

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. Smith, Secretary

Also Present: David Patten, Rush Street Gaming; Jack Yunits, Richard Michaud, MD Transportation; Laurie Silva, Richard Bath
Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:11 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 items they wanted to remove for discussion; there were none.

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

- *Minutes of April 14, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *March 10, 2015 Policy Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *April 7, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *April 14 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *April 8, 2015 Building Naming Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *April 28, 2015 Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *March 11, 2015 CSAB Meeting Minutes*
- *Ashfield School Grade 8 Field Trip Newport, RI on June 18, 2015*
- *South Middle Sch. Gr. 8 Field Trips to Newport RI--June 12&19, 2015*
- *West Middle School Out-of-State Trip to Canobie Lake Park, NH*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Vote on Building Naming

Mayor Carpenter requested that the New Business item, approval of Building Naming Requests, be taken out of order; he then asked Mrs. Joyce, Chair of the Building Naming Subcommittee, to give the report of the public hearing conducted at 6:30 p.m. this evening.

Mrs. Joyce reported that both requests submitted received a favorable recommendation from the committee. The BPS policy requires that a public hearing be held to allow the public to voice their support for naming requests before a vote is taken. At this evening's hearing, favorable comments were heard for both requests: Principal Andrade-Serpa and former Brockton educator Kathleen Flaherty-Sites spoke in favor of naming the Angelo School Library in memory of former teacher Katherine Oldham; and Principal Helen Virga and student Sophia Zine spoke in favor of naming the Gilmore School Playground in memory of Kevin Riley, a former beloved custodian.

Mr Minichiello moved to accept the report of the public hearing; the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the naming of the Louis F. Angelo School library in memory of Katherine Oldham; the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce moved to approve the naming of the Edward B. Gilmore School Sway Fun Playground in memory of Kevin Riley; the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Following the vote, the Mayor commended the work of the Building Naming Subcommittee and said a lot of due diligence is done to make the decision; the school committee does not take this lightly.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Representative Report

Jessica Freeborn recapped events from last week and report that AP and IB exams are ongoing this week, MCAS exams will be May 19, and May 20. On behalf of the student body she said "thank you" the teachers in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Day.

SY2016 Calendar Update

The Superintendent said she is happy to report there is progress in the BEA negotiations and she is hopeful that she will have a calendar update by the next meeting

FY2016 Budget Update

The Superintendent reported she is working diligently with City Hall. She said that she and the Mayor have committed to work together on this budget; they will continue to bring issues to the state level, this has been difficult with all of the cuts in the past two years.

Introduction of 2015 Administrative Interns

The Superintendent said, on a happy note, she is pleased to have Dr. Kathleen Moran introduce the 2015 Administrative Interns.

Dr. Moran announced that the following nine interns have been selected to work on projects across the city: Yolanda DiFalco, Kate Gearon, Jennifer Giannaros, Lisa Giaquinta, David Hines, Darlene Mulhall, Erica Smith, Vena Ulysse, and Michelle Zachary.

Traffic Study Presentation – David Patten, Rush Street Gaming, and Robert Michaud, MDM Transportation Consultants, Inc.

The Superintendent said she was introduced to the possibility of a casino coming to Brockton in February. Since then, she has attended informational meetings across the city, she has spoken with clergy, and with BHS as a close neighbor and West Middle School down the street from the proposed site, her concerns as Superintendent are for the safety and security of students, which includes traffic safety. A results of a traffic study will be presented tonight. The Superintendent invited Mr. Jack Yunits to introduce the presenters.

Messrs. Michaud and Patten presented a slide show that illustrated traffic improvements that will occur along Belmont, West and Forest Avenue, some of these improvements will be completed by Mass DOT projects that are already in the beginning stages. The Casino

has committed to making \$8.5 million in the following improvements that would be beneficial to our schools:

- A signal light at the entrance of BHS on Forest Avenue
- Widening of Forest Avenue into four lanes, buses entering and leaving the high school will have their own turn lanes
- Clearly marked crossing areas for pedestrians on Forest Ave.
- Upgrades to all signal lights on Forest Avenue down to Main Street

School Committee expressed the following concerns:

Considering West Middle School, Mr. Minichiello asked whether West Street, from Pleasant to Belmont, was in the plans. He said West Street provides direct access to the proposed site from the highway. Mr. Michaud responded it was not, and if the casino goes forward, this concern can be addressed at the rigorous process that will follow.

There were many questions about security; Mr. Patent responded that there will be hundreds, even thousands, of cameras, security guards inside as well as in the parking lots, garage, and in roving vehicles. He also said they plan a multi-use area where people over 18 but under 21 will have access to, but casinos would be very secure. To the question of fencing, Mr. Patent responded no fence is planned, there was a brief discussion about the benefits and detriments of the planned landscape barrier.

Mrs. Wilson asked whether lighting will be increased on Forest Avenue; Mayor Carpenter responded that, apart from the casino, the city has already begun changing to LED lights.

Mr. Robinson asked Mr. Patent about the large parcel of fairgrounds property that is not included in the casino plans; Mr. Patent responded that it belongs to Mr. Carney and that the developer has no plans for that land.

Mayor Carpenter said that his primary concern was traffic and pedestrians, many of these questions were asked in the very beginning of talks. The Superintendent thanked the presenters and stated that students are the top priority. She said the viability of our schools is important, we need upgraded schools, she is pleased to hear that money has been set aside for education.

Office of Development and Grants Management (L. Silva)

Richard Bath and Laurie Silva, from the Office of Development, used a power point presentation to provide an update on the progress of the development office.

The presentation included a vision statement, partnership model, developing the partnership's core values, and implementation. A sample of the newly-created development folder was handed out, and Ms. Silva reported that the BHS Alumni Association has been brought on board and will share office space. Mr. Bath said this group includes many Brockton High School graduates that can bring many resources. Ms. Silva and Mr. Bath responded to questions from School Committee.

**Items to Refer
To Subcommittee**

None.

Unfinished Business

FY2016 Superintendent's Budget

Mr. Minichiello brought forward the matter of voting on the School Committee Recommended FY16 Budget. He explained that the budget the school committee is recommending tonight takes into account what the system needs to operate at its best. He gave a report of the April 30, 2015 Finance Subcommittee meeting at which the School Committee reviewed personnel needs, technology needs, programs, all of the items that were cut from the budget last year, they prioritized and added positions, and came up with a figure of \$172,968,189 for Net School Spending, and \$8,708,822 for Non-Net Spending. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Minichiello called for a motion.

Mr. Robinson moved to approve the report of the April 30, 2015 Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Subcommittee to forward the School Committee Recommended FY16 Budget request of \$172,968,189 in Net School Spending, and \$8,708,833 in Non-Net School spending, to the Mayor for consideration in his budget preparation for FY16.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter stated that the \$163 million budget is \$3 million over last year's budget, that the school department and police are the only departments receiving an increase. He said that he will be asking all city departments to return a budget 5% lower than last year; and at this point there is still a \$4.2 million deficit on the city side that must be paid.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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