

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

Absent: Mayor Balzotti, Chair; Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Healy

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

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

## Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if any School Committee members wished to remove any items for discussion. Enclosure # 4, Approval of Plouffe School Out-Of-State, Overnight Trip, was removed by Mrs. Joyce.

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

- *Minutes of November 19 2013 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Acceptance of CSAB October 7, 2013 Minutes*
- *Acceptance of November 21, 2013 Bid Review Subcommittee Report*
- *Authorization to Submit Proposal to EM Corporation for Funding of BHS Planetarium*
- *Authorization to Submit Proposal to MA Dept. of Industrial Accidents/Office of Safety for Workplace Safety*
- *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 #4, Plouffe Academy Out-of-State, Overnight Field Trip to New York, NY.* Principal Nessler came forward to answer questions from School Committee members. Mrs. Joyce stated that she was pleased that last year's trip to Washington, DC went so well, and she was glad to see that departure and return times have been arranged for this trip to allow the students to miss only one day of school, Friday, and to return early enough Sunday evening to be rested for school on Monday. Mrs. Joyce said that students need ways to raise the money for the cost of the trip, especially for those students who may not have family resources to help. She asked Ms. Nessler to explain what fundraising opportunities will be available, Ms. Nessler replied that she has spoken with Karen Watts, Grants Manager, to explore grant opportunities, and then asked Ms. McFarland to explain one of the fundraising possibilities they plan to offer. Mr. Minichiello agreed with Mrs. Joyce, stating that it is important for children to learn how to earn money and develop a good work ethic. He was pleased that the students would have ample time to raise the money needed.

Mrs. Joyce asked who would chaperone; Ms. Nessralla responded that four chaperones from the trip last year had already signed up, and that there were many staff who are interested in going on the trip.

**Mr. Sullivan moved to approve the out-of-state, overnight field trip for 90 students from the Plouffe School to travel to New York City. The motion was seconded.**

Mr. Minichiello asked whether a nurse would be travelling with the group, Ms. Nessralla responded “yes”.

After discussion, Mr. Minichiello called for a vote on the motion.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

## **Superintendent’s Report**

### **Student Representative**

Jessica Freeborn reported the following:

- 286 seniors received the John and Abigail Adams scholarship at an awards ceremony last week,
- a drama production of “Learn Me Somethin” will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 6 – 8, in the Little Theater,
- the annual Christmas Concert will be performed on December 17 and 18, and
- the senior class is sponsoring a Charlie Brown tree, where staff and student can purchase gifts to help needy families during the holiday.

The Superintendent said that she was fortunate to take part in the scholarship awards ceremony and congratulated the staff, students and parents for this great accomplishment.

### **2013-2014 Enrollment and Registration Report**

The Superintendent invited Ms. Soraya DeBarros, Director of School Registration and Parent Information Center, to report on the registrations for the 2013-2014 school year. Ms. DeBarros gave a power point presentation and highlighted the following:

- There is now a permanent ESL teacher on staff to test students with other languages
- Registrations are now available electronically
- The average time spent in the office registering a student is now 30 minutes
- Parents are now asked to complete a *Service Survey* about their registration process experience
- Beginning in January of 2014, photos of students will be taken at the parent center and put into the Infinite campus system
- She is continuing with the initiative to go paperless

Ms. DeBarros reported that 5,166 registrations and transfers were processed this year, including 1,485 kindergarten students. The report broke down the numbers further by grade, ethnicity, and comparisons to prior years.

With respect to kindergarten registration, Ms. DeBarros reported the various ways they reached out to inform parents about kindergarten registration dates. For the 2014-15 school year they will utilize radio and cable television programs, postcards, newspapers,

flyers in local businesses. She stated that postcards were given to parents at the recent k-5 parent conferences, and they will do the same at the middle school parent conferences on December 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a kindergarten survey is going home this week to all parents of students in grades K-8.

**Identifying Students With Special Education Issues** - Mr. Minichiello asked Ms. DeBarros to explain the process for identifying students who are coming in with special education issues, Ms. DeBarros responded that it is a collaborative effort between the school where the student is placed, the parent center, and the special education department.

**Identifying students who need English Language Services** – Ms. DeBarros said that a *home language survey* is completed as part of the registration process; and based on that survey, if it is determined that a child is not fluent in English he or she is placed in a Sheltered English immersion classroom, with parental agreement.

Finally, Ms. DeBarros said that over 4,500 registrations received their *first choice*. The Superintendent added that the new Barrett Russell preK and kindergarten center was opened in September and families are pleased with the school.

The Committee thanked Ms. DeBarros for the thorough presentation. Mrs. Joyce added that she is pleased with the way the center has evolved under Ms. DeBarros leadership.

### **PARCC Field Testing**

The Superintendent announced that since she originally reported to the School Committee that Brockton was chosen to participate in the PARCC field testing this year, an option became available, which Brockton chose to go with, that would reduce the number of schools required to take part in the testing. She stated that she was recently notified that out of eighteen schools, only two will participate in the field testing K-8, along with Brockton High School and two of the alternative high schools. The Superintendent said that Brockton was not given a choice as to the schools that would participate, and whereas she was just notified which schools were selected, this information would be sent to the School Committee in the Friday packet, allowing principals time to inform their staff.

The Superintendent reported that the district was given the option of taking one or both tests; Brockton decided to have students take both the PARCC and MCAS testing, based on the fact that Brockton will not receive any student accountability results from the PARCC testing. She felt that it was important to the district and to parents to receive student achievement scores. By participating in the PARCC field test this year, Brockton will gain a better understanding of the testing process and the technology required, but will not learn how the students did on the test. Mrs. Joyce asked whether the Superintendent was concerned about test burnout and the interruption of the learning process during the testing period, the Superintendent responded that, at the K-8 level, the district will be able to focus their support on only two schools, to lessen the impact on the district.

**Superintendent’s Transition Team**

The Superintendent reported that her transition period is coming to an end, and the entry plan will begin. A vision and mission statement is currently being developed and she plans to have the district’s Strategic Goals ready by March, 2014. She also reported that she held her first *New Teacher Forum*, and was pleased to hear from ten new teachers who shared ideas; she said she received good feedback.

**New Organizational Chart**

Some of the job ads resulting from the newly approved Organizational Chart will be going out this week; the Superintendent announced that she plans to have all of the positions advertised by the end of December.

**Items to Refer to Subcommittee**

With regard to the upcoming Finance and Curriculum Subcommittee meetings on Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Committee agreed to begin at 6:00 p.m. The Superintendent said that she would have her assistant post the meetings and send notice of the exact time and location to the Committee in the Friday packet.

**Unfinished Business**

The Superintendent reminded the Committee and the public that the next School Committee meeting, scheduled for December 17, 2013, will be posted one hour earlier, at 6:00 p.m., due to the Annual Holiday Concert.

**New Business**

Mr. Sullivan announced that he would be unable to attend the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, but wanted to thank the Committee and the district administrators for the excellent experience he has had serving on the School Committee for the past four years. The Superintendent told Mr. Sullivan that he always took the time to make each person who came before the Committee feel good about the job they were doing. Mr. Minichiello added that it was always clear that Mr. Sullivan put the children first, and that it was a pleasure to serve with him.

Mr. Minichiello announced Dave Gorman’s annual Jingle Bell Run which will begin at the Massasoit Conference Center at 1 p.m., with registration beginning at 12 noon; with proceeds going toward The Enterprise Helping Hands fund.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary/Superintendent

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