

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

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter, Student Rep Tyler Hunt

Also Present: Executive Team Members; Mr. Mark Ofstein, Costco Marketing Rep

Note: These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

Vice-Chair Minichiello called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and asked those in attendance to remain standing after the flag salute, for a moment of silence in memory of former School Committee Janice Beyer, who passed away on Sunday. Mr. Minichiello announced that the Mayor would not be in attendance tonight but wanted to send his condolences and said he was thankful to have served on the school committee with Janice.

Mr. Minichiello took a moment to fondly remember Mrs. Beyer; School Committee members Joyce, Wilson, and Jordan spoke warmly of Mrs. Beyer's tireless work for education and children. Superintendent Smith said it important to remember Mrs. Beyer as an educator and advocate, and a lover of reading who passed that on to her students. She invited Kim Gibson, BEA President, and Kennedy School Principal Brian Rogan to say a few words about Mrs. Beyer as well. They each spoke of her as a person who felt it was most important to encourage others who will truly be missed in the city.

## Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked if School Committee members wished to remove any items, there were no requests. He then said he would like to talk about Item B, the donation from Costco of Avon.

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

- October 6, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Appointments – Certified and Non-Certified
- Acceptance of Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello acknowledged Costco's donation of 630 backpacks to the schools and invited Mr. Mark Ofstein, Costco representative, to accept a certificate of appreciation. Superintendent Smith thanked Mr. Ofstein, and said he had also brought along a donation of candy for the BHS Halloween Hallways event.

**Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the donation.**

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

**Superintendent Report School Presentations – Angelo School and South Middle School**

Superintendent Smith invited Principal Marcia Andrade Serpa to talk about her school, the Angelo Elementary School. Mrs. Andrade Serpa shared a video of her staff and students, and a power point presentation that highlighted a new program that began at the school this year, City Connects. After the presentation Mrs. Andrade Serpa responded to several questions from Mrs. Joyce, who applauded the principal for bringing the program to the school. Mrs. Andrade Serpa thanked Mr. Henningson for his "behind the scenes" support, she said he has been a great friend to the school.

The Superintendent invited Principal Kevin Karo to talk about South Middle School. Principal Karo said that he and his staff want to make the 7 ½ hours spent at school the "best part of a student's day". He shared a power point presentation that illustrated some of the ways the school educates the "whole child", including healthy eating and exercise, mindful meditation, along with the daily content instruction. After a brief question and answer period, School Committee members Minichiello and Jordan said they were very impressed with the use of mindfulness and community service detention, both of which Mr. Karo said have proved very successful, they stated these practices need to be shared with other schools in the district. Mrs. Joyce commended Mr. Karo for transforming the school, and said the district is fortunate to have his leadership at South.

**October 13, 2015 Charter School State Hearing**

The Superintendent reported she attended this all-day hearing, where testimony was heard in favor of raising the cap on charter schools, as well as calling for a moratorium on charter schools. She said there are presently 70 charter schools in the Commonwealth, with very little evidence showing what they accomplish. Mr. Robinson said there is also a pending ballot question which could possibly put the decision in the voter's hands.

**PARCC Results**

The Superintendent announced that statewide PARCC data was released and asked Dr. Cancell to share the results. Dr. Cancell said the results so far show a significant difference between paper and online tests; students taking the paper-based test had a clear advantage over those taking the online test. He said it was also worth noting that there was a much higher percentage of students who scored proficient on MCAS than on PARCC. Dr. Cancell stated that although students did better on the paper test, he would question whether that method properly prepares the student for the future.

Mr. Minichiello said if School Committee has the opportunity to make a decision it must not be made without being fully informed. Mr. Robinson said it is important to separate the common core standards from the PARCC assessment, he said there is a lot of politics involved and the district must be about what is best for our children. Mr. Jordan agreed with Mr. Minichiello that there is a great lack of education for everyone surrounding PARCC. Mrs. Wilson said it important that we teach what children will need to be prepared for the real world, not to drill something into them, such as was done with the MCAS exam, which simply does not relate. Dr. Cancell concluded by saying he is excited to see the full results and to see which direction the State will go.

The Superintendent provided an update on the following items:

- The last phase of the review of the IB program at BHS, a series of interviews with parents, students, school committee, has just finished. Mr. Minichiello said he was interviewed, and he thanked the parents who took time to participate in these interviews.
- The Coordinated Program Review (CPR) which is done by the DESE every six years across the district is in process. Brockton is being reviewed in the areas of bilingual education, special education, civil rights.
- At the upcoming MASC/MAS Joint Conference on November 4 – 7, there will be a panel discussion of Universal Breakfast in the Classroom; Mr. Minichiello has agreed to be on this panel.
- Mr. George Donovan has been appointed the Interim Principal of the Baker School
- Mr. George Louis has been appointed Interim Assistant Principal of West Middle School
- Ms. Michele Connors has been appointed Associate Principal of East Middle School

**Items to Refer to Subcommittee**

Mr. Minichiello said after the superintendent's evaluation is completed, which should be within 30 days, a contract subcommittee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the superintendent's contract, which is coming up on three years.

**New Business**

Mr. Minichiello announced that the last opportunity to see the renowned BHS half-time show will be at the Thanksgiving Game on Thanksgiving Day at the Bridgewater Sports Complex, 10 a.m. Mr. Minichiello commended the staff responsible for putting together a fabulous performance each year.

Mr. Henningson announced the Harlem Wizards will play against George School staff on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Brockton High gymnasium, the game starts at 7 p.m., tickets can be purchased through the George School. Mr. Henningson also mentioned that he recently heard about *Restorative Justice* and felt this might be something worth exploring further.

Mr. Jordan articulated his concern that the district should not get overinvolved with the charter fight this year, he felt that using the same tactic as last year will not work given the current political landscape and he wants to be sure that district resources are focused on what we need to do for our students, to keep our children in the forefront. The Superintendent said this is a topic that needs to be discussed in-depth at the School Committee retreat.

There being no further New Business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD  
Secretary

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