

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theater at the Dr. William H. Arnone School, at seven 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. Smith, Secretary; Mrs. Jean-Clark Wilson

Administrators Present: A. Petronio, M. Thomas, E. Barry, K. Moran, C. Murray, E. Barry, E. Cancell

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

## 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. *Mr. Robinson requested Item C(6), Early College High Grant.* Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent if there were any other grants she felt would be appropriate to remove for discussion; *she suggested Item C(5), the DESE Innovation School Planning Grant.* Mr. Minichiello also requested to *remove Item E, the Plouffe School Out-of-State Trip request.*

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

- November 18, 2014 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- November 18, 2014 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
- Authorization to Submit the Following Proposals:
  - MA DESE Gateway Cities Eng. Lang. Learners Enrichment Academies \$250,000
  - Trust Challenge Proposal Parent Engagement Technology Grant \$150,000
  - Northeast Electric Project Green Lights Proposal - \$50,000
  - Inst. Of Museum and Library Svc. National Leadership Program - \$250,000
  - Verizon Foundation Innovative Learning Grant - \$20,000
  - MA DESE fy2015 Mental Health & Substance Abuse (\$150,000-325,000 range)
  - MA EOE Safety and Security - \$19,958
  - MA DESE School Breakfast Expansion - \$20,000
- October 8, 2014 CSAB Meeting Minutes
- Notification of Personnel Appointments, Non-Certified
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter called on Mr. Robinson, who said that given the pending charter school application it would be good to hear more about this grant. He invited Shanna Gray to provide details.

Ms. Gray said the Early College High grant is an exciting opportunity that would allow the district to expand on its current Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Program at Champion High, partnering with several community organizations-- BAWIB, Bridgewater State University and Massasoit, to develop a dual enrollment project with the goal being that students would focus on achieving as many associate degree credits during high school as possible. She explained that students will progress through high school levels, and by junior and senior year they are taking free college credit courses simultaneously. Using Accuplacer assessment, students who test out can immediately be placed in college credit courses. Professors from Massasoit will be on site at the Keith Center; courses will be tracked through the MassTransfer Block which allows students studying in several core areas to transfer

these credits to other public higher education institutions. The partnership will include a mentoring program with Bridgewater State University and BAWIB will assist with providing college and career-readiness work opportunities.

Mayor Carpenter asked whether all Rising 9<sup>th</sup> students would be eligible; Ms. Gray responded beginning next year, yes. The Mayor said that he has become a huge supporter of dual enrollment—it is a cost savings for students and also gives first generation college students the opportunity to experience college classes while still in high school. He asked whether BSU guaranteed acceptance for students with Massasoit credits; Ms. Gray responded not at this time.

Ms. Gray also announced that the Keith Center is now an official Accuplacer Center, which means that they can now test students from other Brockton schools.

There being no further discussion, **Mr. Robinson moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation with respect to Item C(6).** The motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter called on Mr. Minichiello to bring forward C(5), DESE Innovative Learning Planning Grant, and E, Plouffe School Out-of-State field trip request.

Mr. Minichiello said that the *Innovation School Planning Grant* will allow the district to further explore forming an innovation school at some point. He reported that the BEA, School Committee, and district administration have been working collaboratively, brainstorming with respect to perhaps forming a new offering that would include Portuguese and French languages, as Brockton has large populations that speak these languages. He said this shows the district continues to seek different avenues to engage all of our students. The Superintendent said representatives from the district recently interviewed at the DESE for this grant which would allow Brockton to go forward with professional development toward this end.

Seeing no further discussion; **Mr. Minichiello moved to adopt the Superintendent's recommendation with respect to Item C(5); the motion was seconded.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello invited Principal Nessralla to come forward and talk about Item E, the request to allow the Plouffe School to take 70 students to Washington, DC. Mayor Carpenter suggested that Ms. Nessralla also give the presentation that is scheduled under the Learning and Teaching report.

Ms. Nessralla first showed a brief power point presentation of the Plouffe School trip to New York City. After the presentation, Ms. Nessralla said that she would answer any questions from School Committee about the request to take students to Washington DC., stating this is a repeat of the trip they took two years ago.

Ms. Nessralla explained that the trip is capped at 70 students (with a wait list), she has modified the return date to bring students back Sunday night. Mr. Minichiello noted that if School Committee approved the request tonight students would have ample time to raise the funds to cover the cost. He suggested that if she was interested in raising the number of students going, Ms. Nessralla can come back to School Committee to modify the request.

After discussion, **Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Plouffe School Out-of-State, Overnight Field Trip request to Washington, DC.** The motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

## Superintendent's Report

### Student Report

Jessica Freeborn reported on events at BHS, including:

- BHS Drama production of "Murder Inn" will be performed December 5 – 7
- National Honor Society Induction Ceremony will be held December 11<sup>th</sup>
- Annual Holiday Concert will be held December 16, 17, tickets are \$3, or pay \$5 which includes a donation to the Enterprise Helping Hands fund.

The Superintendent announced that there was a wonderful article on the EPSN.com website highlighting Mr. Macrina and the marching band.

Mayor Carpenter acknowledged the BHS Brockapella group that performed at the holiday tree lighting and at City Hall Plaza during the festivities preceding the Holiday Parade, stating they were impressive and well-received.

### District Update

- The Superintendent acknowledged the generous donation of \$2,600 worth of reagents from New England Biolabs to the BHS science department
- DECA is inviting families to come and watch *Peter Pan Live* in the auditorium at West Middle School on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Superintendent said that Brockton's own Jacob and David Guzman, twin brothers who graduated from Brockton High last year, are cast in the performance. There is a \$5.00 donation request to benefit School on Wheels.
- The Superintendent thanked everyone who attended the *Legislative Dinner*--City Council, School Committee, District Administrators, State legislators. She said it is important to get our message out to those who will advocate for our district. She mentioned the Chapter 70 funding hearings that the State is conducting around the state, and said that Brockton will continue to have representation at these meetings.
- The Superintendent announced the district will conduct a drive to collect donations to assist families that have been displaced in Fogo, Cape Verde, as a result of a volcanic eruption; she said a fundraiser is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Shaw's Center as well. Mayor Carpenter said at least 1500 people have lost their homes and belongings, this has had a great impact on Brockton's Cape Verdean community. He said there is also a fundraiser being held on December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Raynham Dog Track, and a list of items being collected is available in the Mayor's office.

District Strategic Plan Update –Superintendent Smith announced that Educational Delivery Institute (EDI) will update School Committee at the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting as to their work with the district; she asked members to prepare questions in advance.

### School Committee Retreat

The Superintendent said Ms. Dorothy Presser from MASC will provide a training on Evaluating the Superintendent, and Michele Conners, Ed Eval. Specialist, will review the Baseline Edge program with school committee to ensure members are well-positioned to evaluate the Superintendent. Student emergency contact forms will be a topic of discussion, and members of the District Capacity Project committee will talk about the innovation grant plan. The Superintendent said that the retreat will end promptly at noon to allow members to participate in the annual Jingle Bell Run.

### Update on Charter School Waiver

The Superintendent thanked legislators, the Mayor, BEA, for the collaborative effort at the November 25<sup>th</sup> hearing; she said that everything good about Brockton Public Schools was on display. She announced anyone intending to speak at the public hearing on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Brockton Public Library from 4 – 6 p.m., should arrive between 3 and 3:30 to sign up. The Superintendent said this hearing will focus on the merits of the application, she intends to speak about the many choices our district offers.

Mr. Jordan announced that the Board of Education is looking to hear from parents, students, citizens; he asked the public to come to the hearing on December 8th and speak on behalf of the schools.

**New Business**

**Authorization to File Civil Complaint on Charter Waiver**

The Superintendent asked School Committee to consider going forward with a civil complaint against the Board of Education (BOE) and New Heights Charter. Mr. Minichiello explained that the BOE is violating statutes by not going through the process of changing their regulations. He described possible outcomes: the BOE would file a motion to stay the argument until the final decision on the proposal is made, or the Court could also stop the BOE, finding they acted improperly. Mr. Minichiello voiced his feeling that the Committee should take a stand against the BOE's decision which he called "an egregious act" to ignore the standards Brockton has overcome, and his recommendation, with no guarantees on the outcome, is to go forward with the civil complaint. Mrs. Joyce agreed; she felt the Committee has an obligation to hold the BOE accountable. Mrs. Joyce asked the Superintendent to share the November 25<sup>th</sup> hearing transcript with School Committee when she receives it. Finally, Mr. Minichiello said we are not only representing Brockton, but all urban districts that were or are being affected by arbitrarily setting aside regulations.

**Mr. Minichiello made a motion to authorize the School Committee to file suit with respect to the Board of Education as well as New Heights Charter School. Mr. Jordan seconded the motion.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter expressed his agreement, wholeheartedly.

The Superintendent brought to the Committee's attention the schedule conflict with the December 16<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting and the BHS Holiday Concert.

**Mr. Minichiello recommended moving the time of the December 16<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting to 6:00 p.m. to allow members to attend the BHS holiday concert on that date.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello gave a reminder of the Joint School Committee/City Council Meeting Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at South Middle School.

Mr. Minichiello announced the Jingle Bell run on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Carpenter announced that a free showing of The Polar Express, courtesy of the Mayor's Office in honor of the holiday season, will be held at the Arnone School Theater on Friday, December 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary

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