

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

Present: 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.

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

Hearing of Visitors

Mr. Minichiello invited Katie Balboni to address the Committee. Ms. Balboni handed out an informational paper about her proposal to start a freshman girl's field hockey team at BHS. Mr. Minichiello said that the Committee would bring the matter up for discussion at a Finance subcommittee meeting.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if there were any items School Committee members wished to remove for discussion. Ms. Clark requested that Item C, the April 15, 2014 Bid Review Report be removed; Mrs. Sullivan requested that Item G, CSAB Minutes from March, 2014 be removed.

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

- Minutes of April 8, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Report of April 15, 2014 Accounts Review Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of April 15, 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of April 8, 2014 Public Hearing on Building Naming
- March, 2014 Report of the Chief Supervisor of Attendance
- Authorization to Submit Adult Learning Center Proposal
- Ashfield School Out-of-State Field Trip to Newport, RI
- South Middle School Out-of-State Field Trip to Newport, RI
- Notification of Personnel Appointments: Certified and/or Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations,

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

With respect to Item C, Ms. Clark moved to table the Modulars for the Kennedy School because of concerns about the commitment of funds, and approve the remainder of the report of the April 15, 2014 Bid Review Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

With respect to Item G, the March 12, 2014 CSAB Minutes, Mrs. Sullivan called attention to two items, the upcoming *Summerfest* scheduled for August 16 from 10 – 4 at BHS, and the children's summer programs which are now posted on the Community

Schools website; brochures are also available. Mrs. Sullivan said Community Schools staff has been working very hard on Summerfest and is looking for volunteers.

Mrs. Sullivan then moved to accept said minutes, the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Communication

The Superintendent advised the Committee that she received a letter from the Elections Commission requesting the use of thirteen schools as polling locations for the gubernatorial elections this year. She explained that the schools will be open during the primaries in September, but for safety reasons schools will be closed for the general election in November.

There was a brief discussion about safety concerns for the children with the increased road traffic and foot traffic inside the buildings, the Superintendent said the district will provide additional staff to the schools on that day; Mr. Minichiello suggested that CORI'd parent volunteers could also be used at the buildings to help guide voters in and out of the proper areas in the building.

Mr. Henningson moved to approve the request to use the listed schools as polling locations for the 2014 election cycle.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

Student Report

Jessica Freeborn reported the following:

BHS student artwork is currently on display in the Fine Arts Building; the Junior Prom was held on Friday and was a success; MCAS math begins next week, and finally, the BHS Drama Production of *Guys and Dolls* is May 16 – 18, 2014.

Recognition of Stephen J. Prone

Plouffe Academy Principal Nessralla introduced Mr. Stephen Prone, trustee of the Prone Family Foundation, and thanked him for the generous donations he has given to the school, a total of \$19,000 over the past three years, that has been used to increase the educational opportunities for the students, and allowed staff to purchase two projectors for classrooms and other materials and resources for technology classes. Mr. Minichiello and Superintendent Smith thanked Mr. Prone for his donations and presented him with a plaque. Mr. Minichiello told Mr. Prone that with a student population such as we have in Brockton, his donations have a huge impact.

Recognition of PARCC Testing Team

The Superintendent asked Dr. Ethan Cancell to come forward; Dr. Cancell wanted to acknowledge the hard work of so many staff in facilitating the PARCC field test. Dr. Cancell spoke of the cooperation from the schools and acknowledged the Edison Academy, the B.B. Russell School, Principal Stephen Shaw of the Hancock School and Principal McGrath of the Raymond School and their staffs; all members of the Instructional Technology Department, specifically the techs who were assigned to provide full technical support before and during the test--Neal Fama, James Lofton, Rick Cheng, Bill Welch, and Luis Pires, and Kathleen Buckley and Director Dan Vigeant as

well for their support. He then recognized the Office of Teaching and Learning staff, and Dr. Heather Ronan, Coordinator of Math and Science who is also a PARCC Fellow, for the countless hours they dedicated to preparing for and administering the testing. Dr. Cancell said the test was extremely difficult and required a great amount of work; this was an online test that still had many “bugs” to be worked out. The Superintendent added that at a recent Superintendent’s workshop, other superintendents expressed the same concerns and problems with the test. She thanked Dr. Cancell and Mrs. Barry for their leadership through the process.

Mrs. Joyce asked Dr. Cancell to update the Committee on future plans for PARCC test. Mr. Minichiello this test will be a challenge and a huge cost, that this is one of the “unfunded mandates” that districts must comply with.

Barrett Russell/Gilmore School Presentation

Principal Pohl of the Barrett Russell Kindergarten Center, and Principal Virga of the Gilmore Preschool Center, gave a power point presentation about their partnership with the South Shore Conservatory jumpstARTS program, which uses an arts-integrated curriculum during weekly music classes taught by conservatory specialists. The program also provides professional development for classroom teachers and holds musical “pajama nights” to engage the entire family, and brings in a musician once a month to interact with the children. The program started at the Gilmore School, expanded to two classes at the Barrett Russell, and will hopefully be expanded to more classrooms there as well as to other schools. Ms. Pohl announced that the next pajama night as part of this program is scheduled for June 3rd, and invited committee members to visit the program in action Tuesday mornings at the Barrett Russell or Thursday mornings at the Gilmore.

Introduction of 2014 Administrative Interns

Dr. Kathleen Moran introduced the fourteen interns that have been selected to work on projects across the district. The Superintendent and Vice-chair congratulated the interns.

Introduction of FY 2015 Budget

Chief Budget Officer Aldo Petronio stated that the Superintendent’s recommended budget, which presents the needs of the system, has been submitted to the School Committee. He said the district is now waiting to receive a budget figure from the Mayor, the Governor has already announced his budget and Mr. Petronio said he was disappointed that the funding from the state did not have the same growth as last year; it is 2.5 million less. Once the School Committee receives the Mayor’s budget, they will then begin the work of adjusting the Superintendent’s budget to balance with the State and local funding.

The Superintendent said that representatives from the school department and School Committee had the opportunity to talk about budget issues with State legislators at a luncheon held yesterday in the Brockton High School Fine Arts Café. She said she is not pleased with the numbers. Mr. Minichiello said that the legislators are very open to our needs and it is important to let them know the issues we face so they can advocate at the State level. The Superintendent said that the Ed Reform Act of 1993 may need to be revisited to address the needs of gateway cities like Brockton.

Superintendent's Entry Plan The Superintendent used a power point presentation to outline her Entry Plan. She reported that this plan was a culmination of information that she and her Transition Team have gathered since her hire in March of 2013 from parents, students, school and community leaders, educators, college and university representatives, elected officials, union officials and district administrators. She used a power point presentation to outline her points, and reported that the team is now working on completing the Strategic Plan by July 1st; this plan will guide the school department for the next three years.

In February the team began the *strategic planning phase*, working in the following four direct areas that were identified from the information gathered.

- Culture and Context—this committee reviewed organizational climate and culture and the impact on the instructional environment;
- Learning and Teaching—this committee addressed student access to high quality instruction in an environment that prepares them for college and careers;
- Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness – worked to identify organizational efficiencies to streamline operations and support schools;
- Operations and Finance—this committee reviewed the current status of operations, including fiscal and human resources, facilities, communications, transportation and informational technology functions.

Each team reported strengths and challenges. From these reports, emerging themes were identified; many of these were supported by the DESE District Review as well. The Superintendent stated that these emerging themes are what the strategic objectives will be based on.

The Superintendent reminded the Committee of the importance of the Facility Master Plan to address the challenges of class size and space needs.

Items to be Referred To Subcommittee

Mrs. Joyce said she would like to discuss the proposal for a girl's freshman field hockey team that was heard during the Hearing of Visitors this evening. Mr. Minichiello asked Mr. Thomas to consult with Ms. Balboni and either present information himself, or arrange for her to be present at a finance subcommittee meeting.

New Business

2014-2105 Supplemental Calendar

The Superintendent explained that this draft version of the calendar includes three additional half-days at the elementary level and two at the high school level, for the purpose of teacher in-service. She said that a calendar of professional development is currently being developed. No action was required on the calendar tonight.

May 6, 2014 Bid Review Subcommittee Report

Mr. Minichiello gave a report of the Bid Review Subcommittee meeting held earlier in the evening. The meeting addressed two bids: the Planetarium Technology and the BPS Warehouse site. Mr. Minichiello reported that the Subcommittee was recommending approval of Spitz for the Planetarium and the 91 Foster Street building for the BPS warehouse site.

Ms. Clark moved to accept the report of the Bid Review Subcommittee.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Ms. Clark then moved to award the Planetarium Technology bid to SPITZ, Inc., 700 Brandywine Drive, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 for \$100,000.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Sullivan moved to award the BPS General Warehouse bid to Hawkeye Fence, LLC, 925 Crescent Street, Brockton, MA 02302, for a three-year lease for 91 Foster Street property, as outlined in the bid proposal.

Voted: to approve, the motion, unanimous.

Closing of FY 2014 Budget

Mr. Petronio requested that the Committee authorize the closing of the FY 2014 School Budget as of May 6, 2014, except for emergencies and those anticipated needs during the last months of the school year.

Mr. Robinson moved to close the FY 2014 School Department Budget as of May 6, 2014, except for emergencies and anticipated needs.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Announcements:

- The Superintendent announced the Wizard of Oz play at Massasoit, which stars the Baker School Chorus.
- Mr. Henningson thanked the staff and students of the Fine Arts Café for the excellent luncheon that was prepared for yesterday's Legislative event.
- Mr. Minichiello announced that the Joint Convention to fill the currently vacant Ward 6 School Committee seat will be held tomorrow evening, Wednesday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary/Superintendent

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