

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. Sullivan; Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Smith, Secretary

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He then asked for a moment of silence for Carl-Evan Yancey, a beloved young man who was hit and killed while walking last Sunday. Carl-Evan worked as a Monitor Teacher Assistant at the Goddard School.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if any Committee members wished to remove items for discussion. Mrs. Joyce asked to remove Item C, 2014-2015 Home Education Requests.

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

- Minutes of the September 16, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting
- Minutes of the September 30, 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting
- Report of the June 4, 2014 CSAB 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 Item C, Home Education Requests, Mrs. Joyce asked a series of questions. Dr. Terrasi informed Mrs. Joyce that the number of students being home-schooled this year has decreased from last year; he explained that the report is submitted annually to inform School Committee, the district needs to be made aware of home-schooling but does not have authority over curriculum, home-school children are not eligible to receive a BHS diploma. Mrs. Joyce asked whether these children are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities with the schools, Dr. Terrasi responded that is the decision of the principal; this does occur.

Mr. Minichiello noted some discrepancies on the list and said he would notify Dr. Terrasi.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the 2014-2015 Home Education Request report; the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent thanked BPS staff who stepped in on Monday to assist at the Goddard School where Carl Yancey worked, so staff and students could attend funeral services.

Student Representative

The Superintendent welcomed Jessica Freeborn back as Student Representative to the School Committee for her second year. Jessica's report included the following: BHS cheerleaders made their debut at Friday night's football game; a highlight from that game was shown during the nationally-televised Patriots game on Sunday night; PSAT's are Wednesday, October 13; and Thursday, October 16 is parent teacher conferences.

BHS Accreditation

The Superintendent stated that the accreditation team will wrap up their visit tomorrow, and she thanked the staff at BHS for their hard work.

October 1 Enrollment Report

The Superintendent reported that the October 1 report reflects an increase of 129 students over last year, less than the anticipated growth of about 400 students. She invited Soraya DeBarros, Director of the Parent Registration Center, to give a snapshot of the summer registration.

Mrs. DeBarros provided a handout detailing summer registrations; she reported a total of 3,347 total registrations and transfers processed. She said summer registration was extremely tough, some permanent and summer positions were eliminated due to budget cuts, and office hours were reduced. She said this posed problems for parents, lines were long, but she was happy to report that due to the endless hours her staff put in, all students who registered, including kindergarten, were able to start school on their first day. She thanked Central Office staff who volunteered their own time during lunch and after hours to assist; Lt. Mills and his staff who provided a police presence, as well as the attendance officers who made home visits to assist with residency verification.

MCAS Report

The Superintendent said the 2014 MCAS results show a district that is showing continuous improvement. She asked Dr. Cancell to give a brief report tonight, and said more in-depth report will be presented by Dr. Cancell in late November. She said that although we remain a Level 3 district, four of our six middle schools are now Level 2.

Dr. Cancell reported that parent letters will go home October 15th. He said that ELA scores went up, Math scores went down, and he attributed the drop in math scores to the breakout math scores last year, he said that overall Brockton had a decent year.

Dr. Cancell was happy to report that Brockton just received notice from the DESE that the pending *charter school application* for the Brockton area has been determined ineligible under the charter school law (G.L.c.u71,s.89(i)(2) because of Brockton's ranking.

The Superintendent added she was very pleased to receive the news. She said there is no need for a charter school in Brockton because we offer many innovative opportunities to our students. Mr. Minichiello commended school administration and teachers for being on the front line with respect to the students, he said from his standpoint "you have made the city and the school committee proud...your efforts are appreciated and are not unnoticed." He said the role of the School Committee is to support the schools so children can succeed, and he believes that no other community has a better staff and that message should be shared with parents and the community, in a formal way.

The Mayor said that he was involved in the last two charter school applications, and this is good news, particularly in a year with budget constraints. He said the amount of time and energy that goes into fighting a charter school can now be used to continue to focus on improvement. He said the MCAS results were good news as well.

Budget Update

The Superintendent said that she has heard the Committee's concerns from the September 30th Finance Subcommittee meeting with respect to staffing, bringing back programs and academic supports, and she is currently working with her staff to provide a menu of options for the Committee. This will be presented at the next Finance subcommittee meeting, to be scheduled at the end of October/early November.

PARCC – The Superintendent reported that Brockton has made a determination to have five schools take the online PARCC test—Raymond, Hancock, Huntington, Downey, and Ashfield. The remaining schools will take the paper and pencil test, the high school will remain with MCAS.

Strategic Plan Update

The Superintendent asked Ms. Barry to talk about the possible collaboration between Brockton Public Schools and US Educational Delivery Institute.

Ms. Barry said the group was introduced to Brockton by the DESE to provide consulting assistance with educator evaluation, but Brockton presented to them that educator evaluation was only part of the much larger Strategic Plan. The group is funded by the Gates Foundation; their feedback and consultancy is at no cost to the district. Mrs. Barry said several factors impressed her team, including EDI's thoughtful response to all of the documentation they were sent, the in-person and on-line support, and their flexibility. EDI's goal is to set up a series of systems and routines with which Brockton will carry the work forward. She said she is setting up dates to meet with EDI, at the same time Brockton is continuing to move forward with implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Minichiello asked for more information about who EDI is and what their charter is. Ms. Barry responded that they are a private corporation funded by the Gates Foundation. Dr. Cancell explained that typically education agencies and local school districts are not very good at project management, this is EDI's expertise. The Superintendent advised that this is not long term and we are not locked in to anything with this group.

Mr. Minichiello said if the district moves forward with this, he would like EDI to be added to a school committee agenda. Ms. Barry responded that they would be amenable this.

Adult Learning Center

The Superintendent wanted to highlight the Adult Learning Center for receiving perfect scores from the DESE on the *adult and community learning services program performance standards*. This is the first time they have received perfect scores; the Superintendent said that they continue to make us proud. She then asked Ms. Martin how many people are on the wait list, Ms. Martin responded up to 2,000.

Report on Enterovirus D68 and Ebola Virus

The Superintendent introduced Nursing Supervisor Linda Cahill to update the Committee on Brockton's plans and protocols with respect to handling health situations.

Enterovirus D68 - Ms. Cahill used a power point presentation to explain symptoms, treatment, protocols and preventative measures. At this point, 44 states have reported cases of the virus, Massachusetts included.

She followed with a similar presentation on the Ebola virus. At this time there are approximately 7500 reported cases worldwide, including one in the U.S. She said Brockton is being proactive and has developed the following procedure: If a student registers from one of the high risk countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Nigeria), they are asked to provide documentation from a U.S. doctor that states the student has been screened for Ebola. The family is asked whether there has been any contact with someone with Ebola, if the answer is yes, Deputy Superintendent Thomas is contacted and in turn will contact the Board of Health immediately. Posters were sent to all schools showing proper hygiene.

Mr. Jordan asked whether Brockton has a pandemic plan in place; Ms. Cahill replied that a plan was put in place a few years back for the H1N1 virus but the Ebola virus would require clear direction from the CDC. She said she works very closely with Tobias Cowans with respect to emergency management. Mr. Jordan also asked whether there were enough supplies (i.e. gloves, masks), Mrs. Cahill replied yes, with the exception of masks. There was a short discussion about emergency management preparation, she agreed that she will look into local resources and trainings.

Mr. Henningson asked whether schools are notified when a child is diagnosed with Enterovirus; Ms. Cahill responded that it is not required. She said the best defense is that children who are sick are sent home. Mr. Henningson asked whether toys and other classroom items are sanitized, Ms. Cahill was not aware if this is done.

There was a brief discussion about acquiring sanitizing supplies, Ms. Cahill will look into available grants for supplies; the Superintendent said she will also contact a few people. Mr. Minichiello asked Ms. Cahill to be sure that symptomatic students are followed up on.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

Superintendent Smith reported that she needs to reschedule the October 25th Retreat. She suggested that the Facilities Tour could be scheduled in its place; she will get back to School Committee after consulting with City Council members.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent for the status of the School Committee's request to implement the GREAT curriculum; Ms. Barry responded that Maryellen Kirrane has talked with Lt. Mills and a follow up meeting has been scheduled. The Superintendent said that she will report back to School Committee. Mr. Minichiello said that the problem of substance abuse is widespread and it is something he would like to address.

Mayor Carpenter said there is no cost to the district, there are about a dozen officers who are already trained, time is the only need; he thought three to four classes per year in grades 4 - 8. He said it is important to realize that GREAT is about working with kids on an age-appropriate basis, to help them develop good decision-making skills which they can use when faced with difficult decisions in the future.

Mr. Jordan asked the Superintendent whether anything had been done with respect to the safety of walking students. The Superintendent said that she and the Mayor have just signed off on a letter that will go into classrooms and home to parents, she showed a flyer

of the billboard that will go up, and there is educational training for our students. The Mayor added that the Old Colony Planning Council has a postcard with pedestrian safety tips; he is looking at the cost to reproduce those for the community. He also met with the DOT specifically to ask for help with pedestrian safety at particular locations within the city, but also about education. They have educational programs available and will bring a proposal back to Brockton. In addition, he raised the possibility that they consider adding another school to the Safe Routes to School program, in light of recent pedestrian accidents. Mr. Jordan said walking with headphones on is another issue that should be addressed.

New Business

Mr. Jordan gave a report on the 2014 MASC Delegate Assembly meeting that was held in preparation for the upcoming November conference. Mr. Jordan reported that he was able to bring one of Brockton's major concerns forward, the delayed Chapter 70 funding formula review. He said there was a discussion about PARCC and he felt that on many issues Brockton is already ahead of the curve.

Mr. Minichiello brought forward a request from Councilor Monahan; he is looking for the lyrics to the Brockton Fight Song. Mr. Thomas said he would get them from Mr. Macrina and give them to Mr. Monahan.

Mr. Henningson reported that the BHS Varsity Cheerleaders are having a Meat Raffle fundraiser on Sunday at the Enterprise Club, from 1 – 4. He also thanked the cheerleaders for having four Boxer Buddies cheer with them through Friday night's game.

Mayor Carpenter said that it was wonderful to see a clip from the BHS football game shown on national television during the Patriots game.

Mrs. Wilson said that the BHS Marching Band was featured on WROR this week, she was very proud when she heard it on the radio.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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