

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

Present: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Robinson, Ms. Clark, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Henningson, Superintendent Smith, Secretary

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

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

Presentation of Plaque

In recognition of Michael Healy's service as Ward 6 School Committee Member, Mayor Carpenter, the Superintendent, and Vice Chair Mr. Minichiello asked Mrs. Healy and daughter Katherine to come forward for a presentation. Many kind words were spoken about Mr. Healy as a friend and as a colleague, about his humor, his love of the work he was doing as a school committee member, and his involvement in so many projects that he felt would benefit students. Mr. Minichiello then asked for a moment of silence. Clearly, Mr. Healy left a lasting impression on all he met and he will be missed.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were any items School Committee members wished to remove for discussion. Mrs. Joyce removed Item C, Mr. Minichiello removed Item E.

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

- *Minutes of March 4, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *February, 2014 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report*
- *Report of the March 11, 2014 Facilities Usage and Planning Subcommittee meeting*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and/or Non-Certified*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

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

With respect to Item C, the Building Naming Subcommittee Report, Mrs. Joyce announced that at the March 11th meeting the subcommittee reviewed and discussed the findings of the ad hoc committees that were appointed to research three building naming requests. As a result of that meeting, the subcommittee favorably recommended two of these requests to go forward to a public hearing, after which a vote will be taken by the full school committee. Mrs. Joyce suggested that the hearing be scheduled before the next available School Committee meeting on April 8, 2014, unless there were any objections; there were none.

Mrs. Joyce then moved to accept the report of the Subcommittee.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter noted that this is the first time the new building naming policy has been utilized, he said that the new policy has a more formal procedure where requests are submitted and given to an ad hoc committee for research and review.

With respect to Item E, Mr. Minichiello said he always wants to point out donations to the district, this donation was from Altrusa, International in the form of pencils, sharpeners, and erasers that were given to every fourth grade student in the district in preparation for taking the MCAS examination. The Superintendent thanked Mrs. Glenna Riley, a former school committee member, for coordinating the donation and then invited Susannah Leslie from Altrusa to speak to the School Committee.

Mrs. Leslie gave a brief description of Altrusa International, a volunteer organization which donates over 1 million hours of service around the world. She thanked the School Committee for allowing them into the schools to deliver these supplies.

Mayor Carpenter, Vice Chair Minichiello and Superintendent Smith presented a certificate to Altrusa in appreciation of the generous donation.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the donation.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

3M Donation to BHS Planetarium

The Superintendent announced that BHS is receiving \$100,000 from the 3M Corporation to bring the planetarium back on line. She invited Science Department Head Jonathan Shapiro to speak to the School Committee.

Mr. Shapiro reported that as a result of this donation, the planetarium is scheduled to be open for the next school year. He spoke briefly about the exciting changes in the science department and how the planetarium will be a resource for the community as well as the students, stating that when the planetarium opens, “prepare to have your minds blown.” Mr. Shapiro expressed his appreciation to 3M for being a great partner.

Superintendent Smith said she is excited that the planetarium will reach more than the high school classes, students at other levels will be able to experience it, as well as the community. She invited Mr. Kevin Moseley, 3M Human Resources Manager, and other representatives from 3M to come forward. Together with Mayor Carpenter, Mr. Minichiello, and State Representative Clair Cronin, the Superintendent presented a plaque to Mr. Moseley. Mayor Carpenter personally thanked Mr. Moseley and 3M Corporation for bringing this opportunity to the high school.

The 3M representatives then gave their presentation, a check representing the \$100,000 donation and an announcement that, in addition, 3M has donated a pallet full of school supplies to Brockton High School. The Superintendent said she looks forward to the ribbon cutting ceremony to which 3M will be invited, and thanked Mr. Moseley for their partnership.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Report – Jessica Freeborn

Ms. Freeborn announced the following:

- Upcoming MCAS math exam in May, Science exam in June
- The Drama Club has moved on to State finals and will perform this weekend in Boston
- The date of the BHS Spring Concert is Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

The Superintendent announced that PARCC field testing has also begun for select Brockton schools, and reminded everyone that this is a *field test*, and will serve to help the state determine whether they will adopt the PARCC test as the state standard, or stay with MCAS.

Administrative Appointments

Executive Director of Assessment, Accountability, Technology and Student Data Research - The Superintendent said she is very pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Ethan Cancell from Associate Director to Executive Director of Assessment, Accountability, Technology and Student Data Research.

Dr. Cancell thanked the School Committee for the opportunity and praised the administrative team that he works with.

Mr. Minichiello expressed his support for Dr. Cancell and told him that he appreciates his honest approach during his presentations, saying it helps Brockton to become a better system.

Executive Director of Learning & Teaching PreK-5

Ms. June Saba, Principal of the Huntington School, has been appointed to the position of Executive Director of Learning & Teaching PreK-5. The Superintendent spoke highly of Ms. Saba's visionary leadership and the many initiatives she brought to the Huntington School. Superintendent Smith announced that Mrs. Saba will continue to anchor the Huntington School through the end of this school year.

Ms Saba thanked the School Committee for their support throughout her time at the Huntington School and for the opportunity she will now have to share her visions and practices with the entire district.

Mr. Minichiello commended Ms. Saba for her "out-of-the box" thinking at the Huntington School, stating that her hard work had been noticed by the School Committee.

District Communications Officer

The Superintendent announced that with the upgrade of Jocelyn Meek to the position of District Communications Officer, she was pleased that she will be able to begin to expand the communications office to meet the growing needs of a school system as large as Brockton. The Superintendent said that this position will oversee bilingual support centers and a web content manager.

Mrs. Meek thanked the School Committee for this wonderful opportunity and said that as a member of the Brockton community and a parent of children in the system, she is happy to be sharing the news of what goes on in our schools.

Mr. Minichiello said that Mrs. Meek’s personal and work involvement in the community is an asset to the district. Mayor Carpenter stated how essential he felt the position is, that the image of the school system is important to the image of the City, as he works toward changing the perception of Brockton it is important that the great successes in the schools are communicated out to the public.

District Capacity Project (DCP) Update

The Superintendent introduced Dr. Kathleen Moran, Mrs. Kellie Jones, and Mrs. Kim Gibson to narrate their power point presentation update for the School Committee.

Mrs. Gibson began by giving a brief review of DCP, the team highlighted the following points as they went through the power point (attached):

- Rationale for an International School that focuses on dual language development
- Results of the staff, parent, and community surveys, showing an overwhelming positive response from parents and community in support of a dual language program
- A timeline for the project, with a projected opening in September of 2015
- Challenges – space, staffing, curriculum development

A brief question and answer period followed. Mr. Minichiello, as the School Committee representative who serves on the committee, clarified that everything that is being considered and worked on is *subject to funding*, and at the point that there is a proposal, the entire School Committee would be brought in to discuss whether this is something that the Committee can support, especially in light of budgetary resources. Mr. Minichiello said that clearly this is an initiative that must be well-thought out and needs the full support of the School Committee, and the appropriate funding.

Mrs. Joyce questioned whether the group is looking at different options, i.e. a free-standing school, charter school, or incorporating the program within our existing school structure; the Superintendent responded that as part of our Facility Master Plan, we are not only looking at buildings but looking at the options we offer our students, stating that dual language development programs have been shown to reduce the achievement gap between students, help with acceptances into colleges, is embraced by the business community, and depending on where we have seats, it could be housed in an existing school. Mrs. Joyce asked at what point the committee would have an idea of the number of students that would be enrolling, because this will impact where the program is placed and how it is implemented; Dr. Moran responded that registration would be conducted in the spring of 2015.

East Middle School Redesign Plan

The Superintendent talked about the planning that is underway for a redesign of East Middle School. She referred to using the concept of changing the design of an under-selected school to create a model that would become a highly chosen school, in this case making East Middle School an “Arts” magnet school. The Superintendent explained that the purpose of an Arts school is “to create a form of arts integration that will incorporate a seamless blending of content and skills between an art form and a co-curricular subject.” She reiterated that this is in the planning process, and they will get to a point

when she will invite the Principal and the team to present before a School Committee meeting.

Mr. Minichiello said it is exciting that Brockton has continues to explore different ways to get kids excited about learning, he said it is great to see that people in our system are thinking in unique ways to engage kids and he looks forward to the presentation.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Mayor Carpenter asked for a Policy Subcommittee meeting for the purpose of creating a policy on the *maximum age for middle school students*. He said he believes this warrants immediate attention in light of the recent incident involving a 16-year old enrolled in a K-8 school, and he would like to have this policy in place before the start of the next school year. There was a brief discussion about what the policy might contain.

Mayor Carpenter requested information from the Superintendent on 1) overage students enrolled in the schools, and 2) specific decision making that went into the placement of the student involved in the incident. Mayor Carpenter also requested that the committee seek input from Lt. Mills. Mr. Minichiello said that the meeting will be scheduled and information disseminated.

Mayor Carpenter asked Mr. Thomas to speak to the issue of warehouses. Mr. Thomas said that the proposals are in for the warehouse and he would like to schedule a Bid Review Subcommittee meeting with the invitation to all school committee members to view the two sites, he will schedule the meeting before it gets dark, around 5:30 p.m. The Superintendent will set the meeting up and all School Committee members will be invited.

New Business

Mayor Carpenter said that this would be a difficult conversation, but the Committee needs to appoint a replacement to represent Ward 6 on the School Committee. He then informed the Committee that the ordinance calls for a joint convention of the School Committee and City Council, sitting together as one body, to elect a member to serve out the balance of the term. He invited Mr. Minichiello to speak further on the subject.

Mr. Minichiello said he has spoken with Robert Sullivan, Chair of the City Council, and they want to convene this meeting within the next two weeks. Mr. Minichiello invited residents to send a letter of intent to the School Committee, and stated they are not required to live in Ward 6 but it would weigh strongly in their favor. This will be a public meeting, Mr. Minichiello said he would like to use Brockton High School Auditorium. During the process the Mayor will serve as the Chair and a voting member of the body.

Mr. Minichiello instructed interested applicants to send their letter of intent to the attention of the School Committee, 43 Crescent Street, Brockton, and copies will be shared with Council President Bob Sullivan and vice versa. Mayor Carpenter said that he will ask his colleagues on the City Council to give consideration to applicants who live in Ward 6, although the ordinance does not require it. He suggested that interested persons get their letter of interest in it is determined.

The Superintendent recognized Representative Claire Cronin and thanked her for her “voice on the hill” as she advocates for Brockton. Mrs. Joyce thanked Representative Cronin for sharing information with the School Committee and keeping them informed about what is going on at the State level. Mayor Carpenter thanked Rep. Cronin for advocating for all of Brockton, even though her actual area does not include the entire city.

The Superintendent announced the BHS Spring Concert is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, and conflicts with a scheduled subcommittee meeting, she suggested that the meeting be moved to another date. There were no objections.

The Superintendent announced that applications for the Albert Baroncelli Award have gone out, if you have someone you wish to nominate for their volunteerism or service to the community, contact Mrs. Maxine Richardson in the Community Schools Office.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary/Superintendent

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