

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; 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 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

### Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Richard Bath, resident and former School Committeeman, addressed the Committee this evening on his opposition of the establishment of the SABIS International Charter School request. He discussed its dynamics, including its financial structure and its lack of success on student achievement.

### 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 have **Enclosures #3 and #8**, *Acceptance of Donation*, and *RIF/Macy's Funded Book Grant*, removed, and Mrs. Joyce requested to have **Enclosures #4 and #5**, *Authorization to Submit Proposals re. NCLB Federal Entitlement and Allocation Grants*, and *CCLC Supporting Add'l. Learning Time Grant*, removed.

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

- Minutes of Regular School Committee Meeting on September 5, 2012
- CSAB Annual Retreat Report of May 5, 2012
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Action

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

Mr. Minichiello read the summary pages of both Enclosures #3 and #8, and said that the School Committee wished to thank the Randolph Lodge of Elks, publicly, for its donation of dictionaries to all Grade 3 students in the Brockton Public Schools. He also said of the *RIF/Macy's Funded Book Grant* that it is nice that the School Department has community partners, and the School Committee express their gratitude.

Mrs. Joyce inquired about the extension of the grants listed on Enclosure #4 re. NCLB, as well as, how the CCLC, Enclosure #5, grant monies will be used at North Middle School. Deputy Superintendent John Jerome and Laurie Silva, Coordinator for 21<sup>st</sup> Century, responded to the inquires.

Mr. Minichiello then moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the above/following enclosures, and, if successful, the expenditure of funds:

- Title I, Part A/305, \$4,407,665
- Title II, Part A/140, 1,278,007
- Title III, ELA for LEP Students/180, \$622,566
- Federal Special Education Entitlement/240, \$4,385,084
- Perkins Act Allocation Grant Program, Secondary/400, \$136,178
- Race to the Top/201, \$2,762,016
- FY '13 CCLC Supporting Additional Learning Time RFP

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimously

### Learning & Teaching

Dr. Malone announced that he has been communicating with the School Committee re. the SABIS International Charter School request. He said the state is looking at prospectuses

requesting formal application, which would happen at the beginning of October. If the prospectus is approved for application, there will be a hearing in Brockton for School Committee, principals and members of the community. Dr. Malone said that he has also talked to the diocese leadership, as well. The charter schools are in almost every major urban district, according to Dr. Malone. He said that he feels that they (charter schools) would not do a better job than the (BPS) schools, and he would like the chance to show this. He said he would continue to engage the School Committee on fact-finding.

Messrs. Minichiello and Donegan asked the Superintendent related questions, i.e., the preparation of a written rebuttal and “second-guessing” the state’s rubric prior to the application process. Dr. Malone advised the Committee not to do anything until the time the application process is approved; *this* is when all becomes “official.” He said that there will be a public comment period, and that there is no actual lobby right now.

Mr. Minichiello said that the Committee will rely on Dr. Malone to say when the appropriate time comes for School Committee involvement. He asked Dr. Malone to send the School Committee additional materials on the subject. Dr. Malone agreed he would provide more information at the October 4<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meeting.

In response to a query of Mr. Donegan’s, Mayor Balzotti said that there is no formal invitation to apply; it’s just “*opened up.*” “*It’s not that specific,*” she said.

Mr. Donegan asked if the Committee could create a charter school of its own and inquired about the timeline for same. Dr. Malone briefly discussed the structure of a Horace Mann charter school and its issues in Brockton, i.e., space. He said that this discussion should be referred to subcommittee. Such a proposal, according to Dr. Malone, cannot be written in one month. Mayor Balzotti suggested that the Committee “*engage the Councilors.*”

#### Student Achievement

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that he will be presenting on student achievement in October or November. The state released the MCAS and accountability results today, and has gone from AYP to PPI (Progress and Performance Index)/rank of schools by levels.

Dr. Malone said that Brockton Public Schools is still a Level III system. He said that he has four schools that will need focus. He mentioned BHS’s and the middle schools’ level increased achievement, (maintaining the level of accountability) as well as, discussing positive changes made at the Huntington, East Middle, Raymond and Baker schools. He informed the School Committee that he will come back this year with the next level of *Superintendent’s Priority Schools.*

Mr. Donegan asked what practices attributed to the East Middle School’s fast growth, and Dr. Malone and Mr. Jerome cited the division of the bilingual strand, as well as the change in leadership. Dr. Malone said that he worked with the BEA on staffing East. Mr. Donegan also asked about non-English speaking and poverty level statistics, and Mr. Jerome responded. Mr. Donegan said that he does not agree that it (improvement) is the result of the change in leadership.

Mayor Balzotti said the matter is appropriately referred to a future data presentation. Mrs. Joyce requested that longitudinal data be included in the data presentation.

#### Opening of School

Dr. Malone said that this year’s opening of schools is the best in his four years in Brockton. He thanked all staff, and gave special kudos to Michael Thomas, Executive Director for Operations and School Administration.

#### DESE Ed’l. Team

Dr. Malone informed the School Committee that Brockton has been invited to serve on a DESE educational team representing Massachusetts on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also serving will be Principal Sean Ahern, the Commissioner, Associate Commissioner, MTA, elected officials and members of the Board of Education. Dr. Malone said that, due to this

commitment, he will be unable to attend the regular meeting of the School Committee on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. “*Brockton was invited, because Brockton gets it right,*” he said.

### **Enrollment**

Dr. Malone announced that the current BPS enrollment is 16,471, which is 300 more students from October 1, 2011.

### **Items to Refer to Subcommittees**

A discussion of a Horace Mann charter school and its creation/strategy is referred to the Policy Subcommittee. Mr. Minichiello asked all Committee members to hold October 9<sup>th</sup> on their calendars for a possible Policy Subcommittee meeting.

### **FY '13 Budget Needs**

Dr. Malone called upon Mr. Petronio, Executive Director for Finance Services and Dr. Terrasi, Executive Director for Pupil Personnel Services, to discuss the reinstatement of a special education administrative assistant position.

Following the discussion, Mr. Minichiello moved to authorize the reinstatement of a *Special Education Administrative Assistant Position* with the caveat that the position continues to exist as long as it is grant funded, and should it not be grant funded, then it must be revisited by the School Committee for its further continuation.

On the motion, Mr. Donegan inquired as to the funding of the position with grants funds, and Mr. Petronio responded.

Mr. Carpenter then indicated that the current year’s budget was based on savings in operations. He requested of Dr. Malone a recap on how the School Department is doing in the various accounts, particularly, in the operations side. Dr. Malone agreed to give a report at the October 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the School Committee.

The vote was then taken.

Voted: to accept motion, unanimously

### **New Business**

Mr. Carpenter announced the upcoming weekend events to commemorate the homecoming of the Rocky Marciano statue. He thanked that Statue Committee; Mayor Balzotti; Ken Thompson, Mayor’s Chief of Staff; Dr. Szachowicz; participating BHS students and student clubs; Atty. Siskind; Councilor Mark Petti, and many more for their contributions, efforts and involvement in organizing events. The events are as follows:

- Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: World Boxing Council reception; 4:30 p.m., at George’s Café, **and** the BHS varsity football game; Boxers vs. Xaverian Brothers HS, at 7 p.m. at the stadium
- Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>: ***Run Like a Champ Road Race***, 10 a.m., at D. W. Field Park; ***In Rocky’s Footsteps*** Historic Bus Tour, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., from BHS; ***A Tribute to Rocky Marciano Boxing Tournament***, 12 p.m., 1 p.m. Boxing Event, Campanelli Stadium
- Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>: ***Rocky Marciano Statue Dedication***, 1 p.m., at stadium at BHS, **and *Statue Dedication reception***, at 2:30 p.m., at stadium.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph. D.  
Secretary

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