

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

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

Mayor Balzotti explained the procedure for this portion of the agenda and then invited Mr. Scott Holmes to the microphone. Mr. Holmes announced that the date of Summerfest will be August 17, 2013, from 10 to 4, and he said he hopes that most, if not all, schools will participate.

Additionally, Mrs. Joanne Joyce, Administrative Assistant at the Manthala George School, and Mr. Ossie Jordan addressed the Committee.

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. Donegan requested to remove Item G, *Chief Supervisor of Attendance March, 2013 Report*. Mr. Carpenter requested Items F (*Minutes from the Facilities Usage and Planning Subcommittee*), and I (*BHS Girl's Cross Country Team travel request*); Mr. Minichiello asked to remove Item J, *the Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes*.

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

- *Approval of Minutes of March 19, 2013 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Exec. Session Minutes Review*
- *Approval of Accounts Review Subcommittee Report – March 21, 2013*
- *Approval of Bid Review Subcommittee Report*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action*
- *Approval of BHS Out-of-State Field Trip To Rhode Island on April 15, 2013*

Mr. Donegan said that he would like some clarification with regard to the *March Attendance Report*. Mrs. Joyce commented that it has been helpful in the past to have the Chief Attendance Supervisor, Mr. Dan Genatossio, come before the Committee to give an explanation of the report. The Committee agreed to refer this to a Safety/Security/Transportation subcommittee meeting at Mr. Jerome's suggestion.

Mr. Carpenter addressed the *Facilities Usage and Planning Subcommittee Minutes of the March 27, 2013 meeting*. He said that the Subcommittee had a long and productive meeting, and much of the discussion centered on bringing the BB Russell School back online and what the best future use of that facility is, and how that may impact the use of other facilities. He wanted to be *crystal clear* to all that at this point the only decision the

Committee has made is to bring the B.B. Russell School back online, and in terms of use of the facility, no decisions have been made. He further said that the Committee and Mr. Jerome are working very closely to get this resolved, the Committee intends to have a recommendation for the Superintendent next month and will be ready to support the Superintendent as he goes forward to implement that plan. He said that it is becoming more apparent to him that Brockton will need a short-term plan for next year; the Committee will spend the upcoming year working with the new Superintendent to develop a long-term plan in terms of all of our facilities.

Mr. Carpenter called attention to *Item #I, BHS Girl's Cross Country Team Request for Approval of Out-of-State Trip* and commended Coach Canavan for doing a great job with this team. He added that they have a great sense of community spirit and considers the team an outstanding group of young women; this is a great opportunity and he fully supports this request.

Mr. Minichiello said that *Item J, Minutes from the Finance Subcommittee Meeting on April 2, 2013*, included the following items of business that require a vote from the School Committee.

- *Superintendent's FY 2014 Recommended Budget*
- *BHS Graduation Policy Amendment*

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the minutes of the Finance Subcommittee Meeting of April 2, 2013.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello stated the next order of business would be to vote on the recommendation from the Finance Subcommittee to forward the Superintendent's Preliminary FY 2014 Net and Non-Net School Department budgets to the Mayor.

Mr. Robinson moved to forward the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget Request for FY 2014 of \$163,233,591 of Net School Spending to the Mayor, to include in her FY 2014 budget planning.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Robinson then moved to forward the Superintendent's Preliminary Budget Request for FY 2014 of \$7,340,522 of Non-Net School Spending to the Mayor, to include in her FY 2014 budget planning.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said that at the April 2nd Finance Subcommittee meeting it was brought to the attention of the Committee by Mrs. Joyce that there had been some feedback with regard to the limited ticket policy that was approved at the February 12, 2013 meeting, and during discussion it was agreed that an amendment to that policy would be appropriate. He said that Ms. Janet Lopes, the BHS Student Representative, also received feedback from students at BHS and shared that with him this evening.

Mr. Minichiello moved to amend the previously adopted motion with the following language:

“In addition, graduating students who have *family members who are under high school age children and are Brockton Public Schools students*, may request tickets for those children from their Housemaster in advance. These tickets will be free of charge and color-coded to prevent misuse; the tickets will clearly state that children who use them must be accompanied by an adult. Housemasters will provide graduates with as many children’s tickets as they need.”

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce then moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve Items F, G and I from the Consent Agenda.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent’s Report

Director of Special Education

Mr. Jerome began by stating that he was pleased to recommend Mrs. Laurie Mason to the School Committee for the position of Director of Special Education. He gave a brief summary of the interview process and subsequent selection of Mrs. Mason, stating that she has been here 25 years, he has always known her to present herself respectfully with *all* clientele, she works well with the parents, and has done a great job in whatever position she has held. He said that Laurie “always gives us an honest opinion of what needs to get done.” The Mayor then opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Donegan thanked the Superintendent for allowing him to be part of the interview process and expressed his support for his recommendation of Mrs. Mason.

Mr. Donegan moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation to appoint Mrs. Laurie Mason as the Director of Special Education.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Balzotti congratulated Mrs. Mason on her appointment.

Superintendent’s FY2013-14 Budget

Mr. Jerome invited Mr. Petronio to reconfirm the budget that was voted on earlier in the meeting. Mr. Petronio explained that this is the Superintendent’s initial budget, it is developed based on the needs of the school department. He also pointed out that the budget does not include any layoffs, and said he does not anticipate a large deficit as we have seen in the past. Mrs. Joyce commented that operations and technology have taken many cuts over the years and she hopes that, in the process, they will be able to look at these areas again. Mayor Balzotti briefly explained the budget process on the city side as it relates to determining how they fund the school department budget.

Introduction of Mrs. Kathleen Smith

Mr. Jerome introduced Mrs. Kathleen Smith as the next Superintendent, she will be the 14th Superintendent of the Brockton Public Schools since 1855. Mr. Jerome said it is good for Brockton: she knows the schools, she knows the staff, and she knows the city.

Mrs. Smith thanked the Committee for their support and stated her appreciation for Mr. Jerome's assistance during this transition. She also acknowledged her staff from the Community Schools office. Mrs. Smith closed with the following commitment: "I will serve the school committee, families, community, teachers, and most importantly, our children."

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

As noted above, Mr. Dan Genatossio will be invited to the next Safety/Security/Transportation meeting to explain the attendance report.

Unfinished Business

Approval of 2013-2014 Student Handbooks

The Mayor stated that all School Committee members received copies of the Draft student handbooks for review in the March 8, 2013 informational packet. The Superintendent indicated that he would be asking for approval at tonight's meeting. The Mayor opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Donegan stated a growing concern of his is the issue of how it comes to be that students are sent either to alternative schools, or even expelled, and he stated his wish to work with the Superintendent in the future on this topic, stating that in his profession he sees this issue from a different perspective.

Following that statement, **Mr. Donegan moved to approve the 2013-2014 Student Handbooks as presented.**

During discussion, Mrs. Joyce expressed her appreciation to Mr. Donegan for his concerns; she agrees that some cultural changes may need to be made in the *implementation* of the policies in the handbooks and would welcome this discussion, she felt the handbooks are fine the way they are, that possibly they could work on the implementation.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

New Business

SY 2013-14 Supplemental Calendar

Mr. Jerome clarified that he is not looking for any action tonight, it is a "first read" and up for discussion.

Mr. Carpenter announced that the *Middle School Science Fair* held on April 4th was one of the best we have ever had, 26 projects were selected to go forward to the Massachusetts Regional Science Fair, and he said judging from the content of the projects, he would expect that some of these will go forward to the State finals.

Mr. Donegan was pleased to announce that the *Shining Stars* program, a community-based program designed to provide recreational activities to students with disabilities, is ready to kick off.

Mr. Healy acknowledged the 30 students from the Ashfield and Plouffe schools who participated in the *Empower Yourself Financial Knowledge Challenge*, outperforming their peers from other regions. Mr. Cedric Turner taught the students and arranged the competition which was held at the Federal Reserve Bank in Boston.

Mr. Minichiello complimented Mr. Bill McGauley and the ***Brockton Youth Foundation*** on the *Breakfast of Champions* event this weekend; Mr. Brian Rogan, Kennedy School Principal, Mrs. Jean Mech, paraprofessional at the Plouffe School, and the BHS Peer Mediators and Advisors Cheryll Leach and Julie Gordon were among those recognized for service to youth. Mr. Healy added that the BHS peer mediators were impressive; Mr. Donegan wanted to mention that there were some “very nice words” spoken about Mr. Jerome.

Mayor Balzotti commended Messrs. Macrina and Kardell on the great ***Spring Concert*** last week; she congratulated the Wind Ensemble on their Gold Medal and the Concert Band on their Bronze medal in the Micca Music Festival last week.

Mr. Jerome, on a personal note, sadly informed the room that Mr. Edward Kelly, a former principal and educator in the Brockton Public Schools, passed away. Mr. Kelly had a 35-year history in the Brockton Schools; Mr. Jerome referred to him as a man who had a big heart and he will be missed. He then asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Kelly’s memory.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Jerome
Secretary/Interim Superintendent