

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theater at the Dr. William H. Arnone School, Brockton, MA.

Present: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Mr. Donegan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Healy, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Smith, Secretary; Ms. Freeborn, Student Rep

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.

**Consent Agenda**

Mayor Balzotti explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked whether any School Committee member wished to remove an item for discussion. Mr. Sullivan removed Item C, Donation by Walgreens of Brockton.

**Mr. Minichiello moved the Superintendent’s recommendation to approve the following remaining items from the Consent Agenda:**

- *Minutes of November 6, 2013 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Acceptance of Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report for October, 2013*
- *Approval of Huntington School Out-of-State Trip*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified, Non-Certified*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation, unanimous.

*Enclosure C, Donation of School Supplies to the Raymond School.* Mr. Sullivan acknowledged Mr. Jim Mahoney, District Manager of Walgreens, for the donation of over \$500 worth of school supplies for students at the Raymond School. This is the fourth year in a row that Mr. Mahoney has taken it upon himself to set up collections at Walgreens where customers can purchase and donate items, and he also gave supplies from his store. The Superintendent added that the School Committee will continue to recognize these business school partnerships.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the donation of school supplies from Walgreens.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Superintendent’s Report**

The Superintendent called on Jessica Freeborn to give a report on Brockton High School. Ms. Freeborn announced the following:

- Report cards were distributed yesterday
- DECA is hosting “Love Mad” on Thursday at 7 p.m., a performance that stands up to bullying through dance, DECA’s way of kicking off Rachel’s Challenge
- 286 seniors will be awarded the Abigail Adams scholarship at a ceremony next week

The Superintendent and Ms. Sharon Wolder, Principal of BHS, confirmed that this is the largest group of students from BHS to be awarded the scholarship. Mrs. Wolder announced that, in addition, 86 juniors will be inducted into the National Honor Society on Wednesday. The Superintendent congratulated the parents.

### **COMMON CORE & PARCC ASSESSMENT**

The Superintendent invited Elizabeth Barry, Executive Director of Learning and Teaching, to give a power point presentation on the Common Core Standards and PARCC Testing.

Mrs. Barry explained that the presentation tonight would be brief and provide an overview of how Brockton has prepared for the new Common Core Standards; she highlighted that the expectation of the Common Core is higher, children now need to be able to *speak about, write about, and deeply understand* what they are learning. She highlighted changes made to curriculum this year to realign Brockton's standards with the Common Core Standards, now used in 46 states and Washington, DC.

Mrs. Barry explained that the PARCC test is designed to create high quality assessments, to build a pathway to college and career readiness for all students, to support teachers in the classroom, to develop 21<sup>st</sup> century technology-based assessments, to advance accountability at all levels in schools, and to build an assessment that is sustainable and affordable. Mrs. Barry added that the Learning & Teaching department is making a concerted effort to communicate with parents about the new standards and assessments, and there will be a segment on cable television.

Mrs. Joyce emphasized the need to invest in technology because the test is a web-based test; and stated she was happy to hear that accommodations for special education students will continue with the new assessments. She felt that one of the biggest bonuses is that PARCC proficiency scores will be considered by colleges, previously this was not the case for MCAS.

Mr. Minichiello said that this is a significant shift and he wants the district to be well-positioned going forward. He suggested to Mrs. Barry that a self-assessment of curriculum rollout be done, by polling teachers to see how comfortable they are with their readiness, if they feel they need more preparedness, resources, or support to get everyone on par. Mrs. Barry responded that a survey was done with regard to K-8 math and she would share the results with the School Committee; Mr. Minichiello thanked Mrs. Barry and said that it would be consistent to follow that with a survey in ELA; Mrs. Barry agreed, emphasizing the importance of the teacher's role.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to accept the Report on Common Core Standards and the PARCC Assessment presented by Mrs. Barry; the motion was seconded.**

Voted: to accept the report, unanimous.

### **DISTRICT CAPACITY PROJECT UPDATE**

Dr. Kathleen Moran and Mrs. Kellie Jones presented the results of a community survey about Dual Language Instruction via a power point presentation.



Dr. Moran said that the School Department, School Committee, and BEA have worked on this task force for almost two years, and determined that they needed community input. Surveys were completed on paper and on-line, and made available to the community during open houses, at parent forums, and on the website. Highlights from the report include:

- A total of 2,509 responses were received, in four languages, from staff, parents, and community members
- 1502 indicated that they were interested in a dual language program for their child
- In addition to Spanish, Portuguese, and French Creole, Chinese was the most desired language of study
- Many comments praised the value of knowing more than one language

The next steps will be to look at the data again and work to design a program model, study facility needs, and continue to communicate with other districts that have adopted this type of program. The task force plans to meet with the Curriculum Subcommittee of the School Committee to discuss this further, and has discussed publishing the results of the survey on the BPS website.

**Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the report of the District Capacity Task Force; the motion was seconded.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Mr. Ray Shurtleff for his support and guidance, and expressed his admiration for the very talented and hardworking members of the task force. He said that the task force looks forward to having a discussion with School Committee with regard to their thoughts about the project.

#### **Items to Refer to Subcommittee**

The Superintendent would like to schedule a Finance subcommittee meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the hiring of additional I.T. technicians.

The Superintendent asked the School Committee for their input with regard to the scheduling conflict on December 17<sup>th</sup> between the regular school committee meeting and the annual BHS Christmas Concert. Mr. Minichiello suggested that the meeting could be posted one hour earlier and end in time for the start of the concert if the agenda was not too lengthy members, agreed that would not be a problem.

Mr. Minichiello said that a Policy Subcommittee meeting was needed to discuss the school calendar with regard to election days; and a Curriculum subcommittee should be scheduled o continue the District Capacity discussion.

#### **New Business**

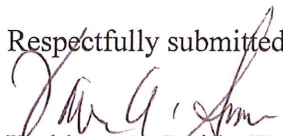
Mrs. Joyce announced that the School Committee and the Brockton Food Service Association, Local 888 Service Employees International Union, have developed a Memorandum of Agreement and she would like a favorable recommendation for ratification tonight.

**Mrs. Joyce then moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Food Service Association, for a 3-year period commencing July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary/Superintendent

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