

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Theatre at Brockton High School.

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

Absent: Mr. Henningson

Also Present: Deputy Superintendents Thomas and Barry, Mr. Petronio

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. Seeing no visitors signed up to address the Committee, the Mayor announced that School Committee would recess for the purpose of attending the Student Recognition Awards ceremony in the auditorium, then reconvene afterwards back in the Little Theatre to continue the meeting. The Mayor called for a motion to recess.

Mr. Minichiello moved to recess for the purpose as stated by Mayor Carpenter.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The meeting reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items for discussion; there were no requests.

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

- *Approval of May 19, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *Approval of May 6, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *Approval of May 26, 2015 Finance Subcommittee Meeting Report*
- *Approval of 2014-2015 School Closing Date*
- *Approval of 2015-16 Student-Parent Handbooks*
- *Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

BHS Student Representative Report

Jessica Freeborn reported that seniors had their last day, senior breakfast, and senior prom last Thursday, May 28th, graduation will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at 2:00 p.m., and MCAS Science exams will be June 8 and 9.

Approval of Summer School Committee Meeting Dates

The Superintendent suggested July 21 and August 18, 2015 for the two school committee meetings held during the summer; there were no objections.

2015-2016 School Calendar – First Read

The Superintendent called the Committee's attention to the draft 2015-2016 School Calendar, being presented tonight for review and discussion. She said the calendar is subject to ratification by the BEA, they will vote on their contract this Thursday, June 4th. The Superintendent said she will work on the supplemental calendar, which includes staff professional days, over the summer.

The Superintendent thanked the Mayor and the DPW for the quick response and repair with respect to the recent *water main break*; she was pleased that the district was able to keep the students in school. She reminded the public that in this type of situation, communication and parent support are key to ensure our children are safe and in an environment where they can learn academically, and said she was grateful for the cooperation all-around.

The Superintendent recognized Yolanda DiFalco and Michelle Connors, who represented Brockton at a recent Ed Eval Best Practices conference; she said she received word from the DESE that they gave an excellent presentation. She thanked Michele and Yolanda for moving the district forward with an evaluation process that has brought a lot of credibility to the profession.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent referred the following: Policy subcommittee to finalize the Responsible Use Policy, Policy Manual Review to review BPS policies that may need to be updated, and a Superintendent's Contract subcommittee meeting for the purpose of evaluating the Superintendent. Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent to set this up and notify the committee.

Unfinished Business

FY2016 Budget

The Superintendent announced that she will go before City Council tomorrow evening to present the school department budget. She said her presentation will be about what she feels we need for a budget, Chapter 70 funding, and making sure the Council and public understand the needs of the school department.

The Superintendent reported that the RIF number for certified staff has been brought down from 173 to 125.

A discussion followed about Chapter 70 funding and the probability that Brockton will file a lawsuit on behalf of the students. The Superintendent said there has been a steady eroding of state and federal services for urban districts. Mr. Minichiello asked when districts would see what the new Chapter 70 formula looks like. Mr. Petronio responded that he received the following information at a school business conference he recently attended, which included Secretary of Education James Peyser, Representative Alice Peisch and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz.

- A recommendation to the Commissioner will be made during the summer with respect to the new Chapter 70 formula; the actual formula will be developed at a later date
- Moving the October 1 date will not be considered
- Additional health insurance costs, ELL and Special Education are being considered
- They have indicated they do not intend to do much for poverty, although Mr. Petronio said this was the biggest issue at the hearings across the state.

The Mayor said he is not optimistic about the new Chapter 70 formula, he has seen political pressure from suburban districts going in the opposite direction of what Brockton needs, and agrees with Mr. Minichiello and Mrs. Smith that the time has come to take legal action, and where it will take a few years, the process needs to begin soon.

New Business

Bid Review Subcommittee Report

A meeting of the Bid Review Subcommittee was held at 6:35 p.m. this evening. Chair Allisha Jean-Clark Wilson reported that two bids were discussed, the FY2016 Floor Finish Supplies and the FY2016 Liner and Paper Supplies. She reported that after discussion, a motion was made and approved to accept the recommended bids.

Following her report, **Mrs. Jean-Clark Wilson moved to accept the report of the Bid Review subcommittee meeting as presented, along with the actions taken.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Accounts Review Subcommittee Report

Chairperson Andy Robinson reported that the Accounts Review subcommittee met earlier this evening at 6:45p.m. At that meeting the committee discussed the February 18 – June 1, 2015 report of accounts. After discussion, a motion was made and approved to accept the Accounts Review Report for the period Feb. 18 – June 1, 2015.

Mr. Robinson then moved to accept the report as presented.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

National History Day Contest

Mayor Carpenter directed the committee's attention to the agenda item that was handed out this evening. He invited Principal Nessralla to talk about this request for three (3) Plouffe students--Laura Cardoso, Megan Ortendahl, and Alexandra Younes, who won at the State level and are now invited to participate in the National History Day contest from June 14 – 18, 2015 in College Park, Maryland. Principal Nessralla said the students will be accompanied by their parents, no staff will be there, and she is requesting funding in the amount of \$1,497 to cover entry fees, lodging and transportation costs. She also recognized teacher Mr. Kawalec and librarian Mrs. McNair for their support. Ms. Nessralla added that Megan and Laura's project will be on display at the Smithsonian American History Museum. Mrs. Joyce noted that the amount requested is a fraction of the actual costs. For clarification purposes, Mayor Carpenter stated the motion would be to approve the out-of-state trip and to appropriate funding in the amount of \$1,497.00.

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the request as stated by the Mayor.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith
Secretary/Superintendent
wka