

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

Present: Mayor Carpenter, Chair; Mr. Minichiello, Vice-Chair; Ms. Asack, Mr. D'Agostino, Mr. Gormley, Ms. Plant, Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Sullivan, Superintendent Smith, Secretary

Also Present: Executive Team, Kellie Jones, Director of Bilingual Services, Vula Roumis, Department Head of Bilingual K - 8

Mayor Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and announced that the Superintendent had a special guest who would lead the flag salute. Mrs. Smith introduced Aaron Smith, a BHS student, she said she invited him because he loves to watch the school committee meetings on local cable. Following the salute, Aaron was given the opportunity to say a few words, he expressed how happy he was to be here and to be a student at Brockton High School.

Mayor Carpenter announced that the Brockton Public Schools family lost a student from the Plouffe Academy on Monday, he asked for a moment of silence in memory of Charles "CJ" Thompson. Superintendent Smith said she was proud to see how the community and schools supported the family during this difficult time and extended her condolences.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Carpenter explained the purpose of the Consent Agenda and asked Committee members whether there were any items they wanted to remove for discussion. Mr. Minichiello requested Item F, Mr. Sullivan requested items C, D, and E.

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

- Minutes of January 19, 2016 Regular School Committee Meeting
- September 9, 2015 CSAB Minutes
- Authorization to submit Summer Academic Support Work & Learning Grant
- Authorization to submit FY16 Mass Skills Capital Grant
- Notification of Personnel Appointments of Certified and Non-Certified Personnel
- Notification of Personnel Actions: Leaves of Absence, Resignations

Voted: to adopt the recommendation, unanimous.

With respect to Item F, the Robert Ferrante Memorial Scholarship, Mr. Minichiello expressed his gratitude for the generous scholarship. He said Mr. Ferrante was a dedicated instructor and loved the students and the community. Mayor Carpenter invited Mr. Vincent Macrina, Director of the BPS Music Program, to say a few words. Mr. Macrina talked briefly about working with Bob and said Mr. Ferrante was a close friend and an inspiration, and Brockton was blessed to have him.

Mr. Minichiello moved to accept the scholarship, the motion was seconded.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Mayor Carpenter called on Mr. Sullivan, who asked for clarification on the ratio of chaperones to students for Items C, D, and E, all BHS field trip requests. Mr. Sullivan said he was specifically asking about Item D, the Ski Club Field Trip because it was not clear how many chaperones and students were attending. Mr. Thomas responded the ratio is one chaperone for every ten students. Superintendent Smith said she will follow up with the high school to ensure compliance.

Mr. Sullivan moved to approve all three requests, with the condition of the proper ratio of students to chaperones for the Ski Club Field Trip.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent asked student representative Gavin Rocha for a report. Gavin congratulated DECA for winning at the district competition, all groups will now move on to the state competition, report cards were sent home February 3rd, and on Thursday, February 11th, DECA will hold a fundraiser at Bertucci's in Easton. Following his report, Superintendent Smith asked Gavin if students were happy to be back in school after two days off due to snowstorms; Gavin responded, "to some extent."

Bilingual Department Presentation

Superintendent Smith invited Director Kellie Jones and Vula Roumis to give a power point presentation. Ms. Jones said she wanted to give an overview of "*who are the students who are involved with the bilingual department.*"

Highlights:

- 3,502 students identified as limited English proficiency this year
- 36.9% of students in the district are identified as *first language not English*
- Over 30 languages are represented in the schools
- A marked increase in English language learners (ELL) has occurred since 2008, this year there are 4,321 students enrolled in ELL programs
- ELL programs are available to all Brockton students, including at alternative schools
- A Kindergarten Portuguese dual-language class will open in September at the Raymond School; each year going forward another grade will be added
- Brockton is currently piloting the *Seal of Biliteracy*

Ms. Roumis talked further about the *Seal of Biliteracy*, she said Brockton is working with thirteen other districts across the state to develop this award that is given by a school or district in recognition of students who have attained a high rate of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in two or more languages. Ms. Roumis said biliteracy is an asset and college admissions offices and businesses actively seek biliterate candidates; the seal or stamp will be put on a student's transcript. Students would receive an award at grade 5, grade 8, and grade 12, they attain proficiency either through foreign language study programs or dual language programs, and must demonstrate proficiency by meeting established criteria at each level. Twenty-two other states have already adopted, or are in the process of adopting, a state Seal of Biliteracy.

Ms. Jones responded to several questions from school committee members, who were appreciative of the presentation.

Mr. Minichiello asked Ms. Jones to explain the difference between the current two-way program and the coming dual-language program; Ms. Jones explained that the current 2-way Spanish program is 50% Spanish speaking students, 50% English speaking students. The new dual-language program will be open to any student who wishes to have biliteracy in Portuguese and in English, there is no Portuguese side or English side. She said the goal of both programs is to promote bilingualism and biliteracy.

2017 Budget Update

The Superintendent said at this time each year she anticipates budget figures coming in, and she is working closely with the Mayor to be proactive this year, making sure everyone is educated regarding the figures. She said the Governor's House Budget 2 was very disappointing, none of the recommendations from the Chapter 70 Commission that would have helped districts like ours were followed.

Mayor Carpenter added that not only did the governor's budget ignore recommendations from the Chapter 70 Commission that would benefit Brockton, but also included changes that will be harmful to gateway districts. He said this could be the worst budget year the city has faced in 30 years. He announced that he is meeting with the state delegation on Monday and, in conjunction with the Superintendent, a Joint Budget Summit is scheduled on Saturday, February 20th, invitations were sent to all school committee members. He said it is important that school committee has insight into the city budget, and vice versa, and now is a crucial time to lobby for changes to the budget at the state level.

Mayor Carpenter said he and the Superintendent will continue the discussion about an equity lawsuit, it will not be a short-term fix but a long-term answer. The Superintendent said she and her team will start the legwork and make phone calls with respect to representation, she added that it is important to raise awareness with parents and the community as well. Mayor Carpenter said the bilingual presentation earlier this evening underscored just one of the additional costs Brockton has that many more affluent suburbs do not have, and this additional investment is not properly represented in the Chapter 70 formula to offset the cost to gateway cities.

Mr. Minichiello echoed the comments about the Governor's budget and agreed that now is the time to prepare and pursue an action with respect to funding.

Next, the Superintendent announced Tracy Ciulla-Monteiro has been selected as the new Interim Assistant Housemaster of the Red Building at BHS.

Lastly, the Superintendent presented a framed Tuskegee Airman picture to the high school in honor of Black History Month.

Items to Refer to Subcommittee

The Superintendent said a finance subcommittee meeting has been scheduled to address questions about Community Schools salaries; a series of finance subcommittee meetings will be set up on every other Tuesday until budget season is finished.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Minichiello reported that the Committee was informed at the January 30, 2016 retreat that the Smart Start Extended Day Program, in order to comply with EEC requirements, must maintain its rates charged to full-pay parents so as to equal or exceed the EEC voucher reimbursement rate. Smart Start is requesting the following modest daily increases: \$.11 before school, \$.22 after school; \$.33 before and after school, and \$.45 full day rates.

Mr. Minichiello moved to approve the proposed increases in private pay rates to coincide with State reimbursement rates.

Voted: to approve the motion, unanimous.

New Business

Mayor Carpenter thanked all who were involved in helping to get the schools open on time--custodians, facilities, buildings and grounds, DPW crews; he said Brockton was one of the few districts that opened without a delay. The Superintendent expressed her gratitude as well and also to parents, she said this is a community effort.

Mr. Minichiello said that last year School Committee was critical of the condition of the sidewalks. He expressed his appreciation for the snow-clearing crews as well, stating there is a noticeable difference this year. Mayor Carpenter answered that after last year's storms, changes were made to procedure and now when plows are called out, sidewalk plows go out at the same time. He asked the public to help out by not blocking up sidewalks that have been cleared when they are shoveling out. Ms. Plant reported that she noticed piles of snow blocking the crosswalk to the high school on Forest Avenue.

The Superintendent announced that on March 6, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. a children's concert, coordinated by Amy Korim, will be held in the BHS auditorium, proceeds will benefit the Rotary Club. She also announced a new family rate of \$20.00 per two-parent family, added after flyers were sent out.

Mr. Minichiello announced that Bill McGauley has brought a group together to promote "Art Week", there will be a month-long celebration in May that will take place in various locations across the city. More information will be forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. Smith, JD
Secretary
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