

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: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Henningson, Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Thomas, Deputy Superintendent

Absent: Mrs. Sullivan

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if any Committee members wished to remove items for discussion. Mrs. Wilson asked to remove Item C, Approval of the Colleen L. Cahill Memorial Scholarship.

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

- October 7, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Minutes of September 24, 2014 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of October, 9, 2014 Accounts Review Subcommittee Meeting
- September, 2014 Chief Supervisor of Attendance Report
- Report of Sept. 30, 2014 Building Naming Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of Sept. 30, 2014 Facilities Usage Subcommittee Meeting
- Notification of Personnel Appointments – Certified and Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

With respect to the Colleen L. Cahill scholarship, Mrs. Wilson thanked the family for their generous donation to the students of Brockton High School. She announced that Mr. and Mrs. Cahill were present in the audience and asked them to come forward to speak.

Linda and Richard Cahill said this scholarship, in memory of their daughter, is designated for students who are either ROTC students, or studying in the field of Engineering.

Mayor Carpenter and Superintendent Smith thanked Mr. and Mrs. Cahill; the Mayor said it is a wonderful way to honor their daughter.

Mrs. Wilson moved to approve the Colleen L. Cahill Memorial Scholarship.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's

Superintendent Smith said it was nice to be able to start a meeting by thanking individuals

Report

and businesses for partnering with the Brockton Public Schools. She recognized the following three donations/partnerships:

Lowe's, for donations to the Summer of Work and Learning Program. Mrs. Laurie Tantillo, representing Lowe's Brockton and Abington stores, donated materials and appliances to two Summer of Work and Learning Projects, one at East Middle and one at Brockton High. The Superintendent invited East Middle School Principal Kelly Silva and BHS Assistant Housemaster Shawn Desmond to speak about the donations. Ms. Silva said that not only did Mrs. Tantillo coordinate donations to upgrade landscaping around the school, she also donated new appliances for a substantially separate classroom. Mr. Desmond said that a weather station, composter, bird feeders and bird bath and other items were donated for a garden at BHS. Mrs. Tantillo spoke passionately about her experience with the students and staff and how pleased she was to be able to use the Lowe's Heroes Program, which is specifically designed to be used to help communities, for these schools. The Superintendent asked Mrs. Tantillo if she would return later in the year to be a "principal for a day"; Mrs. Tantillo responded that she would be happy to do that. A certificate of recognition was presented to Mrs. Tantillo.

Bernardi Auto Group, for hosting a juried art show reception for Brockton students and their families. These students were winners in a summer art contest; Bernardi displayed the winning artwork and provided refreshments.

Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital, and Mr. Kim Hollon, Chief Executive Officer, for a donation of 10 cases of disinfectant wipes that will be distributed to the schools. This product is effective against the Enterovirus, which has been prevalent across the country this year.

Student Representative Report

The Superintendent welcomed Valarie Marroquin, who will serve as the alternate student representative on the School Committee. Ms. Marroquin's report included the following:

- Last week students were treated to a presentation by six BHS alumni, doctoral candidates, who each gave a presentation about the subject of their dissertation;
- Student Council, along with other BHS clubs, are preparing for the annual Halloween Hallway event. Valarie said this year they hope to be able to distinguish children with allergies to nuts with the use of a bracelet;
- The annual BHS Veteran's Assembly will be held November 10th.

Superintendent Announcements

The Rox *Field of Screams* will be open October 17, 18, 24, 25, 26; fliers will go out to the students.

Mr. Adam St. Peter has been appointed Assistant Principal of the Arnone School.

In line with the district's efforts to increase safety awareness among students, Angelo School students submitted projects about safe walking and driving to Superintendent Smith, who shared drawings from grade 5 students Renee Long and Emily Ta; she said she would like to invite grade 5 student Shawn Galligan to perform a song he wrote. She said it is clear that students are getting the message that we care about student safety.

Charter School Update - In contrast to her announcement at the October 7 School Committee meeting that the New Heights Charter School application was denied for Brockton due to state regulations, the Superintendent reported that the school has now filed for a waiver. She said she was able to address the Board of Education this morning, and emphasized that “this not about fighting a charter school, we want the regulations upheld”. She thanked the leadership team for working together to develop a response.

A brief discussion followed; Mrs. Joyce said she has battled two charter school applications and it is crystal clear that the Brockton community is not looking for a charter school; she said for-profit schools come here because they see an opportunity for themselves, not to bring an opportunity to the community. The Superintendent said charter schools draw much-needed funds from districts and Brockton has no need for a charter school.

Review of School Facilities – On Saturday School Committee, City Council, and state legislators will take part in a review of school facilities. She thanked Mr. Ray Ledoux and BAT transportation for their collaboration with this project.

Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent if she would speak more about the Ebola preparedness information sent to School Committee on Friday. The Superintendent asked Mr. Thomas to report.

Mr. Thomas’ report included the following points:

- A meeting with Deputy Chief Kevin Galligan and other Fire Department representatives, representatives from AMR Ambulance, Tobias Cowans, Mayor Carpenter, Linda Cahill, was held in the Mayor’s office and they were able to speak with a CDC official via telephone.
- The Mayor will hold a weekly meeting with key first responders, to keep all stakeholders up to date on changes and updates with respect to Ebola procedures.
- All school nurses received a training on screening and protocols.
- The goal is to have a one-page document for the schools, on how to respond.

Mayor Carpenter said Brockton is extremely well-prepared and described some the measures that are in place; he said communication is key and it is important that people do not overreact, especially with the regular flu season upon us. The city is adopting protocols with respect to first responders. Mrs. Joyce added that these protocols are also best practices, she cautioned that people need to do their best not to send sick children to school or bring illnesses to work. Mr. Minichiello praised the collaboration between city departments and wanted to be sure that the school department is diligent at the point of registration, as well. Mr. Thomas explained the new procedure the district is using.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent brought forward a Finance Subcommittee; she will have her office reach out to School Committee with a workable date.

Unfinished Business

Curriculum Update

Mayor Carpenter asked the Superintendent to report back on the work that has been done toward incorporating GREAT lessons in grades 5 – 8. Superintendent Smith reported that a schedule for implementing GREAT lessons at the middle school level has been developed (handout provided). At the elementary level, the Huntington School is currently piloting the program with a team of two school police officers, Smith and Hancock. Coordinating a schedule at the elementary level will take more time because it involves teaching schedules

and school police availability. This year all grade 7 students will receive 90 minutes of G.R.E.A.T. Next year, grade 6 students will begin the curriculum, which will end for them in grade 8 with the completion of all thirteen lessons over the three years. The Mayor said he is excited to have this back in the middle schools, and added that the program has police officers in the classrooms developing relationships with the children on a favorable level. Mr. Minichiello said there is no down side to this; the more we can do, the better, it is just a matter of feasibility and he is glad to see cooperation between law enforcement and the schools. Mr. Jordan suggested that high school seniors might assist as part of the lessons; Mayor Carpenter responded. Mrs. Joyce asked about a plan for grade 5 across the district; Mrs. Kirrane explained the challenges with respect to scheduling. The Superintendent responded that if we have the capacity she would like to see the six lessons, now being piloted at the Huntington, in all grade 5 classes. Mr. Robinson asked about an evaluation component to gauge effectiveness; Mrs. Kirrane responded.

(At this point, Superintendent Smith left the meeting and Mr. Thomas served as Secretary in her place for the remainder of the meeting.)

New Business

On behalf of the Brockton Public Schools, Mr. Minichiello announced that Mr. Leo McNeil, President of HarborOne Bank, was retiring and he expressed his appreciation for the many years that Mr. McNeil has been a great friend to the schools.

Mr. Henningson thanked Mayor Carpenter for attending the BHS cheerleader fundraiser, at which they raised over \$1600.00.

The Mayor announced that the Press Box at Marciano Stadium will be dedicated to Mr. Peter Farley during halftime at Friday evening's football game.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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