

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

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

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Hearing of Visitors

Mayor Carpenter explained the procedure during Hearing of Visitors, then called Mischelle Allen to come forward to address the School Committee. Ms. Allen is concerned about the number of times her daughter's teachers have been absent this year (high school), students sitting in the cafeteria because there are no substitutes; she stated her daughter is not receiving the required time on learning.

Remembrance Richard Sergi

Mayor Carpenter wanted to take a moment to remember Mr. Richard Sergi, former Brockton Housing Authority Director, who passed away last night. He said he was a gentleman that cared deeply about the City of Brockton, who was also a former teacher. Mayor Carpenter asked for a moment of silence.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter 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.

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

- Approval of December 2, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 2, 2014 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- Approval of December 2, 2014 Supt. Contract Subcommittee Minutes
- Acceptance of December 10, 2014 Accounts Review Subcommittee Report
- Subcommittee Assignments for Review
- Notification of Personnel Appointments, Certified and Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent announced that she was pleased to recognize Mr. Leo MacNeil, a long-time friend and supporter of the School Department. She invited Ellen Cully and Sarah Richards to say a few words about their work with Mr. MacNeil. Ellen and Sarah talked about the *Credit for Life* and the *HarborOne Art Show*, programs that Mr. MacNeil was actively involved in and thanked him for all that he has done for the students and schools.

Mayor Carpenter said Mr. MacNeil has been the social conscience of HarborOne and made it the corporate model of a good citizen. Mr. Minichiello said he wanted Mr. MacNeil to know that his involvement and support are well-recognized and much appreciated by the city, school department, and community. Mr. MacNeil was then presented with a certificate of appreciation and Brockton High School memorabilia.

Mr. MacNeil spoke briefly to thank the city, schools, and community for the privilege of working with them, he compared his experiences to the movie "It's a Wonderful Life".

Student Report

Jessica Freeborn reported that tickets are still on sale for the holiday concerts; Ugly Sweater Day is on December 23rd and is now a contest at the high school.

Superintendent's District Update

The Superintendent addressed the concerns expressed by the speaker during the Hearing of Visitors; she said the issues of teacher absences and the lack of substitutes was discussed today at her executive team meeting. She said administration is looking at the issue in many ways: the financial aspects, stating that this was one of the areas that was significantly cut during the FY15 budget process; attendance reports that indicate the number of teacher absences is higher than last year; as a safety and security issue; and reviewing whether there are enough substitutes available and if not, why. The Superintendent asked School Committee to set up a Finance Subcommittee meeting at which they can discuss budget implications. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to have information in advance of the meeting--on the frequency of teacher absences, which classroom have been affected the most, and prioritizing classes that have suffered—by discipline and by difficulty of the course.

EDI Presentation

The Superintendent welcomed Corey Sullivan from the US Education Delivery Institute and invited her to come forward to share the progress thus far with respect to the district strategic plan.

Ms. Sullivan used a power point presentation to illustrate the process which EDI will use to assist the district in *building its capacity to deliver implementation*. She explained that the process involves assessing the district's current capacity to "deliver" the goals, which was done in November through interviews with district leaders. The results of the audit were presented to the district, showing strengths and weaknesses, this report will guide the work of prioritizing, defining, and delivering strategies and goals. Ms. Sullivan said that ultimately the district will have measurable student outcomes, a delivery plan, and an established set of progress monitoring routines with an assigned staff person.

Deputy Superintendent Barry said she is pleased that the district will have a plan that focuses on student outcomes and the district will benefit greatly from this partnership. Mr. Robinson asked about the end goal and accountability; Ms. Sullivan responded that there will be a network of support after the grant has ended. Mr. Minichiello asked whether this concept has proven results and what kind of commitment the company has to the district; Ms. Sullivan responded that the company is five years old and was built off of a UK model of *delivery development* pioneered by Michael Barber; Commissioner Chester has used it at the state level with great success, other districts nationwide have seen change in the way agencies do their business. She said that Brockton will have access to virtual support, feedback via calls and check-ins, as well as access to EDI's online library. The Superintendent thanked Ms. Sullivan and the DESE for their support of Brockton.

DESE Public Hearing on the Charter School

The Superintendent thanked all who attended the hearing at the Brockton Public Library on December 8th to show their support for Brockton schools and to voice their opposition to the charter application; she said the district is continuing working on the rebuttal.

New Business

Report from the December 6, 2014 School Committee Retreat

Mayor Carpenter asked Mr. Minichiello to give a report of the School Committee Retreat. Mr. Minichiello briefly reported on each discussion item, then asked the School Committee for action on the Superintendent's FY2015 Budget request to hire back one additional custodian which will generate cost savings by eliminating the current unemployment and overtime expenses related to the open area.

Mr. Minichiello made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 6, 2014 School Committee Retreat as presented, Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello then moved to allow the Superintendent to bring back one additional custodian as requested; Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent Smith highlighted the following:

- The National Honor Society Induction ceremony on December 11th; she congratulated parents of inductees and said this illustrates the good work going on in the schools.
- Mr. John Kelly has been appointed Interim Principal of the Downey School for the remainder of this year.
- The Annual Technology Conference will be held at the Baker School on January 10th; information will be provided to School Committee in the Friday packet.

The Superintendent said it is heartening to see all of the giving that is being done throughout the schools, and thanked School Committee for their continued support and hard work over the past year.

Mayor Carpenter wished everyone a happy holiday season and announced that the BHS Holiday Concert will directly follow in the auditorium.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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