

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

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

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

### **Hearing of Visitors**

Mayor Carpenter explained the procedure during this portion of the meeting. Speakers were Barbara Duffy, Kim Gibson, Andrea Donaruma, Pat Cook, Zeyanna DeFortunato, and Annette Calloway.

### **Baroncelli Award**

Mayor Carpenter announced that the Baroncelli Award will be taken out of order, and invited the Superintendent to speak. Superintendent Smith said that the spirit of the Albert Baroncelli is to give of yourself and your time, she introduced Maxine Richardson, Director of Community Schools, and Kristina Lutz, to present the award.

Mrs. Richardson said she is very proud of this award, and announced that the vote was unanimous for Ms. Allisha Clark. Mrs. Lutz, who nominated Ms. Clark, spoke about her nomination, she said Ms. Clark's *Shining Stars* program that Ms. Clark founded embraces differences; it is a place where everyone is comfortable just as they are. She described Ms. Clark as selfless and loving toward special needs students, as well as their families. A plaque was presented.

### **Plouffe School Video**

Mayor Carpenter invited Mr. Minichiello to speak about the video. Mr. Minichiello said he recently attended the "Plouffe Idol" and this video was shown at the end. It was dedicated to Michael Healy, Ward 6 School Committee member. He wanted to show it to lighten things up in the midst of all of the hard work and many meetings the Committee has been involved with. He praised the talent, excitement and encouraging spirit of the Plouffe students and staff that he witnessed at the performance. He asked Mr. Steve Fortes to play the video for the Committee.

Mr. Fortes explained that Mr. Healy had approached him and expressed his passion and love for Brockton, and asked him to write a song about the city. The video was a moving tribute to Brockton, dedicated to Mr. Healy. Also remembered in the video were Mr. Hernani Branco and Mr. Pat Brennan, both former teachers and administrators in the Brockton Public Schools. The audience gave a standing ovation at the end of the video.

### **Consent Agenda**

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items from it; there were no requests this evening.

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

- *June 3, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *Report of Chief Supervisor of Attendance for May, 2014*
- *Authorization to Submit the Following Proposals:*
  - *FY'15 US DOE School Climate Transformation Grant - \$750,000*
  - *FY'15MA DESE CCLC – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers - \$100,000*
  - *FY'15MA Clean Energy Center – Learn & Earn Pilot Program - \$145,000*
  - *FY'15 MA Clean Energy Center Green Workforce Energy Efficiency - \$50,000*
  - *FY'15 DESE School Redesign Grant - \$313,378*
  - *FY'15 DESE Adult Career Pathways Program - \$96,288*
  - *FY'15 DESE Continuation Adult Basic Education Grant - \$580,484*
  - *FY'15 DESE After School/Out of School Quality Enhancement - \$20,000*
  - *FY'15 DESE 21<sup>st</sup> Century CLC Additional Learning Time Grant - \$175,000*
  - *FY'15 Mass Rehabilitation Commission \$17,608*
  - *FY'15 DESE Extended Learning Time Proposal - \$596,900*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*
- *2014-2015 School Committee Regular Meeting Dates*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

**Communication**

**Request from Mayor for Support of Summer Parks Initiative**

Mayor Carpenter addressed his letter requesting \$15,000 from the Chartwells Food Services Community Outreach Fund to help support his Summer Parks Initiative. He explained that these funds are set aside in the contract to be used for community-based 501 C3 programs, and clarified that this is not school department money and can be distributed at the discretion of the School Committee. He said that funds are being solicited from other charitable sources; no tax dollars are being used. Mayor Carpenter provided details of the program for the Committee and invited questions.

Mrs. Joyce asked the Mayor how he would get the information out to families, he responded that volunteers will distribute flyers in the target neighborhoods; he will use social media and ask the schools to get the information out.

Mr. Minichiello said when this was brought up at the Finance Subcommittee meeting, the Committee questioned whether the funds could be used to bring back programs that were eliminated; the Mayor responded that these funds are designated for 501 C3 only. More questions about enrollment, registration, staff training and background checks were asked, the Mayor responded. Mayor Carpenter replied that the Brockton Area Workforce Investment Board (BAWIB) is working with his office to handle the hiring and training.

**There being no further discussion, Mr. Robinson moved to allow \$15,000 from the Chartwells Food Services Contract Community Outreach Funds to be moved to the Mayor's Children's Fund to support the Summer Parks Initiative. The motion was seconded.**

Mrs. Joyce asked that the motion be amended to include that this is for one year only.

Voted: To approve the motion, as amended, unanimous.

## **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent announced this was Jessica Freeborn's last School Committee meeting, and thanked her for faithfully attending all of the meetings and said she truly appreciated having her as a part of the School Committee. Jessica gave her final report of the year and highlighted the many year-end events that are happening at the high school. She concluded her report with a thank you to the Mayor, Superintendent, and School Committee for the opportunity to participate on the Committee.

The Superintendent acknowledged Melissa McLaughlin and the Fine Arts Café staff for the wonderful luncheon put on for the Administrative Interns.

The Superintendent praised the High School Honor Roll assembly she attended; she thanked Principal Wolder for the wonderful opportunities she provides for the students.

### **PARCC**

The Superintendent announced her recommendation that Brockton go with the PARCC assessment instead of MCAS as our accountability assessment for this coming year. She said the district needs to respond by June 30<sup>th</sup>, and shared the following key points:

- Once your decision is made, there is still room to go back and forth with respect to paper and pencil or online test
- The district will be held harmless with respect to accountability standards, we can move up but we cannot go down
- There is no science assessment available with PARCC, we will continue to use the MCAS Science assessment
- Grade 10 students will continue to participate in MCAS ELA and Math through 2018

The Superintendent then asked Mrs. Barry and Dr. Cancell to address questions and concerns from the Committee. A question and answer period followed.

Mrs. Joyce said that the PARCC is aligned with the new Common Core standards, and if we have moved to the Common Core in our curriculum, it stands to reason that we would go with the assessment that aligns with that. With that, she added that it is even more critical that we bring our technology up to par. Dr. Cancell said the future is online testing, calling this a "skill".

Mr. Henningson said he has concerns about PARCC: why other states are rescinding their decisions to go with PARCC, whether the PARCC takes double the amount of time than MCAS; and what would happen with the Abigail Adams Scholarship. Mrs. Barry answered that PARCC includes two assessments—a performance-based test and an end of the year test. She noted that, from her observations, the online test seemed to take less time. With respect to Abigail Adams, Dr. Cancell responded that MCAS will remain the "high stakes" test through 2018.

Mr. Jordan was concerned about how parents would be orientated to the new system, and the fact that not all children have technology at home, relating this to whether all children would have the same proficiency if the test were given online. Dr. Cancell said that is why it is important to start the testing as soon as possible.

Ms. Clark asked the team to list the top three issues we are facing with the implementation of PARCC:

1. Because it is new, there are many design issues
2. Ensuring that students possess technology readiness skills, so when they take the online test they are not struggling with technology
3. Ensuring that the adults are ready, as well.

**After discussion, Mr. Robinson moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation to move to the PARCC assessment for the coming year. The motion was seconded.**

Voted: to approve the motion , 6 – 1 (Opposed – Henningson)

### **Executive Directors**

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the status of Executive Directors June Saba and Clifford Murray. She said they will continue to straddle two jobs, serving as principal of their respective buildings while she will continue to rely on them to support our leadership team as Executive Directors, as well.

### **Items to Refer to**

Mr. Minichiello reported that the Superintendent's Evaluation has been postponed temporarily due to the budget meetings; he has spoken with Atty. Lenox about extending the contractual obligation and he will update the Committee with details as they are relevant.

### **FY 2015 Budget**

Mayor Carpenter asked the Superintendent to begin the discussion.

The Superintendent talked about the budget shortfall, citing her disagreement with the Mayor's decision to forego a tax increase, and Brockton's required funding formula which does not provide adequately for our needs, she said that the impact on the school system will be felt for years to come.

Superintendent Smith asked the Committee to allow her to bring in a neutral CPA to look at Brockton's budget, spending, monies that come in to the city and the district, and compare it with other urban districts. Mr. Minichiello said that he had no problem with it, but he would like to figure out the cost; he felt this conversation would be better had after the budget is settled and suggested the July meeting. He added that the School Committee has already requested this type of comparison in terms of proportionality of administrators vs. staff, and said that this can be part of the same report.

Mr. Henningson questioned, given the possibility of more charter schools and the absence of a tax increase, how the district will be address these same issues next year.

Mayor Carpenter responded with respect to an increase in taxes, Schedule 19, and agreed that there are many inequities with respect to funding formulas and he has committed to working on the state level to address these inequities.

Mayor Carpenter said that, with the CFO, they have been able to bring some additional revenue to the table.

- \$140,000 to be used to bring back middle school intramurals and freshman sports programs. This appropriation requires a request from School Committee asking the Mayor to request that City Council appropriate the funds, the request must be specific for these programs.
- The City will fund the School Department's 40% share of the cost for the three (3) School Resource Officers for the next year. The Mayor said he does not want to lose these officers at the schools, they are a critical resource for our schools.
- The Mayor will give \$101,000 from his cable resources revolving fund, to be used to reimburse the cost of the television studio teacher and the cost of operating the studio. He stated that will free up \$101,000 from the school department budget, and asked, with the understanding that the decision is up to the School Committee, that those funds then be used to recall non-certified positions.

The Mayor then announced that he will request the following Capital Needs funds from City Council:

- The MSBA has given preliminary approval for approximately \$10 million of repairs to four schools at 80% reimbursement. In order to be eligible for the reimbursement program, the district must do have a feasibility study done; he will request \$130,000 to cover that cost.
- 20% of the cost for the repairs to the schools, approximately \$2,000,000.
- \$750,000 for the necessary repair and replacement of the modular classrooms
- \$250,000 for a Facilities Master Plan. The Mayor stated that this has been a priority of the Superintendent and he is in full agreement of the need for a master plan. He said the City needs at least one new school and will probably need two, and he is hopeful that a funding opportunity will become available to construct new schools. Without a facilities master plan, Brockton will not be eligible to apply when the time comes.

The Mayor said he is committed to bringing this \$3 million request forward to the City Council, lobbying for it, and doing the best he can to get it approved. In addition, \$500,000 will be available in immediate, up front funds to help with the budget shortfall.

Mr. Minichiello asked the Mayor whether \$50,000 for MyTurn could be added to the request, the Mayor responded that he will entertain any appropriations the Committee asks of him, but at this point it is not available.

Mr. Henningson thanked the Mayor and Mr. Condon for the finding additional funding, and asked how many paraprofessionals could be brought back with the \$101,000 funds, Mr. Petronio responded “ four or five.”

Mrs. Joyce asked for clarification on the \$140,000 request, The Mayor said the request must be specific about the programs—middle school intramurals and freshman sports. Mrs. Joyce said that both of those programs were identified as priorities by School Committee.

**On that note, Mrs. Joyce moved that the School Committee ask the Mayor to request City Council to appropriate \$140,000 to fund \$100,000 for Middle School Intramurals and \$40,000 for Freshman Sports. The motion was seconded.**

On the motion, Mr. Minichiello asked whether the Mayor whether the School Committee would be able to ask for more, the Mayor responded that it would go over what he could do.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The Superintendent announced that she will continue to put updates on the BPS website with respect to staff call backs, class sizes.

Mr. Jordan asked the Mayor to consider asking boards and commissions to alert him to any large parcels of land that could house a school; Mayor Carpenter responded that he has already instructed the Assessor's Office to set aside, for his office to review, any properties that are potentially large for a school.

New Business

Mr. Minichiello gave a report of the June 11<sup>th</sup> Finance Meeting.

**Allisha Clark moved to accept the report of the June 11, 2014 Finance Meeting, along with action taken at that meeting with respect to the bid for Medicaid billing.**

Voted: to approve the motion; unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith  
Secretary/Superintendent

wka