

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

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

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

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M., followed by a salute to the flag.

**Hearing of Visitors**

Natalie Pohl, Principal of the Barrett Russell School, spoke on the topic of the budget and the need to recall staff that had been "pink slipped". She exampled her Administrative Assistant, who she described as the *heart and soul* of the school.

Mark Zade, father of a five year old Gilmore student, spoke to his concerns about van transportation, the registration process, and the condition of bathrooms at the Hancock School.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items. No items were requested for removal.

**Mrs. Joyce moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:**

- Approval of June 17, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of June 17, 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report
- Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2014 Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget
- Approval of Minutes of June 19, 2014 Special School Committee Meeting
- Requests for Authorization to Submit
  - FY20 15 DESE Literacy Partnership - \$17,400
  - FY20 15 DESE Work and Learn - \$55,000
  - FY2015 MA EEC CFCE Grant Program- \$176,500
  - Greater Brockton CHNA22 Community Change Grant- \$50,000
  - FY20 15 USDE Full-Service Community Schools Program - \$500,000
  - FY20 14 USED, Office of Safe & Healthy Students Project Prevent- \$5,000,000
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt recommendation, unanimous.

**Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Smith turned the meeting over to Karen Watts, Grant Manager, and her team who presented on the **Carol White Physical Education Program (PEP) Grant.**

## PEP Grant Presentation

Ms. Watts explained that the application for this grant was submitted in FY 13, and that Brockton was not awarded funding at that time. In April of 2014 she learned that we were to be “*funded down the slate.*” This means that, as there was no FY 14 competition and Brockton’s FY13 application scored highly, Brockton was awarded funding. Mrs. Watts introduced the grant writing team; Peter Caruso, Coordinator of PhysEd, PreK-8 and Middle School Athletics; Mary Ellen Kirrane, Department Head of Wellness, PreK-8; Thomas Burke, Director of Chartwells Food Services (not present); Jane Feroli, Parent Specialist (not present). The purpose of the grant is to enhance the middle schools’ local physical education programs and encourage students to achieve the following:

1. PEP measure of 60 minutes of physical activity per day,
2. Nutrition Education: Consume Fruit 2+/day and Vegetable 3+/day,
3. Engage and Educate Parents and Families.

Mr. Minichiello thanked the presenters and asked, “*How do you plan to utilize the assets of this grant to incorporate more time for physical activity and how do the Parent Liaisons fit into the plan?*” Peter Caruso explained that the students would have access to the gym, with the grant funded additional PE staff, before and after school for cross-fit activities, could engage in intramural activities, the grant would provide pedometers to record out-of-school time activity and walking or biking to school would be recorded. Mary Ellen Kirrane explained that the grant was written with the Parent Liaison positions in place. The loss of the positions, due to budget cuts, forced the team to look to current methods, such as Connect Ed and existing lists of e-mail contacts from Jane Feroli’s Parent Academy events and the Old Colony Y parenting programs as sources of out-reach. UMass will be doing surveys in grades 6, 7 & 8, which will help immensely with data collection and grant reporting. Mr. Minichiello asked that the team plan to return in the future to present on the progress of the program.

Mr. Robinson asked about the nutrition component and also, why the K-8 schools were not part of this program. Mrs. Kirrane explained that healthy choice items are available through the Breakfast in the Classroom and Grab & Go programs. Thomas Burke is working through Chartwells to establish hallway kiosks where student can obtain healthy choices on their way to homeroom. The Eos Foundation and the DOE Nutrition Component are avenues they are utilizing to expand the breakfast program. The K-8 schools will have access to the cross-fit curriculums, parent engagement and professional development opportunities.

Mr. Henningson asked how the data is collected. Mrs. Watts stated the data is collected using the UMass surveys, FitnessGram software, the pedometer readings and information collected during the cross-fit activities. In the process of implementing the grant, the writing team will participate in webinars that provide tutoring with respect to data collection and reporting.

Mr. Jordan commented, with respect to the 20 bikes per school that the grant would provide, that local businesses and the Police Department program of recovered and refurbished bikes could increase student participation.

Mrs. Joyce asked for a definition of *Preference Priority 1: Persistently Lowest Achieving Schools*, reported as North, West and BB Russell in the presentation. Karen Watts said she would provide an explanation in the near future. Mrs. Joyce asked if grant funding could bring back the RIFd parent liaisons. Mrs. Kirrane said they have submitted an amendment to the grant to bring back some of the parent liaisons. They are waiting for a reply and will report back to the School Committee. Mrs. Joyce pointed out an inequity issue with the program, by not including the K-8 schools. It is her wish that the grant activity expanded to include the entire middle school population.

Mrs. Smith said she has asked Laurie Silva, Director of the Grants Department, to attend Executive Team meetings to give an update about every grant that we are writing for; a committee with Elizabeth Barry, June Saba, Clifford Murray and Ms. Silva will work collaboratively to ensure Brockton gets the most out of grant submissions and allocations.

At this time, Superintendent Smith asked for a moment of silence in respect of Linder Eder, a long-time Physical Education teacher who recently passed.

Mr. Jordan asked if there was a mechanism in place to tap into a student's *natural spirit of competitiveness* in this program. Mr. Caruso explained that this program is not about competition. The goal is to encourage and teach the students about the importance of physical activity and adopting a healthy lifestyle for now and the future.

## **Associate Principal Presentation**

Mr. Minichiello called for the next item, a presentation on associate principals. Mrs. Smith spoke to the importance of the Instructional Resource Specialist (IRS) and Reading Resource Specialist (RRS) positions as *teachers who are supporting instruction in the classroom, they are not administrators*. There being four new school committee members, the Superintendent asked Elizabeth Barry, Deputy Superintendent of Learning & Teaching, to introduce the Associate Principal presenters: Robert Perkins, BHS (not present), John Lynch, Davis, K-8, Ines Enos, Raymond, K-8 (not present), Celeste Hoeg, EMS, Christina Olansen-Rilli, SMS, Alison Ramsay, NMS and Juliana Kennard, WMS. Mrs. Barry credited the associate principals' collaboration with district curriculum administration and principals as instrumental in improving school level student achievement. All of the associates in attendance presented a portion of the presentation as follows:

1. Ms. Hoeg: Curriculum & Instruction
2. Ms. Olansen-Rilli: Supervision & Evaluation, Professional Development
3. Ms. Kennard: Assessment
4. Ms. Ramsay: Scheduling
5. Mr. Lynch: Parent & Community Involvement, Student Engagement
6. Ms. Hoeg: Funding & Materials Management

Mr. Minichiello complimented the presentation as *very good* and *giving us perspective as to the roles the associate principals*. He characterized the job as *overwhelming* and *he sees the value of the position*.

Mrs. Joyce wanted to know how the role is handled in the schools that do not have Associate Principals (K-5 elementary, Ashfield, Plouffe). Mrs. Barry explained that the

IRSs/RRSs at the elementary schools and the IRSs at the Ashfield and Plouffe assume the responsibilities, with the exception of Educator Evaluation. Mrs. Joyce spoke passionately of her support of the Associate Principal position and said she would like to see the position in all of the schools.

Mrs. Smith talked about how the Associate Principal also supports the new teachers to the system and she too would like to see the position in all of the schools. She would like to have the IRSs and RRSs present at a future School Committee meeting.

**SY 2015  
Budget**

Mrs. Smith reported that, although there has been a lot of progress such as the call-back of the 199 RIFd teachers, this was at a huge cost to the system in the form of programs and materials. There are still 70 employees out on pink slips, the Superintendent stated she is still actively investigating efficiencies to bring back these positions.

The Superintendent is preparing to address City Council on July 21<sup>st</sup> on the State of the Schools. Topics to be included in her talk will be Massachusetts School Building Authority, SY 2015 Budget, Organizational Chart, Brockton Public Schools website content and the Facilities Master Plan.

Mrs. Smith presented an example of how the present budget has affected the placement of students who have historically been granted out-of-zone placements. She concluded by saying that *the budget will continue to be in the forefront, and the budget has negatively impacted our children.*

**Superintendent's  
Evaluation**

Mr. Minichiello introduced the next item: Superintendent's Evaluation Update. Mrs. Smith referenced evaluation forms that were given to each School Committee member and informed Mr. Minichiello that her evaluation evidence binders were available in her office. Mr. Minichiello will confer with the other members, depending on their summer schedules, and report back at the next School Committee meeting.

**Items to Refer to  
Subcommittee(s)**

Superintendent Smith brought forward *Finance Subcommittee* for Chartwells meal pricing, contracts and facilities, and *Transportation Subcommittee* for bussing. Deputy Superintendent of Operations, Michael Thomas reported that, by rerouting and eliminating 30 crossing-guard positions, we were able to bring back four of the nine busses that were cut due to the budget shortfall. He said the district is looking into purchasing vans to transport homeless students.

**Unfinished Business**

Mrs. Joyce reported that an agreement had been reached on June 20<sup>th</sup>, for a one-year Memorandum of Agreement with the School Police.

**Mrs. Joyce made the motion to accept the Memorandum of Agreement with the Brockton Police Union for the period of one-year commencing July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

## New Business

There being no further Old Business, Mr. Minichiello introduced the issue of drug awareness and called for a Health and Wellness Department presentation to update the School Committee about:

- curriculum that deals with drug prevention, and what is introduced at each grade level;
- what changes, if any, are being proposed to *beef-up* that aspect of the curriculum that addresses the epidemic issue of heroin use;
- suggested speakers and programs with real-life, personal experience and the impact on families;
- activities we are engaged in for our students and families.

Mr. Minichiello asked that this presentation take place at a regularly scheduled School Committee meeting, to evidence for the public that the School Department takes this topic very seriously.

Mr. Jordan asked that the presentation include and define the difference between marijuana and medical marijuana, address the law and marijuana dispensaries, and inform about the drug “Molly”, which he said is prevalent.

Mr. Minichiello suggested the Superintendent speak to her Department Head about outreach to Mr. Jacobs from the District Attorney’s Office, and other social agencies.

Ms. Clark asked for a *drug paraphernalia identification* component. Mr. Henningson spoke about Officer Leedburg’s NotMyKid program, and the importance of children seeing how their drug involvement affects their parents. Mr. Robinson volunteered his services in assisting in connecting with speakers, agencies and grant monies.

Superintendent Smith responded that she will bring together Dr. Terrasi, Mrs. Kirrane, and Principal Wolder, who will represent the high school because the Department Head of Wellness 9-12 was cut from the SY2015 budget, to collaborate on the presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary

dmm