

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: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Mr. Henningson, Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Joyce, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. Wilson

Absent: Mrs. Smith

Also Present: Deputy Superintendents M. Thomas and E. Barry, A. Petronio, S. Wolder

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

Hearing of Visitors Mayor Carpenter explained that this portion of the meeting allows the public the opportunity to address the School Committee, comments should be held to three minutes. He invited Sue Doherty, a librarian at Brockton High School, to speak. Ms. Doherty spoke about the current status of school libraries and librarians.

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

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

- *Minutes of May 5, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *May 5, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *May 7, 2015 Safety/Security/Transportation Meeting Report*
- *May 11, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *Authorization to Submit MA DESE Workplace Education Planning Grant - \$4,354*
- *Authorization to Submit MA DESE Nutrition Equipment Grant - \$78,284*
- *Authorization to Submit MA DESE Food Service Program Expansion - \$20,695*
- *Authorization to Submit Project Bread 2015 Summer Food Service Application*
- *Authorization to Submit Eos Foundation Nourishing Kids Summer Meals Pilot - \$50,000/3yr.*
- *George School Out-of-State Field Trip Request – Salem, NH*
- *Huntington School Out-of-State Field Trip Request – Salem, NH*
- *JROTC Boys State & Girls State Overnight @ Stonehill Col., June 13-19, 2015*
- *JROTC Cadet Leadership Camp, Ft. Devins, Overnight, June 22-26, 2015*
- *BHS Brockton Talent Search Out-of-State Trip to Rhode Island College*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Representative Report

Jessica Freeborn reported that the spring drama presentation of "Anything Goes" was a huge hit; sophomores are currently taking the MCAS math exam; MCAS science exams are June 8 and 9. Wednesday, May 27th is the last pops concert of the year and last day of school for seniors, May 28th is senior breakfast and senior prom. Mr. Thomas added his congratulations to Messrs. Hogan, Ferrell-Locke, Macrina, Ms. Richards, students and staff involved for the very successful drama presentation.

Districtwide Strategic Plan Update

Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Barry used a power point presentation to bring School Committee up to date on the progress thus far. She reported that they continue to work with EDI which has helped the district to develop a clear agenda for implementation. She said it is most important that the plan supports school improvement plans. Mrs. Barry said that having goal and strategy owners ensures accountability; this is a multi-year plan, and updated school committee on next steps. A brief question and answer period followed.

BHS Accreditation

Mr. Thomas was happy to report that the district received notification that BHS has been awarded accreditation in the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. He said

in light of the recent difficult issues at the high school related to the handbook, it is important to note that NEASC praised BHS in their letter for its "safe, positive, supportive and respectful school culture that emphasizes every student matters every day". He credited this to Principal Wolder, staff and students.

Principal Wolder said she was very happy to receive the letter, she was most pleased to see that the vote was unanimous. She said the letter included 32 commendations and 10 areas to work on; the biggest criticism was related to class size. She reported there is more work to do, but this accreditation is important to students seeking to go to college.

Mr. Minichiello noted that the deficiencies cited were mainly related to budget. He met with the visiting team, who said they were impressed with the caring nature of the students toward each other. He thanked Ms. Wolder, staff and students.

Vote on School Choice

Mayor Carpenter announced that the Public Hearing for School Choice was held this evening at 6:30 p.m. He called on Mr. Minichiello for a report of the meeting.

Mr. Minichiello reported that the Public Hearing convened at 6:30 p.m. to allow the public an opportunity to give input on the matter of school choice, as required by law. Seeing there were no speakers, Mr. Minichiello closed the hearing and opened the floor for discussion by School Committee. The hearing adjourned at 6:37 p.m. Mayor Carpenter called for a motion to accept the report.

Mr. Robinson moved to accept the report of the Public Hearing on School Choice.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved that the Brockton Public Schools continue to participate in School Choice for the 2015-2016 school year with the same criteria currently in place.

On the motion, Mr. Minichiello stated there are currently 23 students going to school in Brockton under School Choice and he feels it is a good way to showcase what is good in our schools. Mrs. Joyce pointed out that BPS policy only allows for students at the high school level and asked Mr. Minichiello to clarify for the public how three students are enrolled at elementary and/or middle schools; Mr. Minichiello responded that these fall under a BPS policy that allows teachers who do not live in the city to enroll their children here. Seeing no further discussion, Mayor Carpenter called for a vote.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Items to Refer
To Subcommittee**

Mr. Thomas requested a Finance meeting for budget purposes, and a Superintendent's Contract subcommittee for the purpose of evaluation of the Superintendent. The committee agreed to schedule a Finance meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 6:30 p.m., location to be determined. Mr. Minichiello said he would like to see all of the other subcommittee topics that have not been addressed; he will also speak with the Superintendent with respect to the contract subcommittee meeting.

Unfinished Business FY2016 School Department Budget

Mayor Carpenter explained the progression of the budget from the city perspective, beginning with the initial figure given to the school department of \$163 million, which was an increase of \$3 million over last year. In order to avoid catastrophic layoffs, last week the Mayor committed \$1.5 million more to the school department budget, in spite of the city's \$4.2 million snow removal deficit.

Mayor Carpenter announced that tonight he will give an additional \$1.1 million to the school department budget; \$500,000 for net, \$600,000 for non-net spending. He said he wants it to be clear that he did not cut the school department budget. This additional money brings the budget to \$165 million, \$4.1 million more than last year. The Mayor said this is the absolute best he can do, and he made the decision now in order to give the school committee time to make adjustments, but this does not mean we will not continue to look for additional monies for the school department.

The Mayor talked about some of the ways he continues to try to generate revenue, including sending letters to 20 major non-profit organizations in the city, asking for a voluntary contribution of 10% of what their tax base would be. He pledged that 100% of any contributions that come from these organizations will go to the school department. Mayor Carpenter then turned the floor over to Mr. Petronio.

Mr. Petronio first thanked the Mayor for the additional funds and said that with this new figure the school department and school committee can meet and discuss bringing back positions and programs.

Mr. Thomas said that Friday was a difficult day and he asked people to be patient as both sides continue to look for additional funds. He also acknowledged Mr. Condon's assistance to the school department.

Mr. Minichiello said he would like detailed information with respect to the out-of-district tuition; Mr. Petronio responded that there has been a dramatic increase this year and he already plans to look into this.

New Business

Closing of FY15 Budget

Mr. Petronio asked School Committee to vote on the May 11, 2015 Finance Subcommittee recommendation authorizing him to close the FY15 School Department budget. He explained that this means that only contractually obligated or emergency expenditures will be allowed; although he stated he has never said no to a principal, the pool of funds left is then used to pay for items for next year in order to free up FY16 funds.

Mr. Minichiello moved to authorize Mr. Petronio to close the SFY2015 budget for all but contractually obligated or emergency expenditures. The motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Robinson announced that for the second time, approximately 20 high school students worked at the polls during the May 12 vote; he wanted to highlight this wonderful opportunity. He said in many cases these students support interpretation services at the polls, he thanked Mr. McGarry of the Elections Commission for his collaboration.

Mr. Minichiello lauded the drama production this past weekend--the talented students, the volunteers, and everyone who made it possible.

There being no further New Business, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Thomas
Secretary

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