

The Regular Meeting of the Brockton School Committee was held this evening in the George M. Romm Little Theatre in the Fine Arts Building of Brockton High School, at six o'clock. These minutes contain a summary of the meeting and list items that were under discussion.

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

Absent: Mayor Carpenter

Also Present: Executive Team, Kellie Jones, Kim Gibson

Vice Chair Minichiello called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. He announced that the Mayor was at an Opioid Addiction event with the Governor and sends his regrets.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Minichiello explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked Committee members whether there were any items they wanted to remove for discussion, there were none requested. Mr. Minichiello asked the Superintendent to talk about the two new scholarships that were on the agenda for approval.

Superintendent Smith said she is very pleased to recommend these scholarships, first the Education First Scholarship which awards a \$3,000 and a \$1,000 scholarship to graduating BHS seniors. She said the Richard J. Sergi Scholarship is very special to her and spoke about Mr. Sergi's lengthy service to the city of Brockton, both as a teacher and as the Director of the Brockton Housing Authority.

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

- *December 1, 2015 Regular School Committee Meeting Minutes*
- *Report of Dec. 9, 2015 Accounts Review Subcommittee Meeting*
- *Approval of Scholarship: Education First*
- *Approval of Scholarship: Richard J. Sergi*
- *Approval of Overnight, Out-of-State BHS TERI Program Field Trip*
- *Notification of Personnel Appointments, Certified, Non-Certified*
- *Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations, Retirements*

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

Communication

Mr. Minichiello asked Superintendent Smith to brief the Board; the Superintendent said she received a letter from Mr. McGarry of the Elections Commission requesting the use of twelve schools as polling locations for the 2016 election cycle and she recommends approval of the request. Mr. Minichiello noted that the letter includes a special election to be held February 2nd for which only three schools are requested.

Mrs. Joyce asked if the district would close schools during voting for the presidential election; Mr. Minichiello responded that this will be discussed when next year's school calendar is prepared and yes, School Committee would follow protocol.

Mr. Jordan moved to accept the request from the Elections Commission to use the schools as requested for polling locations during the 2016 election cycle.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

PARCC Update

Superintendent Smith said the embargoed results have been released and for the first time in the district, we have two Level 1 schools--East Middle and the Kennedy School. She said she is pleased with all of the schools, that our students continue to rise to the occasion and our teachers are dedicated and continue to defy our demographics. After the first of the year the school committee will receive an in-depth presentation that will include leadership teams.

Safety & Security

The Superintendent reported that a school-wide assembly for all BHS students was held on Friday, where she, Principal Wolder, Deputy Superintendent Michael Thomas and School Resource Officer Clifford addressed the students about social media and threats. She shared a recent situation in which a non-credible threat was made against the high school; a student had hacked into another student's Facebook account. She reported the students were very attentive and the message conveyed to the students was to make them aware of what their responsibilities are, and to let them know they are a part of the solution. She said she was very pleased with the presentation and the students make her proud every time she sees what they do. She said that on January 19th a similar presentation will be made for parents, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium, she plans to include School Committee and would like to move the scheduled School Committee meeting to 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Jordan commented that there have been an inordinate amount of inappropriate behaviors around the school buildings and around the country, he said he would like to see this same type of assembly done at all of our buildings as soon as possible, the Superintendent responded that she will talk with her executive team to come up with a plan, taking into consideration the age of students and possibly do this in small groups.

District Capacity Project (DCP) Update

The Superintendent asked Kellie Jones, Director of Bilingual Education, and Kim Gibson, President of the BEA, to update School Committee on the status of this project.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Jones used a power point presentation that chronicled the development of the project since November, 2012, and included research supporting dual-language programs. They reported that the team has developed partnerships in the community, as well as international and institutional. They presented a prospectus for a proposed dual-language *International School*, recommending a pilot Portuguese Immersion Program starting in the fall of 2016 at the Raymond School, with two kindergarten classes. Plans going forward will add a grade one class in 2017, and start the French Immersion Program with a kindergarten class.

Mr. Robinson asked if the plan is to house the entire program in the same school or at several schools, Mrs. Jones responded that the intent is one International School, however, there is a greater discussion that needs to be had with respect to facilities. Mr. Robinson then asked whether the program would continue to middle school; Mrs. Jones responded "yes", and added that there is a Spanish program at the Plouffe right now that can be used as a model. Mrs. Joyce asked how they saw this affecting the traditional foreign language and two-way bilingual instruction, Mrs. Jones responded it will complement the programs.

Mrs. Joyce asked if grant opportunities may come from these partnerships, Mrs. Jones responded positively. She said the OLA office at DESE feels very strongly that dual immersion programming is the wave of the future. The Superintendent thanked everyone who has "stayed the course" on the project, she expects it to be a great success.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of MOAs between Brockton School Committee and Paraprofessionals Union

Mr. Minichiello called on Mrs. Joyce, as chairperson of the committee, to speak. Mrs. Joyce said she is very pleased with the MOAs that are before School Committee for approval tonight, she feels they serve the district *and* the hard-working paraprofessionals well. She thanked committee members Ossie Jordan and Allisha Jean-Clark Wilson, and members of the bargaining unit for the work toward finalizing these contracts.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Education Paraprofessional Union for the period of September, 1, 2014, through August 30, 2015. The motion was properly seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the MOA between the Brockton School Committee and the Brockton Education Paraprofessional Union for the three-year period from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2018. The motion was properly seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Approval of Report of the December 15, 2015 Bid Review Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Minichiello called on Mrs. Sullivan to give the report: Mrs. Sullivan reported that the committee met earlier this evening and voted on a recommendation for the FY16 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning bid.

Mrs. Joyce moved to accept the report as presented, along with the recommendation to award the FY2016 Refrigeration and Air Conditioning bid to Mechanical Air Controls, Inc.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Report of the December 8, 2015 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Minichiello reported that the Curriculum Subcommittee met on December 8, 2015, there was discussion with respect to a December 18th decision on the 2016 PARCC test; Mr. Minichiello said the committee received a very detailed presentation from Dr. Cancell and Mrs. Saba-Maguire, although the embargo on the results did not allow the Superintendent to share individual schools' scores with the Committee. At the meeting, the Committee voted to maintain the online testing in the schools that previously participated, and to respond to the DESE accordingly within the deadline.

Mr. Robinson moved to approve the Committee's recommendation to maintain online testing in schools that have previously participated and respond to DESE by the December 18, 2015 deadline.

Mrs. Joyce asked for clarification with respect to being held harmless; the Superintendent responded we will continue to be held harmless until 2017, and added that Brockton is required to take the PARCC exam in 2016.

Voted: to approve the recommendation, unanimous.

Mr. Minichiello said the second agenda item dealt with the selection criteria for the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. He reported that a committee was formed to review the testing used at the end of grade 3 as a requirement to enter the TAG program, and a recommendation was made to discontinue use of the ITBS testing. The Superintendent said the ITBS is a good assessment tool, however, the district uses the STAR assessment already, and they felt they would get the same results; there are a number of other assessments that are considered as well. Mr. Minichiello reported that after a brief discussion the committee voted to recommend eliminating the ITBS assessment as a criteria for the TAG selection process.

Mrs. Sullivan moved to approve the subcommittee's recommendation to eliminate the use of ITBS testing and replace it with the STAR assessment in the TAG selection process.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Report of December 8, 2015 Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee Meeting

Mr. Minichiello said he was pleased to report that at the Superintendent's Contract Subcommittee held Tuesday, December 8th, the Superintendent and School Committee came to an agreement with respect to her contract. He reported that the current contract will be extended three years beginning July 1, 2016, and the Superintendent received a modest compensation increase. Mr. Minichiello said it was a unanimous vote, this shows that this is a very high-functioning team with both sides being fair to each other.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the Superintendent's contract that was negotiated and agreed upon at the December 8th Subcommittee meeting.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Following the vote, a round of applause was given.

**Recognition of
Outgoing Members**

Mr. Minichiello and Superintendent Smith presented plaques to the five outgoing school committee members in recognition of their service: Mr. Ossie Jordan, 19 months, Mr. Raymond Henningson, two years, Mrs. Allisha Wilson, two years, Mr. Andy Robinson four years, and Mrs. Patricia Joyce, ten years. Mr. Minichiello spoke briefly about each committee person and thanked them for their service. A round of applause was given at the end of the presentations.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary

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