Education Association, that will extend the current contract, which expires August 31, 2013, for one year, to August 31, 2014.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimously.

March 4, 2013 Facilities Subcommittee Meeting Report – Mr. Carpenter gave a report from the meeting of the subcommittee held last night, stating that the most important issue was to create additional classroom space to accommodate the growth Brockton schools have experienced over the last two years. Enrollment has increased by 1,000 students, with no increase in buildings. At the meeting, the Subcommittee unanimously approved the Superintendent's request to reopen the B.B. Russell School. At this point, Mr. Carpenter said, the committee is in preliminary talks on what will be done with this site. Site visits for school committee members are being set up by Mr. Michael Thomas,

Executive Director of Operations; a recommendation to the full school committee will be made at a later date.

Plowing of sidewalks was also discussed and what school department personnel can do to ensure the safety of walking students.

On the topic of *handicap accessibility to adult bathrooms* at school buildings, Mr. Carpenter said that there are fourteen schools at which there is no adult bathroom with handicap access. He stated that Brockton is not in violation; these schools are grandfathered due to their age. Mr. Carpenter said there was a clear consensus that this is an issue that Brockton will address; Mr. Thomas will bring forth a plan to provide handicap accessibility, for adults, to adult bathrooms in all of our schools. He clarified that there are no problems with student accessibility.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the report of the Facilities Usage and Planning Subcommittee.

Voted: to accept the report, unanimously.

Superintendent Search – Mr. Minichiello reported that Mr. Koocher, Executive Director of Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), will be on the agenda at the March 19th School Committee meeting to brief the Committee on the next step in hiring a superintendent. The invitation to apply for the position has been posted internally and a copy was handed to each Committee member. Mr. Koocher requested that each Committee member develop three questions relevant to the process prior to the meeting. A brief discussion was held. Mr. Minichiello said he is tentatively considering Tuesday, March 26, 2013, as a date for interviews.

Mr. Carpenter was contacted by Mark Dullea, who is interested in establishing a scholarship at Brockton High in the name of Lou Montgomery, a legendary football player who attended Brockton High School and for whom one of the fields at the Baker Elementary School is named. He shared the website address, LouMontgomerylegacy.com for more information.

In view of the present concerns about already using all five of the snow days, Mr. Healy asked Mr. Jerome whether he has considered how Brockton can make up any additional lost days. Mr. Jerome responded that he will consider the Good Friday holiday as well as April vacation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John R. Jerome
Interim Superintendent