

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the Theater of 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

Absent: Mrs. Wilson

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda, and asked Committee members whether there were any list 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 November 4, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting*
- *BHS DECA Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips (2)*
- *Acceptance of donation from PPG Architectural Coatings to BHS Drama Club*
- *Notification of Non-Certified Personnel Appointments*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Resignations, Leaves of Absence, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent explained that the BHS boys varsity soccer team is competing in the Eastern Massachusetts finals against Lincoln-Sudbury tonight at 7:30 p.m., at Marciano Stadium, she said School Committee would try to expedite the meeting to allow people to attend this playoff game. Mayor Carpenter added that this team is exceptional and it is a great opportunity to see them play tonight.

The Superintendent shared a letter of appreciation she received from the Prime Minister of Cape Verde, Jose Maria Pereira Neves, with respect to his recent visit to Brockton High School. He thanked staff and students for the warm welcome he received, he expressed his appreciation for the contribution that BHS has given to the integration of Cape Verdean students in the community, and their families.

The Superintendent reported that approximately 40 educators from China recently visited BHS, they were very impressed with the school and students and what is goes on in a very large urban high school.

PARCC Update

The Superintendent reported that the Board of Education voted 8 to 3 today to go forward with a "next generation MCAS" test, the decision also included a target date of Spring, 2019 for the test to be administered completely online. The Superintendent shared that she was able to testify at the final PARCC hearing yesterday; she said many groups were

represented and was a lot of talk about no testing, a moratorium on testing, and children losing their love of learning because of the amount of testing. She agreed that there is a concern about the number of days students spend on testing, but there is great importance to assessing student achievement and there needs to be a balance. She said that although there are concerns, the district can now move forward.

With respect to the State's target date for online testing, the Superintendent said she will be looking to have 1:1 devices starting in kindergarten, and this requires capital. She said the Commissioner talked about E-rate funding but this will not be enough for Brockton. The Superintendent said we are confident in our infrastructure, however, the district will need to grow its IT department, possibly including a computer specialist at each school.

The Superintendent said Brockton's decision to take the PARCC test in 2014 has positioned our students well for the next generation test. Five of our schools took the online test this year, the district will take PARCC in 2016 and will again be held harmless. The Superintendent said results are showing that schools that took online testing are showing a "dip" in their scores; Dr. Cancell is preparing a presentation for an upcoming school committee meeting.

Mrs. Joyce asked whether the district will have the choice in 2016 to take the test either online or on paper, the Superintendent responded "yes". Mrs. Joyce then asked what plans the State has shared to fund the online testing when it is fully implemented or if it will be another unfunded mandate; the Superintendent replied that is unknown.

Charter School Hearings

The Superintendent announced that the DESE will hold public hearings across the state with respect to proposed charter schools; on December 3, 2015 the hearing on the New Heights proposed Charter Schools will be held at the Massasoit Conference Center in Brockton from 4 – 6 p.m.; district administrators are currently working on a testimony and will be represented at that hearing.

Substitute Teachers

The Superintendent reported that Dr. Moran has met with Principal Wolder and Dr. Murray to look at substitute coverage at the middle and high school levels to make sure there continues to be adequate coverage.

The Superintendent announced the **National Honor Society Induction** ceremony will take place Monday, November 23rd at 6 p.m., the **John and Abigail Adams Scholarship Award Ceremony** will be held Thursday, November 19th.

The Superintendent recognized Ashfield School teacher Nancy Williams for the quick action she took to assist a Plouffe school student who had been involved in a bicycle accident. Mrs. Wilson immediately pulled over and attended to the student until help arrived; fortunately the student had no serious injuries. The Superintendent said "these are the kind of staff members that we have here."

Items to Refer To Subcommittee

The Superintendent said she there are some important issues that need to be finalized before outgoing School Committee members leave; she asked the Committee to schedule a Curriculum subcommittee meeting to discuss the TAG program, a policy subcommittee to discuss a Retention Policy. Mayor Carpenter added that a Finance subcommittee meeting also needs to be scheduled before the end of the year. Mr. Minichiello clarified that the

School Committee's evaluation of the superintendent will be reported at the December 1, 2015 regular school committee meeting; a contract subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in executive session following the evaluation.

The Superintendent asked School Committee if they wanted to consider changing the start time of the December 15th school committee meeting due to the conflicting BHS Holiday Concert; she suggested starting the meeting at 6 p.m.; there were no objections. The Superintendent said her office will notify the appropriate personnel of the time change.

Following the Superintendent's Report, the Mayor thanked the Superintendent and Brookfield School principal for rescheduling tonight's presentation in order to expedite the meeting.

Mayor Carpenter asked if there was any *Unfinished* or *New Business*, seeing none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

wka