

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre, at seven o'clock. These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Mr. Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He reported that Mayor Carpenter regretfully is unable to attend this evening due to a Finance meeting at City Hall.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked Committee members if there were any list items they wanted to remove for discussion; there were none.

Mrs. Wilson moved the Superintendent's recommendation to approve the following remaining items on the Consent Agenda.

- *Minutes of January 6, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *Chief Supervisor Of Attendance Reports for Nov., Dec., 2014*
- *BHS Overnight, Out-of-State Trip: DECA Int'l Career Dev. Conf. to Orlando, FL*
- *BHS Overnight, Out-of-State Trip: Upward Bound Trio Day to Portland, ME*
- *Report of the Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting – Jan. 13, 2015*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments of Non-Certified Personnel*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Representative - Jessica Freeborn reported that National History Day was a success; students will take mid-year exams on Friday, and Term 2 ends January 28th. The Superintendent said she was able to attend National History Day and noted the increasing use of websites and technology in students' presentations.

2014-15 Registration and Enrollment Report

The Superintendent announced the Parent Information Center recently moved to the former Liberty Bank building now owned by the city; an open house was held last week and she invited school committee to set up a tour if they were unable to attend.

The Superintendent invited Ms. Soraya DeBarros, Director of the Parent Registration Center, to give the annual report on enrollment and registration. Ms. DeBarros used a power point presentation to illustrate the June through November process, during which 5,240 transactions were processed.

- *3,394 transactions were students who are new or returning to Brockton*
- *1,846 were transfers within the system*
- *1,469 kindergarten registrations were processed*
- *Approximately 534 bilingual students were registered*
- *4,653 received their first choice of school assignment*
- *Total enrollment to date is 17,454, 114 over last year's figure of 17,340*
- *Enrollment has grown each year over the past five years*

Ms. DeBarros highlighted changes that have been adopted, including preparations for online pre-registrations, an electronic tablet queuing system, and the addition of a service survey that parents are being asked to complete in order to evaluate efficiency and parent satisfaction.

With respect to data about choice, Mrs. Joyce asked what circumstances could result in a parent not getting first or second choice; Ms. DeBarros explained, to which Mrs. Joyce asked Ms. DeBarros whether it was safe to say there are no situations where a student living in close proximity to a school would be denied that school as their first choice; Ms. DeBarros responded "correct".

The Superintendent said the district is making decisions on facilities; she would like the Committee to also look at policies with respect to the registration process, stating there have been some concerns.

Mr. Jordan asked whether there have been any changes with respect to a previous discussion about updating student emergency contact information; Ms. DeBarros responded.

Donation of Science Materials

The Superintendent announced that, through former Superintendent Manthala George, a generous donation of science materials from the Young Scientists Club was received in December. She asked Mrs. Barry to elaborate. Mrs. Barry reported that she was notified about the kits by Vice President of Philanthropy at Brockton Hospital, Jeffrey Miller. Ms. Barry said 4,000 kits with a value of \$20,000 were picked up; these kits will be distributed to schools and teachers will use them to model the scientific process; this will be especially useful in light of the upcoming science fairs. Mrs. Smith added that Mr. George continues to be a wonderful support for the school district.

Strategic Plan

The Superintendent said she will have the Strategic Plan on the agenda each meeting to update School Committee with respect to implementation. She said the district continues to work with EDI to ensure that the strategic plan takes root in the district. She asked Ms. Barry and Mrs. Saba-Maguire to further explain.

Ms. Barry, using power point, reported they have refined instructional excellence initiatives and categorized them into four strategies: collaborative culture, development and delivery of an aligned curriculum and assessment system, student supports and interventions, and teacher growths and development. The next step will be to set priorities for the two remaining areas of focus, supportive environments and community engagement. She said EDI is coming back to the district in February and would be available to speak to School Committee if desired.

Ms. Saba-Maguire reported that the school improvement plans are connecting the strategic plan to work that is going on in schools; she has received positive feedback from schools.

Mrs. Joyce inquired about responsibility for school-based goals and also how information would flow from schools to the district; Mrs. Barry answered that at this time there are no owners for school based initiatives. The Superintendent said that as she conducts school site visits with a team of administrators, best practices are brought back and from there can be shared with other schools across the district. The Superintendent said she is pleased that the strategic plan, school improvement plan, and the Superintendent goals are all linked.

DESE Innovation Grant

The Superintendent announced that the district was awarded a \$75,000 grant to move forward with the planning of an innovation school. She invited Laurie Silva and Dr. Moran to talk about the grant.

Ms. Silva reported that the grant will support planning for the design of an innovation school; there is currently a small internal committee meeting weekly. Moving forward, a larger committee will meet to develop a full proposal for an innovation school. Ms. Silva said that a major issue that must stay in

the forefront is facilities, the initial thinking is to create an academy (a school within a school). She said she is pleased with the key collaborative relationships that have been developed with DESE.

District Update

- The Superintendent reported that in June, 2014, she sent a letter to the Commissioner requesting additional funding from the state's pothole account; she received a letter January 5th stating that due to cuts to the budget, no applications are being supported. In addition to this bleak news, the Superintendent said she reviewed a document regarding state spending which cited increasing health care costs in municipal budgets, and decreasing funding percentages for elementary and secondary education.
- The Superintendent congratulated Mayor Carpenter on the *State Of The City* address and announced she will give a *State Of The Schools* address soon. She said the district will prepare a document that will include the successes, challenges, the many programs as well as cuts to programs, to ensure that parents, community and staff are fully educated as we go into the next budget season.
- The Superintendent announced the following administrative appointments: Mr. John Kelley, Downey School Interim Principal; Mrs. Joann Folan, Downey School Interim Assistant Principal; Marybeth O'Brien, Huntington School Interim Assistant Principal.
- G.R.E.A.T. lessons will continue at the Angelo, Baker, Downey, and Kennedy

The Superintendent brought to School Committee's attention an Enterprise "Our Opinion" editorial in which the newspaper expressed their view that the state should reject the proposed charter school; a copy will be included in the school committee packet.

The Superintendent said she was pleased to have attended the NAACP Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. annual breakfast event with five high school students and Dr. Murray; she said that talking with these poised, attentive and bright students was the best part of the event.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Mrs. Joyce's excellent argument defending Extended Learning Time in a recent Boston Globe article. Mrs. Joyce thanked Mrs. Saba-Maguire for her assistance.

Mr. Minichiello suggested that Mr. Jordan's request to schedule a Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee meeting be put on hold until after proposed minor revisions to the goals are completed.

Mr. Minichiello said, in the absence of any action taken at tonight's Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee meeting that requires immediate attention, he would like to postpone the report of said meeting until the next School Committee meeting when the minutes are submitted. There were no objections.

Mrs. Joyce moved to adjourn; Ms. Wilson seconded; the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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Items to Refer to Subcommittee

New Business